

Management Committee Report for the Year ended December 2019

I have great pleasure, on behalf of the Management Committee, in submitting our report on the activities of the Senior Golfers' Union of South Africa for the year to December 2019. Your Union enjoyed another busy and successful year and continues on a sound track.

In line with the decision taken at the Governing Body AGM in April 2019 the size of the field for the National Tournament has been fixed at 272. This has facilitated a much more streamlined and user - friendly tournament for participants. It does of course mean that the number of participants per Society is restricted and in practice is limited to those members who have actively supported their Society during the year.

We continue to invite a limited number of international Seniors from Zambia and Zimbabwe to join us at our tournament and believe this to be beneficial to the Seniors movement as a whole. This year we will have four international participants joining us in East London.

The total membership of Seniors countrywide stands at 891 which is 120 under quota. In January 2019 Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal Societies each relinquished five from their respective quotas in favour of Gauteng North who now stand at 100.

Last year I raised the issue of Seniors membership countrywide and the challenges facing us as an organisation to attract new members in line with existing Society quotas. I repeat the request that, where Societies feel that their membership shortfall to quota reflects a longer-term trend rather than a short-term phenomenon, we would welcome any offers by individual Societies to voluntarily reduce their quotas. Any such reductions would then be reflected in the overall Union membership quota.

We would also urge Societies to continue to expand the diversity of our membership. Some progress has been made in this regard but much still needs to be done in order to position our organisation appropriately in our changing society.

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.

Financial highlights

The financial statements again reflect a positive situation for the Union showing a surplus (before the revaluation of investments) of some R84 789 for the year versus the previous year's R43 681. Congratulations are due to the Southern Cape Society for achieving a surplus of R52 188 in hosting the 2019 National Tournament (2018 surplus R40 481).

Income from investments comprising both interest and dividends amounted to R217 059 versus R206 428 in 2018. The dividend yield for the year amounted to 3.96% (2018 - 3.57%)

There were no major variances from budget during the year and the level of administration expenses was well contained. The anticipated decrease in investment income did not materialize

and an increase of R60 256 over budget was achieved; the increase in interest income arose largely because of the monies deposited with SGUSA by incoming and outgoing tours.

Investment in equities.

The market value of our equities portfolio fell during the year in line with the J.S.E. The value decreased by R51 084 (2018 - decrease of R237 630). The investment fair value reserve is currently stated at R222 092 (2018 - R273 177).

During the year, the investment committee decided to dispose of certain poor-performing counters which generated a profit of R41 994. The proceeds of sale were invested in Standard Bank preference shares.

Transfer to reserves

In the interests of prudence, your management committee proposes to transfer an amount of R40 000 from accumulated funds to the national tournament reserve, increasing it from R60 000 to R100 000 with effect 31 December 2019.

Audited financial statements will be available to members on request.

Budget

A budget for the year ending 31 December 2020 is attached and reflects a deficit of R138 857 (2019 - deficit R75 916) after taking into account costs arising from the cancellation of the national tournament.

TOURS

2019 was a very active year with two Senior Tours taking place.

From the 4th to the 22nd May 2019 a group of 12 Chilean Seniors and their partners toured South Africa as part of the four year reciprocal tour arrangements between our countries. The hosting Societies, Western Province, Kwa Zulu Natal and Gauteng arranged fantastic itineraries for the guests. Three golf games for the Seniors were arranged in each Society at our best courses. A few of the Chilean Ladies also enjoyed a game of golf at each centre. Overall the Chileans enjoyed our hospitality and the group participated actively in all the organised events.

The local organisers, Kit Vaughan, Rae Stewart and Rohan Sheppard and their committees are to be congratulated on all the arrangements and time spent ensuring that the tour was a success.

From the 16th June until the 4th July a group of 12 South African Seniors and their partners toured the United Kingdom. A number of Seniors who had originally been accepted to tour withdrew for various reasons. Fortunately there were sufficient reserves to fill the vacancies created. It has become clear that the ideal group size is 12 Seniors plus their partners and in future tours will be limited to that number.

Sadly the UK tour organiser, Guy Bewick, tragically passed away just before our group arrived. The team, captained by Gordon Odgers, rallied and with guidance and help from Richard Venables, Secretary of the Senior Golfers Society of the UK, the tour proceeded without a glitch. By all

accounts it was a great success and the organisers in the UK were suitably congratulated by the touring party and SGUSA. A touring brochure will be distributed to the societies.

SGUSA has accepted an invitation to send a tour to Australia in March 2022. The touring party will visit Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and will consist of 12 Seniors and their partners.

IT

The Membership and Tournament System has been enhanced in respect of the draw functionality. This update was incorporated in order to facilitate the large number of changes to the timesheets prior to and during the tournament itself. This program is used by the Tournament Director to generate and update the tournament timesheets.

A communications facility has also been added to the system in order to send relevant communications to members via sms and email. This facility will be particularly useful to communicate changes to timesheets, venues, etc during the course of a tournament. Some difficulties were experienced with internet access speeds during the Southern Cape tournament. The need for reliable fast internet access has been emphasised for the Border tournament.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Southern Cape Society hosted a successful and most enjoyable tournament in George. It was played over the Outeniqua, Fancourt and the George Golf Club courses from the 8th to 11th April 2019. Congratulations to the organising team led by Rob Southey and Johan Rauch. Southern Cape has traditionally been a popular venue for our tournament and a greater than normal number of 374 entries was received. To accommodate a single field per day per course the field was limited to 272 players and due to the keen local interest the Internationals were limited to three players from Zambia and one from Zimbabwe.

As a result of constraints at Fancourt the tournament was moved to a Monday to Thursday time slot as opposed to the traditional Tuesday to Friday. This timing has many benefits and as it was generally well received by participants, this format is to be repeated in future.

The ladies programme on offer was well balanced and the number of participants in non-golfing events exceeded expectations. These events together with the golf were superbly organised by Pam Southey and her team and thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. As a result of the changed timing of the men's golf the mixed golf was held on Sunday and, as anticipated, numbers were somewhat down on previous years.

Golf was played in superb weather throughout on two extremely well prepared golf courses. Slow play was however a problem particularly on Outeniqua, a "resort" course. Although one could point to the lack of marshalling it should be remembered that it is the players' behaviour that results in slow play and perhaps the time has come to be sterner with perennial culprits.

Over the years the number of players per class has gradually changed so that for this tournament there were only 7 Class A players whilst Class C and Class D players made up two thirds of the field. A revised class determination formula has been suggested whereby the field will be more evenly distributed to reflect the age profile of the entries received.

Well done to all those who featured in the prizes. All scores and prize winners were displayed on the SGUSA and local Society websites within a remarkably short time. Special congratulations to the championship runner up Derek Lunt, who was denied a consecutive win on an age count-out by the winner of the Carlton Levick trophy, Hennie Heyns, both on a score of 153.

East London 2020 is almost upon us and the Tournament Organising Committee led by Tony Harraway promises another wonderful golfing experience for the participants and their partners.

Conclusion

Ross Grainger has served on the Management Committee as Tournament Director since 2012 and elected to step down at the conclusion of this tournament in George. His position has been filled by Vaughan Sammons who worked with Ross for the Southern Cape Tournament.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of Mancom, John Brownrigg, Allan Bulmer, Colin Esslemont and Vaughan Sammons for their support and dedication over the last year and who have given so freely of their time and energy. Their contributions were invaluable in the functioning of SGUSA. I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our secretary Frank Rosslee for his sterling work and contribution to the continued smooth running of your Union.

Rob Wassenaar
Chairman
Management Committee