

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased, on behalf of MANCOM, to submit this report of our Union for the year ended 31 December 2024. In May our 83rd National Tournament was superbly hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Society and September saw our touring party embark on a 14 day golf tour of Chile warmly hosted by our associated Seniors Society in Chile. By all accounts both events were immensely enjoyable and successful. As referred to below, a highly attractive tour to South Africa in March 2025 by the Senior Golfers Society of the United Kingdom was in turn superbly hosted by the Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng Societies. The touring party were lavish in their praises of tour arranged for them and of the hospitality of the host Societies. More about this tour will be included in next year's report.

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 Free State Society as they host the National Tournament in Bloemfontein and, as in the past, we look forward to enjoying the warm and friendly hospitality of our hosts for which they are well known. We are delighted to welcome to Bloemfontein a delegation from the Seniors' Golfers Society of Zambia and trust that they will thoroughly enjoy the Tournament.

Mancom remains mindful of the head winds facing the members of our Union particularly the aging and contracting membership faced by certain of our Societies, which is, to some extent, due to re-locations from up-country to coastal societies, and to the growing trend of green fees at the home clubs of members being paid on an annual or composite basis which adds to the cost of participating in matches at other clubs. In the light of these challenges and because it is, in any event, desirable to provide from time to time a platform for the discussion of matters of interest or concern to Seniors, I will be proposing to the Annual General Meeting of our Governing Body that a Planning Meeting involving representatives of our various Societies, Mancom and the Governing Body be held later in the year.

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 reflect a deficit for the year (before the revaluation of investments) of R25 047 versus the previous year's surplus of R91 619.

The KZN Society organised a very enjoyable 2024 National Tournament which reflects a small deficit of R27 773.

Income from investments comprising both interest and dividends amounted to R262 008 compared to R238 042 in 2023.

The level of administrative and operating expenditure was well-contained with an overall positive variance from budget.

The market value of our equities portfolio appreciated during the year. The fair value increased by R440 268 from the prior year (2023 – increased by R215 429).

The investment fair value reserve is currently stated at R1 304 179 (2023 – R863911).

Budget

A budget for the year ending 31 December 2025 is attached and reflects a proposed loss of R291 659 (2023 – loss R60 195). Consistent with prior years, this budgeted loss is stated before making provision for any development grants to societies and on the assumption that the National Tournament will achieve a break even position.

TOURS

During 2024 a group of 11 Seniors and 8 partners enjoyed a fantastic tour to Chile. The tour commenced on the 13th March and ended on the 28th March and was ably led by Rob Wassenaar as team captain.

The team was located in the capital Santiago for most of the tour but did spend a night in the country as guests of the Chilean Seniors. The top courses in the country were played on and the Chilean hosts entertained the South African in their normal superb manner.

The free days were well spent discovering the wonders of Chile.

At the end of the tour the South African team were declared winners and at the farewell dinner appropriate gifts and prizes were handed over to the organisers and office bearers.

In 2025 we have been invited to send a team of 8 players to Paris to play in the Paris International Teams Championships for Seniors. This tournament has now replaced the annual Deauville Tournament that we used to support. The King Leopold tournament which was held in Belgium in the past and one which we supported has not been reinstated since Covid.

A Team of 22 UK Seniors will tour SA from 1 March to 21 March this year. The party will play golf in Cape Town, the Southern Cape, KZN and Johannesburg. The group will also visit the famous Phinda reserve in KZN. The local organising committees have done an exceptional job to ensure that the tour will be a memorable one. Thanks to you all.

We have sent an invitation to the SGSA, the Senior golf Society of Australia to send a party of 12 couples to visit South Africa in 2026. This is in line with our international tours roster. The participating Societies have indicated their willingness to host the group.

A big thanks to them.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2024 Nationals, hosted by KZN at Royal Durban and Durban Country Club, was a resounding success. Thanks to the organising committee, led by Paddy Goss and Frank Agg, the entire event ran seamlessly. Both golf courses were in outstanding condition, and playing at the newly renovated Durban Country Club was a real privilege—what a treat! The weather was kind to us, with a gentle breeze, as the coastal locals like to say. The functions were well-attended, offering no shortage of delicious food, excellent entertainment, and plenty to drink.

Thank you, KZN, for setting the bar incredibly high. You delivered a fantastic tournament that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Looking ahead, the 2025 National Tournament, hosted by the Free State, promises to be exceptional. The organising committee has been hard at work securing sponsors, preparing the golf courses, and selecting the perfect venue for the Gala Dinner.

We have introduced a change to the traditional cocktail party, replacing it with a braai that will coincide with the registration. No jacket and tie are required—smart casual is the order of the day.

We anticipate a full field and a fantastic tournament, offering the chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

CONCLUSION

As in 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