

Management Committee Report for the Year ended 2018

I am pleased to submit the report of the Management Committee for the past year. Your Union enjoyed a successful year and is well placed to meet the challenges of the future.

Golf throughout the world finds itself facing severe challenges and dwindling numbers of active participants. Seniors is not immune to these pressures and several Societies are faced with declining membership numbers. The strength of Seniors in the past has been the quality of our members rather than mere membership numbers and we should not succumb to temptation and chase membership numbers for the sake of it.

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.

South Africa is an extraordinary country of many diverse peoples and cultures. It is however noticeable that this diversity is not reflected in our membership profile and this aspect of our organisation requires some attention. A more diverse and inclusive Seniors in South Africa will benefit not only our constituent Societies but also contribute positively to the wider golfing fraternity.

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 R43 681 for the year versus the previous year's R23 590.

Congratulations are due to the Gauteng Society for achieving a surplus of R40 481 in hosting the 2018 National Tournament (2017 surplus R39 436).

Income from investments comprising both interest and dividends amounted to R206 428 versus R194 176 in 2017. The dividend yield for the year amounted to 3.57% (2017- 3.26%)

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 with an improvement of R48 675 over the amount budgeted.

Investment in equities.

The market value of our equities portfolio fell during the year in line with the JSE. The value decreased by R237 630 (2017- increase of R158 600) representing a decrease of 10% year on year. The investment fair value reserve is currently stated at R273 177 (2017- R510 807).

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 2018.

Audited financial statements are available to members on request.

Budget

A budget for the year ending 31 December 2019 is attached and reflects a deficit of R75 916 (2017-deficit R88 155) before taking into account any potential surplus/deficit arising from the national tournament which is being organized by the Southern Cape Society. The 2019 budget deficit is stated after providing for subsidies of R60 000 to those societies which will host the incoming tour from Chile.

TOURS

2018 was a quiet year on the Senior Golfers Touring itinerary and there were no incoming or outgoing tours during the year.

In 2019 there will be an outgoing tour of 12 Senior Golfers from South Africa and their partners to the UK. The tour commences on the 16th June 2019 in Southport on the West coast then, for the final few games, moves down to Woking where it ends on the 5th July. Fixtures will be played on the top courses in each area and most of the group will attend a World Cup cricket match between SA and Pakistan at Lords on the 23rd June.

There have been four withdrawals from those originally accepted and they have been replaced by reserves.

On the 4th May 2019 a group of 12 couples from the Chilean Senior Association will visit for a 20 day tour of South Africa.

The group will assemble in Cape Town on the 4th May, play three games, then move on to KZN where they will also play three games. After a few days at Nambiti Lodge the group will travel to Johannesburg for the final three games.

The three hosting Societies are to be congratulated on all their efforts in arranging this visit. They have worked tirelessly getting everything done and I am sure our visitors will be suitably impressed.

IT

The Membership and Tournament System was used successfully for the second time for the 2018 National Tournament that was hosted by the Gauteng Society.

Since then the system has been updated to deal with the introduction of the World Handicap System that was introduced in South Africa in early September 2018. Players should note that it is possible for them to have different handicaps on the 2 courses that will be played during the National Tournament.

A Tournament Director's handbook has been created to familiarise any future tournament director with the operation of the system in general and with, in particular, the Golf Draw program which is used to assist the tournament director with the creation of the tournament timesheets.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the Gauteng Society on hosting a memorable tournament. The two golf courses, the clubhouse facilities as well as the performance and attitude of all staff and volunteers exceeded all expectations.

The 2018 National Tournament was a bit different in that for the first time in a long while there was a single field per course per day. This translated into a field of 272 players with reasonable intervals between tee-off times. This format had numerous benefits - no early tee times chief among them. It also provided some flexibility in that when play was suspended on Thursday afternoon due to the danger of lightning; those that did not finish after play was resumed were able to complete their round on Friday morning.

The total number of entries received was 331 slightly down on previous years. The number of withdrawals leading up to the tournament was reasonable at 26. All societies bar the Northern Cape had reserves four weeks before the tournament. It is understandable that the later the withdrawal the more unlikely it is that a replacement willing to travel at short notice can be found. In the event Gauteng which at one stage had 17 reserves was able to replace all late withdrawals. The eight International players from Zambia and Zimbabwe were warmly welcomed.

The ladies' numbers were down as was the interest in the formal ladies events. Notwithstanding this the events themselves were thoroughly enjoyed and struck a balance between formal arranged events and informal arrangements. The traditional mixed golf was held on Monday and as anticipated this resulted in reduced numbers.

The golf courses were playing long after an extended period of wet weather prior to the tournament and as a result they were set up at course ratings of 68 and 69 for the West and East respectively. Some Seniors who started at the head of the field proved that it is possible to play 9 holes in under 2 hours.

Over the years the number of players per class has gradually changed so that for this tournament Class C and Class D players made up 60% of the field. The number of prizes awarded per Class was amended to better represent numbers per class. The Wanderers club was an excellent venue for the Gala Dinner and prize giving. The amended format whereby only winners of trophies and classes approached the podium and other prize winners were recognized by having their photos displayed on large screens considerably shortened the prize giving proceedings and will be continued in future tournaments. All prize winners were displayed on the SGUSA and local society websites within a remarkably short time. Special congratulations to the winner of the Carlton Levick Trophy Derek Lunt on a score of 151 and to the championship runner up David Rigby.

Conclusion

Ross Grainger has served on the Management Committee as Tournament Director since 2012 and has indicated his desire to step down at the conclusion of this tournament. On behalf of SGUSA I

would like to express my sincerest thanks to Ross for his unswerving commitment and enthusiasm during his period of office. His input into the running of the last six national tournaments has been invaluable and very much appreciated by those of us who have had the privilege of participating in them.

Vaughan Sammons has agreed to take over from Ross as Tournament Director and was co-opted onto Mancom in June last year to act as understudy to Ross for the 2019 tournament. I would like to welcome Vaughan onto Mancom and wish him every success in his endeavours.

I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to all the members of Mancom, John Brownrigg, Allan Bulmer, Colin Esslemont, Ross and Vaughan who have given so freely of their time and energy over the year to contribute so meaningfully to the successful running of SGUSA. My thanks and appreciation are of course also due to Frank Rosslee for his continuing efforts and contribution to the smooth running of your Union.

Rob Wassenaar

Chairman
Management Committee