

Management Committee Report for the year ending 31 December 2016

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Management Committee, to submit our report on the activities of the Senior Golfers' Union of South Africa for the year. I can report that the Union enjoyed another successful year and continues on a sound financial footing.

In July 2015 we conducted a Governing Body Strategic Planning Session in Johannesburg and a number of decisions were taken by the Governing Body, some of which have been implemented and others are now being put into effect. The various initiatives will be dealt with more fully in the body of this report.

At the last Governing Body AGM in Port Elizabeth the Societies of both Western Province and KwaZulu-Natal requested and were granted increases to the revised quotas agreed to in July 2015.

In line with the decision to make SGUSA as a whole and the National Tournament in particular less reliant on sponsorships an upward adjustment was made to the entrance fees applicable to this event. This has had the desired effect of reducing the pressure on the host Society while still maintaining the high standard of the Tournament which, I am sure, you will all want to see continue.

You will also have noticed that the size of the Tournament field has been reduced, also in line with a decision taken in 2015. We aim to achieve a balance in this regard as we would obviously wish to accommodate as many enthusiastic Seniors as we can but at the same time attempt to avoid running short of replacements for the rather large number of withdrawals which inevitably occur.

Last year in Port Elizabeth we broke with tradition and invited, for the first time, a limited number of Seniors from neighbouring countries to join us. The two Zambian Seniors who, together with their wives, made the journey to the Eastern Cape were enthusiastically welcomed and by all accounts thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This year we have once again extended invitations to our northern neighbours and I am pleased to report that we have 4 visitors from Zambia and Zimbabwe with us this year in Cape Town.

Financial Report

We are pleased to report that your Union continues on a sound financial footing and a summary of the unaudited accounts is attached for your information.

These again reflect a positive situation for the Union showing a surplus of some R267 756 for the year versus the previous year's R233 279.

Unplanned income and expenditure during the year:

We recovered a greater part of the Stanlib Money Market Investment that we had previously written off. R21 871 was recovered though a small amount continues to be frozen. The Annual Tournament in Port Elizabeth delivered a surplus of R38 500.

Investment in equities.

Our portfolio showed an unexpected increase this year of R169 015 despite a very volatile investment climate. The buyout of SAB by Inbev resulted in our disposing of our SAB shares. The total profit made on these shares was R154 500 over the period we held them. We have not yet reinvested the proceeds of this sale.

The Investment Revaluation Reserve has been adjusted proportionately and the long term value of our Investment has been maintained at well above inflation.

Income from our Investments comprising both interest and dividends was R191 924 versus R167 580 in 2015.

Detailed accounts are available to members on request.

A budget for the year to December 2017 is attached and reflects a surplus of R100 357 for the year.

Tours

Following the rather frantic 2015 Senior Golfers tour itinerary, 2016 was a relatively quiet year.

A team of four Seniors and their wives were invited to attend the 60th Deauville International meeting in France in July 2016. The first three days of the competition took place on the courses of Deauville, Amirante and Saint-Julien.

The team, captained by Dave Horak, achieved the distinction of winning the overall team event by beating the Germans in the final by 71/2 to 41/2 points. A wonderful achievement and well done!

The hosting societies for the Australian Senior Golfers touring party to South Africa in February and March this year once again did a wonderful job putting together an exciting itinerary. An excellent welcoming brochure for the visitors was produced and the budget was finalised in good time. Western Province, Southern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng really excelled and the 16 visitors and their spouses thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful courses and typical South African hospitality.

An invitation will be sent to the Senior Golfers Association of Chile in 2017 to visit South Africa in 2018.

IT

In 2015 the Governing Body approved the replacement of the National Tournament system which served us well for more than 10 years. The replacement was motivated by the risks of continuing to utilise the old system that operates on unsupported software and obsolete hardware.

After some difficulty in identifying appropriate parties to develop a system of this scope we were fortunate to identify one of our Eastern Cape Society members, Mike Bladen, who has his own systems development organisation, Tractec Asset Management Solutions, which was able to implement the development of the new national tournament management system and the related website. Mr Bladen assumed the role of project manager and provided his services at no cost to the Union. We are very grateful to Mike for his interest and his dedicated efforts in developing this system and our profound thanks are due to him. The initial and main phase of this initiative has been completed and, despite a few minor hiccups with implementation, I am delighted with the result.

When embarking on a project of this nature and magnitude it is important to look to the future and in positioning a new system it was decided not merely to rewrite the system with its existing functionality, but to take advantage of opportunities offered by current technology. Consequently, a number of traditional practices associated with the national tournament (for example, paper entry forms) have been replaced by online internet based facilities. The new system is modular and lends itself to being updated and expanded with relative ease.

In addition, a SGUSA website has been developed which contains information about SGUSA, our history, past tournament results and future tournament information. Sections of the website have secure access protection for Seniors' members only.

To cater for our members who would have difficulty accessing the facilities in the system, functions were incorporated into the program whereby Society Secretaries can carry out the various operations on behalf of such members.

We have identified opportunities to optimise certain aspects of the system and will no doubt identify more during the 2017 Tournament.

National Tournament

The 2016 Port Elizabeth tournament was a roaring success in all respects and Aidan Cuff and his Local Organising Committee are to be congratulated. Entry fees were set at an average increase of 14.5%. This was higher than inflation but well within acceptable limits. The EP Society was able to arrange sponsorship to the value of R210 000 well in advance. The tournament ultimately posted a net surplus of R38 717 on a turnover of R 800 000.

The consequences of the 2015 Strategic Planning exercise were felt in four main areas.

There was a conscious effort not to downplay the ladies programme but rather to ensure that it did not overshadow the men's programme. About 100 ladies attended the tournament and Janet Wilson and her team struck a good balance in providing sufficient entertainment with enough flexibility to accommodate late changes.

The need for and the function of the Tournament brochure has been the subject of discussion for some time and for the first time the tee time information was not included in the brochure. This omission had the benefit, not only of reducing the cost of the brochure, but also of the draw not having to be completed by the brochure print date and being done much closer to the tournament start. This avoided having to accommodate many changes occasioned by late scratchings.

The entry numbers were limited to 306 South African Seniors which, together with the expected International players would have resulted in a field of 312. The aim is to allow for the replacement of withdrawals and in the event KwaZulu Natal was the only society that exhausted its reserves.

As stated previously and in a departure from previous years, entries were invited from both Zimbabwe and Zambia. The Zambians expressed keen interest and applied to send 6 players. In the event 2 Zambian players participated, one spot was filled at late notice by Gauteng and EP made up the balance.

Both courses were in good condition and the greens in particular at both venues were true and running at similar speeds. Both courses were set up as a 70 course rating. No confrontations with snakes in the rough were reported and the weather was by and large very pleasant with sufficient wind to remind the inland players where they were playing.

The two main functions, the welcoming cocktail party and the Gala Dinner were both held at the Nelson Mandela Bay stadium. This was a superb venue and reinforced the view that quality is a primary priority when organising functions.

The overall winner of the Carlton Levick trophy on a score of 149 was Alistair Forbes (KZN) on a count out on age from Denis Jones (B). Prize winners were reasonably spread throughout all societies although KZN won both team prizes and the Free State, after a bumper 2015, managed only a solitary prize.

On behalf of Mancom, my thanks for the hard work of all those involved and congratulations to all concerned on an enjoyable and successful 2016 tournament.

Conclusion

Keith Fraser has served as Treasurer on Mancom for 5 years and has for some time indicated his desire to step down. Colin Esslemont has agreed to join Mancom and to take over the reins from Keith. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Keith for all his hard work and support over the years and the way in which he looked after the finances of the Union. His contribution was and is very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the other members of Mancom, John Brownrigg, Ross Grainger and Allan Bulmer, for their unswerving efforts and hard work during the year. This year has been particularly busy and their contributions and support have been invaluable. My thanks are also due to Frank Rosslee for his contribution to the smooth running of your Union.

Rob Wassenaar
Chairman
Management Committee