

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased, on behalf of MANCOM, to submit this report of our Union for the year ended 31 December 2023. The year was a relatively quiet one without any outgoing or incoming tours but our National Tournament held for the first time in Pretoria and hosted by the Gauteng North Society was both enjoyable and successful. Generally, the Union remains on a sound footing with a secure financial base and an effective tournament computer system which is continually being updated and refined. This year we look forward to again enjoying the hospitality of the KZN Society as they host the National Tournament in Durban and, as in the past, we expect this venue to be popular amongst the members of our Societies. We are delighted to welcome to Durban the delegation from the Seniors' Golfers Society of Zambia and trust that they will thoroughly enjoy the Tournament.

At the Union's AGM to be held during the course of the National Tournament it is proposed to amend the Union's Constitution to clarify the nature and determination of the quotas which apply to the Societies. In this regard we acknowledge the gestures of good fellowship of the Gauteng and KZN Societies in voluntarily giving up some quota numbers to allow their reallocation to various coastal societies which are experiencing a limitation to their growth on account of their existing quotas.

Notwithstanding the fact that certain coastal Societies are growing in number, which is, to some extent, due to relocations from up-country, several Societies are facing an aging and contracting membership, particularly active membership. Evidence of this is to be found in the falling number of entries over the past years for our Annual Tournament and the difficulty in filling the teams for our International Tours. While the challenges faced by certain of our Societies in this regard are fully appreciated it is hoped that those Societies will re-double their efforts going forward to secure suitable candidates for membership.

FINANCIAL REPORT

We are pleased to report that your Union continues on a sound financial footing and a summary of the unaudited financial statements is attached for your information. Audited financial statements will be available to members of the Governing Body shortly.

Financial Highlights

The financial statements again reflect an acceptable situation for the Union showing a surplus for the year (before the revaluation of investments) of R91 619 versus the previous year's surplus of R18 049.

Congratulations are due to the Northern Gauteng Society for achieving a surplus of R30 399 in hosting their inaugural 2023 National Tournament.

Income from investments comprising both interest and dividends amounted to R238 042 versus R195 210 in 2022.

There were no major variances from our operating budget during the year and the level of administration expenses was well contained

The market value of our equities portfolio appreciated during the year. The fair value increased by R215 429 from the prior year (2022 – decrease of R50 115).

The investment fair value reserve is currently stated at R863 911 (2022 – R648 482). During the year, R202 290 ABSA preference shares were purchased from our cash reserves.

Budget

A budget for the year ending 31 December 2024 is attached and reflects a proposed loss of R60 195 (2023 – loss R56 814). Consistent with prior years, this budgeted loss is stated before making provision for any development grants to societies.

TOURS

In 2023 there were no incoming or outgoing Senior Golfing tours for SGUSA.

Preparations for the 2024 March tour to Chile progressed well and we are sending a team of 11 members and their partners on a two week tour.

Once again, it was very difficult to attract enough participants for the tour, resulting in our team being one member short and having no reserves. This is becoming difficult for us participating in outgoing tours to the fullest extent that our hosts would expect. One could expect that the cost factor plays a big part in the tours to the UK and Australia but Chile by comparison is quite a cheap tour. Perhaps this needs more debate at the governing body meeting during this year's Nationals.

Information Technology

Following a resolution at the SGUSA 2023 AGM, a facility was constructed and implemented to enable direct communication via email from Mancom to Society members.

This function is reserved for a select group of system administrators ensuring that the volume of emails dispatched directly from Mancom to Society members remains judiciously controlled.

Recent instances of such correspondence includes emails concerning the SGUSA tour to Chile and the KZN national tournament.

Additionally, a facility was devised to streamline the tournament registration process. Instead of the traditional in-person registration at the tournament office on the eve of the tournament, participants will now have the convenience of self-registration via the SGUSA website during the 2 days preceding the tournament.

This facility will be accessible for the KZN tournament in 2024. Seniors who have been accepted for the tournament will receive instructions regarding the process prior to the event.

This streamlined approach aims to enhance efficiency and ensure a seamless experience for all players.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2023 Nationals, hosted by Gauteng North at Pretoria Country Club and Waterkloof Golf Club, were a grand success. The organizing committee deserves special recognition for their meticulous planning and execution, which resulted in a highly challenging golf experience on both courses.

Despite some weather trouble on the first day, the rest of the tournament witnessed near-perfect golf weather. Thanks to the excellent course maintenance, the participants thoroughly enjoyed their games.

All the functions arranged during the tournament were well attended and received high praise from the visitors. The catering and entertainment arrangements were top-notch, catering to all the participants' diverse needs and preferences.

Looking ahead, the 83rd Nationals, hosted by KZN at Royal Durban and Durban Country Club, are expected to be a thrilling tournament with a senior-friendly setup. The Durban Country Club has recently been renovated, and everyone eagerly looks forward to playing on the newly upgraded course. Renowned as one of the best golf courses in South Africa, it will surely provide an unforgettable experience for all the players and visitors. The Welcome cocktail party and the Gala dinner will be held at the Greyville racecourse, conveniently situated next to Royal Durban; we expect nothing but the best.

CONCLUSION

We warmly welcome back home our touring team to Chile, where by all accounts they acquitted themselves admirably and in addition had an interesting and enjoyable time and strengthened the already good relations of the past, I must thank the members of Mancom who freely give up much time and devote their considerable expertise to the carrying out the functions of Mancom for the benefit of members of the Union and the Societies.

Pat Cronin

Chairman

Management Committee