

Management Committee Report for the year ended 31 December 2015

I am pleased to be able to submit the report of the Management Committee for the past year. This is the first year of my tenure as chairman of the Management Committee and I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the help and support I have received over the last year. My especial thanks go to John Hare, not only for the legacy of a sound administration he left behind, but also for his continuing support and advice.

This year has also seen the first year of our new secretary, Frank Rosslee, and I thank him for his efforts and the way he has taken over the reins.

Golf worldwide in general continues to experience difficult times evident in dwindling support, particularly for member owned clubs. Seniors is no exception and is not immune to these stresses. One of the biggest problems facing golf is the failure to attract younger members to the sport and this does not bode well for the future. By its very nature Seniors has, to date, been largely untouched by this development but it is a problem we shall have to grapple with and come to terms with in due course.

At the Governing Body meeting in Bloemfontein it was decided to hold a GB strategic planning session in Johannesburg during the year. This "beraad" took place in July and was attended by the Presidents of the constituents Societies, or their alternates, and the members of Mancom. John Hare kindly agreed, as a last contribution to his tenure on Mancom, to chair the meetings and I would like to convey my sincere thanks to him for his efforts and contribution in this regard.

You will by now have received feedback from your Society on this initiative and to avoid unnecessary lengthy repetition I shall only mention some of the more important decisions arrived at. It was agreed, in order to maintain and enhance the prestige and desirability of the organisation, to reduce the overall quota for Seniors membership in South Africa. Over the last several years this number has been allowed to increase somewhat and the effect of this decision will be to revert to a smaller national membership more in line with historic numbers. In line with this the quotas of various Societies have been adjusted which will, in turn, reduce the pressure on Societies to enrol new members and will hopefully have a positive influence on the desirability of being a Senior.

Dwindling support for the National Tournament over the years has also led to a decision to reduce gradually the size of the field for the tournament. This will result on reduced pressure on the host Society and will ensure that we do not find ourselves running out of reserves to fill vacancies caused by withdrawals. An added benefit of reduced field size is that it may encourage improved support in Society fixtures as attendance records will continue to be used as one of the criteria for selection.

The Northern Cape Society expressed a strong desire to host a National Tournament and have been included in the tournament roster to host a tournament in Kimberley in 2023. This tournament will, per force, be a single course event. The tournament computer system has served us well for a number of years but as a result of dated technologies and changes in requirements has now reached the end of its usefulness. This year will see the last use of the old system and a process is underway to replace it with a new web based system more appropriate to our needs.

Financial Report

Your Union continues on a sound financial footing and a summary of the unaudited accounts is included for your information. These again reflect a positive situation for the Union showing a

surplus of some R233 279 for the year versus the previous year's R107 000.

Unplanned income and expenditure during the year included: dual salaries for a hand over of secretarial function R40 000, farewell functions and gifts for John Hare and Jetske Kingma R20 500, document storage setup R6 600 and the Governing Body Strategic Planning meeting R49 900. These were offset by the cancellation of the annual Caddie Tournament. An amount of R113 000 was made available for Golf Development costs but requests from Societies for only R20 000 were received. This resulted in a saving of R93 000.

Investment in equities. Our portfolio showed a good increase this year of R74 300 despite a very volatile investment climate. This surplus has again been transferred to the Investment Revaluation Reserve. The long term value of our Investment has been maintained at above inflation. Money Market accounts. All available funds held in Stanlib Money Market accounts have been moved to a call account at Standard Bank. A small amount remains at Stanlib pending the outcome of the Abil debacle. Income from our Investments comprising both interest and dividends was R183 800 versus R164 000 in 2014. A budget for the year to December 2016 is attached and reflects a surplus of R28 600 for the year. Sponsorship for 2016 declined by R53 000 as a result of Bidvest Rental electing to withdraw their support of the Union.

Tour Report

SGUSA were invited by the Royal Senior Golfers' Association of Belgium to participate in the annual King Leopold III Challenge held in July 2015 to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. We entered two teams of four players each, captained by Stuart Morris. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and both teams performed exceptionally well with wins and second places in the team and individual events. Bjorn Schildt captained a SGUSA team to the USA for the Senior World Golf Championship in Lake Tahoe. The four man team won the major trophy after two days of medal stroke play and achieved a commendable second and third place in the individual event. Richard Jelley captained a team of 11 SGUSA Seniors and their wives on a two week tour of Chile in November. The tour was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants and the hospitality extended by the Chilean hosts was quite exceptional. Our Seniors played 9 fixtures in 14 days and despite their best efforts were convincingly beaten by 6 1/2 to 2 1/2. During the year an invitation from SGUSA was extended to the Australian Seniors Golfers' Society to visit South Africa during February and March 2017. A team of 16 members and their partners will commence the tour in Cape Town on the 11th February 2017.

IT Report

The Governing Body strategic planning meeting held in July 2015 agreed that, due to the risks posed by the current tournament administration system, a new system accessible from the internet should be developed. It was decided that the format of the National Tournament will not undergo any major changes with the exception of the need to administer a single course tournament in the Northern Cape in 2023. The competitions to be played will be unchanged, however, any new tournament administration system should also be able to manage a tournament of a shorter duration.

Following these decisions, a functional specification for the new system was developed. The functional specification describes the requirement for two web applications. The first application is a senior members database. Each society will be required to maintain its membership list within the application and this data will provide the mechanism for giving members secure access to protected parts of the website and the members section of the tournament management application.

The second application is the new tournament management system which will provide all the functionality required to administer a tournament. A decision was taken by the Governing Body not

to provide tournament entrants with mobile facilities other than communications and to retain the physical registration process prior to the tournament. This does not however, preclude replacing these processes in the future. The two applications will be accessible via a SGUSA website which will also display the static unprotected data associated with a tournament similar to that which is displayed on the current tournament website which is accessible from the society websites. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining quotations from software development organizations for the construction of the required web applications. As a result of consequent delays, the 2016 national tournament will be administered using the current tournament management system.

Tournament Directors' Report

Bloemfontein is unique in that it is a small city inland venue but the possible lack of extensive amenities is more than compensated for by the traditional Free State hospitality. Arthur Gilbert, the Tournament Organising Committee chairman, and his team are to be congratulated on a happy and successful tournament. Entries received from all societies were down on anticipated numbers and notwithstanding a special request to all societies to approach members, the final entries from Border, Southern Cape and the Western Cape in particular were significantly lower than anticipated. In the event the draw was done for 312 players with 4 reserves. Subsequent to this there were 23 withdrawals of which 16 were replaced to give a final participation of 305 players.

I am sure that the tournament was enjoyed by all participants. Local favourite Derek Lunt emerged victorious as the champion, whilst the spirit and ethos of seniors' golf was displayed throughout the tournament. Free State dominated the winners circle but there were multiple prize-winners from Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal and prize-winners from every province bar the Western Cape. The non-playing ladies also had a most enjoyable programme and many positive and well-earned comments were received for both the men's and ladies programmes.

The Protea Hotel proved a most suitable venue for both the welcoming cocktail party and the closing Gala Dinner. The system of purchasing tickets for drinks was however not a success and the buffet style dinner unfortunately resulted in long queues. Bloemfontein Golf Club was used for all administration and Schoeman Park for the AGM and the support from staff at both courses was to be commended. The close proximity of the two courses was a great advantage. It is felt that more attention needs to be given to ensure that minimum standards for catering and golf activities are met at all clubs.

The golf was very well organised with minimal hitches and adequate golf officials in attendance. Prior to the tournament there was grave concern as to the condition of the Schoeman Park greens with rumours of the imminent loss of a number of greens. Schoeman Park worked hard on their greens which were presented in a most acceptable condition. We are most appreciative of the time, effort and cost committed. The only criticism is that there was a marked difference in the speed of the greens on the two courses. The "Grab & Go" was a success. An excellent ladies programme was presented and the non-golfing ladies were kept enthralled throughout the week thanks to the superb arrangements of Helga Streicher and her team. The golfing ladies had to travel long distances which detracted somewhat from their enjoyment.

Financially Free State rose to the occasion and emerged from the tournament with a final net surplus of R 6 761. Well done! This performance was underpinned by sponsorship of R 196 000. The next tournament is to be hosted by the Eastern Cape society. The EC was on the mailing list for the FS minutes of meetings. A very productive meeting was held during the tournament between the EC and the Free State. Thank you Aidan Cuff for travelling especially for the meeting and good luck for 2016. Particular thanks are due for the hard work of all those involved and congratulations to all concerned on a very enjoyable and successful tournament.

Conclusion

My sincere thanks are due to the members of Mancom for their continuing and unstinting support and who give so freely of their time in managing the affairs of the Union. Those members are John Brownrigg, Ross Grainger, Allan Bulmer and Keith Fraser. My thanks are also due to Frank Rosslee who has had to manage a steep learning curve over the last year and keeps the administration of the Union on track.

Rob Wassenaar
Chairman
Management Committee