



## **EXECUTIVE REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2020 TO APRIL 2021**

This report covers the activities and achievements of Womens Golf South Africa for the above-mentioned period.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The 2020 season was well underway across the country when the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11th.

These were uncharted times, however GolfRSA immediately consulted with Womens Golf South Africa, the South African Golf Association and the GolfRSA Board of Directors and decided to take a pro-active approach. Well before South Africa went into its hard lockdown on 27 March, all provincial and national events were cancelled, including the Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championship at Kloof Country Club.

The impact of the immediate economic standstill was massive and not a single industry in this country went untouched, least of all the golf industry.

Golf came under the microscope from the moment GolfRSA and its partners (PGA of SA and Club Management Association of South Africa) consulted with government in terms of the first set of regulations to ensure golf course maintenance could continue as Essential Service.

The plight of the caddies and casual workers received a lot of attention, as did the financial impact on golf clubs and facilities due to the loss of income from membership fees, green fees, conferences and functions, etc. But, very quickly, the focus shifted to GolfRSA and its partners' bid to reopen golf.

The organisation had taken a pro-active step that set it apart from all other sporting codes. This would also see GolfRSA take the lead in the engagement with Government on behalf of some non-contact sports towards a re-opening of non-contact sport.

The GolfRSA Help Fund was established to assist caddies and casual workers. Funds raised through various initiatives including donations from 3rd parties, auctions and cost savings, raised R5 million enabling 20 000 food vouchers to be issued to approximately 3000 caddies.

Comprehensive protocols and risk mitigation strategies were drafted well in advance and rolled out to golfing facilities to be ready and prepared for the re-opening of golf. Further an agreement was entered into with Healthstream to supply GolfRSA with the Healthdocs App for use by golf facilities, their members, visitors and staff and hosted comprehensive training sessions in the use of the App. This purchase was funded through the GolfRSA Help Fund.

The announcement on 12 June 2020 that golf was to re-open created much optimism as golf facilities prepared for a return to social golf under the strict GolfRSA Risk Mitigation Protocols on the 14 June 2020. As the country moved through various Alert Levels, the GolfRSA protocols and guidelines were revised by the GolfRSA Compliance Committee and communicated to Unions and clubs.

## **NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

Between 16 March to 30 September 2020, all National ranked events (which included provincial Union national ranked championships) were cancelled. In addition, our Open, Junior, Mid-Amateur and Performance Rankings were frozen.

WGSA wishes to acknowledge the host venues of the following championships for their co-operation in the cancellation of these events:

- **Nomads Rose Bowl 54 Hole Girl's Championship, Kloof Country Club, 16 – 17 March 2020: Cancelled**

The 2020 Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl was due to be played at Kloof Country Club, KZN. The players travelled to the championship, including eight invited girls, chaperoned by WGSA who had their entry fees, green fees, travel, meals and accommodation sponsored by WGSA and Nomads SA. However, the event was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic and the impending national lockdown.

- **72-Hole Teams Championship, Plettenberg Bay Country Club, 26 - 29 April 2020: Cancelled**

- **Nomads S Girls' Championship, Magalies Park, 14 – 16 June 2020: Cancelled**

- **SA Women's Inter-Provincial Championship, Rondebosch Golf Club, 21 – 25 September 2020: Cancelled**

The playing of national ranked events resumed on 1 October 2020. The Executive also decided to roll-over national tournament venues to 2021 so as to afford clubs the opportunity to still host these events.

As the world began the long road to getting back to normal, a shortened 2020 season ended with GolfRSA in a healthy position and with great promise for a successful 2021.

## **SA WOMEN'S MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP, ROBERTSON GOLF CLUB, 16 – 18 NOVEMBER 2020**

Following the decision to resume playing National Ranked events from the 1 October 2020, preparations started for the safe staging of the 2020 SA Mid-Amateur Championship. Our sincere appreciation to Robertson Golf Club for being incredible hosts and for hosting the event. The championship had a comprehensive Tournament Risk Mitigation Plan, which included symptom screening by all participants for 10 days prior to the event, during and for 7 days after the event.

Vicki Traut celebrated a back-to-back victory in the Championship. The Erinvale golfer got her title defence in the quaint Cape Winelands town off to a strong start with a two-over-par 74 that earned her a four-shot lead.

Vanessa Smith and Nina Grey finished second and third respectively. Heather Kruger claimed the B-Division title in wire-to-wire style. The Country Club Johannesburg golfer posted rounds of 81, 91 and 82 to edge out Fancourt's Jenny du Preez by three strokes.

The Oubaai Golf Club Ladies Captain, Marialese Coetzee, made her debut in the national championship, posting 33 points in the final round to win the C-Division with a winning score of 102.

Sonja Bland from Fancourt also celebrated a successful title defence when she lifted the LGU Quaich Senior Trophy for a third consecutive year.

## **RESULTS:**

### **Championship Division: Handicaps 6.5 and Under**

Winner: Vicki Traut (WP) (74,78,78)

### **B Division: Handicaps 6.6 – 15.3**

Winner: Heather Kruger (Gau) (81,91,82)

### **C Division (Stableford): Handicaps 15.4 – 24.3**

Winner: Marialese Coetzee (SC) (32,37,33)

The **Senior Trophy** was won by Sonja Bland (SC)

## **SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS (SA WOMEN'S STROKE PLAY AND MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS): ROYAL JOHANNESBURG AND KENSINGTON GOLF CLUB: 16 – 21 FEBRUARY 2021**

In an historic event both the men and ladies South-African Amateur Championships were played for the second time at the same venue, Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club. Both courses were utilised with the women played one round of stroke play on the East Course and subsequent rounds on the West Course.

Swellendam's Megan Streicher rode a red-hot putter to shoot the low final round of 67 on the West Course and rally from four shots back overnight to win the South African Women's Stroke Play title. The 18-year-old GolfRSA Elite Squad member held off late charges from defending champion and top-ranked Caitlyn Macnab to triumph on five-under-par 211.

Macnab had a chance to force a play-off with an eagle opportunity at the final hole of the West Course and gave it a valiant effort, but her putt died two feet from the hole. She had to settle for second after a closing 72.

GolfRSA No 4-ranked Nadia van der Westhuizen, who eagled the par-5 15th to join the race for glory, also registered a level par round to finish in third on two-under. After successive rounds of 72 on the West and East Courses, Streicher put some time in on the driving range, but in the end, it was the flat-stick and her dad Barry on the bag that got all the credit for her first national success.

The Abe Bailey Trophy was won by Kaitlyn van de Vyver (257). The runner up was Casey Twidale (263) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Senayah Moodliar (265 c/i).

### **Stroke Play Championship**

Champion: Megan Streicher 72 72 67

Runner Up: Caitlyn Macnab 75 67 70

3<sup>rd</sup>: Nadia van der Westhuizen 72 72 70

4<sup>th</sup>: Kaylah Williams 74 73 70

### **B-Division Result**

Champion: Kaitlyn van de Vyver 95 79 83

Runner Up: Casey Twidale 90 86 87

3<sup>rd</sup>: Senayah Moodliar 92 86 87; Lea van der Merwe 90 86 89

4<sup>th</sup>: Gia Raad 96 87 85

In the SA Women's Amateur Match Play Macnab won her second title in fine style with a convincing 11 & 9 victory over Swellendam's Megan Streicher at Royal Johannesburg & Kensington's East Course.

The 2020 champion, who had relinquished her SA Stroke Play title to Streicher, racked up an eagle and 10 birdies to comfortably wrap things up by the 27th hole of the 36-hole final. Macnab played the last 14 holes in an incredible 10 under par. With the win, Macnab became the first player since Ashleigh Buhai (nee Simon) in 2007 to achieve the SA Amateur double.

Pretoria golfer Charlene Oosthuizen was the winner of the flight division.

### **Match Play Championship**

Champion: Caitlyn Macnab (Ekurhuleni)

RunnerUp: Megan Streicher (Boland)

### **Flight**

Winner: Charlene Oosthuizen (Gauteng North)

RunnerUp: Zané Kleynhans (Gauteng North)

## **NOMADS ROSE BOWL 54 HOLE GIRL'S CHAMPIONSHIP, DURBANVILLE GOLF CLUB, 25 – 26 APRIL 2021**

The 2021 Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl was hosted by Durbanville Golf Club. There was a total of 62 players.

Isabella van Rooyen closed out her first national title and opened the door to a new chapter in her young career. The 18-year-old Clovelly junior cruised to a two-stroke victory, resisting the pressure from the chasing pack with a mature and consistent final round performance to close with a one-under-par 71 and finish the week victorious on five-under 211.

GolfRSA Elite Squad member Sam Whateley took second on three-under, while the recent 2020 Western Province Women's Amateur Stroke Play champion Bobbi Brown celebrated her best achievement on national level with a third-place finish on two-under.

Van Rooyen was inducted into the GolfRSA B-Squad earlier this year and winning one of two crown jewel junior events on the national circuit meant much more than just bagging her first big title.

Ashley Huysamen (Durbanville) won her first Silver Division title in the Silver division and Tamsen Skippers came closed with 40 points in their 36-hole Championship to win the Bronze Division.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION TOP 10**

- 211 Isabella van Rooyen 72 68 71
- 213 Samantha Whateley 68 70 75
- 214 Bobbi Brown 70 69 75
- 217 Kera Healey 74 71 72
- 218 Megan Streicher 69 75 74
- 219 Kyra van Kan 70 76 73
- 230 Kiera Floyd 73 82 75
- 231 Stephanie Barbaglia 78 76 77
- 233 Marine Legentil 77 80 76
- 234 Nicole Strydom 78 76 80; Zara le Keur 76 81 77

### **SILVER DIVISION TOP 5**

- 246 Ashley Huysamen 78 82 86
- 250 Gia Raad 85 78 87
- 261 Tyla Potgieter 82 87 92
- 262 Thaakirah Bickoo 90 87 85
- 266 Lisa Coetzer 94 86 86; Kim Albertus 87 88 91

### **BRONZE DIVISION TOP 5**

- 72 Tamsen Skippers 32 40 (c/i)
- 72 Alexandria Botes 35,37
- 71 Ruah Payle 37 34; Isabella Lesley Heber 38,33
- 70 Inge de Beer 32,38

## INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

International travel has not been possible during the reporting period. Many tournament organisers initially postponed events and then ultimately cancelled them. The safety of players, managers and tournament organisers/officials and considerations around international travel restrictions were at the forefront of their decisions.

- **All Africa Junior Golf Challenge, Palm Hills Golf Club, Egypt 21 – 27 March 2020 - Cancelled**
- **All Africa Challenge Trophy, Rossmund Golf Club, Swakopmund, Namibia, 29 March – 3 April 2020: Cancelled**
- **Ciputra Golfpreneur Junior World Golf Championship – Damai Indah Golf Club, Jakarta 28 – 30 April 2020: Postponed To 2021**
- **Toyota World Junior Golf Team Championship – Chukyo Golf Club, Ishino Course, Nagoya, Japan, 21 – 28 June 2020: Cancelled**
- **R & A Junior Championship – Littlestone, England, 13– 15 July 2020: Cancelled**
- **R & A Girls' Amateur Championship – Southport & Ainsdale, England, 11 – 15 August 2020: Cancelled**
- **Duke Of York Young Champions Trophy, North Berwick, Scotland, 2020: Cancelled**
- **World Amateur Teams Championship (WATC), Singapore, 14 – 17 December 2020: Cancelled**

Following extensive consultation with participating countries around the postponing of the event to 2021, the decision was taken by the IGF to reschedule the WATC to 2022 in France. The IGF also invited bids for WATC 2023 and at the IGF Biennial Meeting in October 2020, and by majority decision, Emirates Golf Federation was announced as the host. In moving the WATC to the 2022 and 2023 cycles, the historical clash with the Olympics was resolved.

- **All Africa Junior Golf Challenge, Palm Hills Golf Club, Egypt (date unconfirmed): Cancelled**
- **Toyota World Junior Golf Team Championship – Chukyo Golf Club, Ishino Course, Nagoya, Japan, June 2020: Cancelled**

## ANNIKA INVITATIONAL USA, WORLD GOLF VILLAGE, St AUGUSTINE FLORIDA, 15 – 18 JANUARY 2021

The Annika Invitational is the favourite event for US University Coaches to scout for potential candidates for scholarships. Annika herself carries out several coaching sessions and attends each day's play following the players on the course thus adding to the pressure of the event. Due to uncertainty around travel restrictions for South

African players, it was decided not to take up invitations to the event. The Annika Foundation and American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) were most understanding and have indicated that an invitation would be extended to our players in 2022 should international travel be possible.

## **GOVERNMENT : SASCO**

SASCO is the governing body for all sport in South Africa. Due to the cancellation of international events no colours were awarded in 2020 for team events.

## **WGSA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The WGSA Development Programme has as its foundation the Union based grassroots coaching nodes across the country.

All lady golfers pay a WGSA Affiliation Levy of which R36 goes towards the WGSA Development Programme. These funds are distributed to the Unions annually and are used mainly for coaching programmes via coaching points at golf clubs, driving ranges and schools. We now have over 500 registered players in these provincial groups at any one point in time with 56 nodes throughout the country. Many unions have joined forces with the SAGDB coaches in their area who provide coaching to both boys and girls.

Coaching was suspended in March 2020 and only in the later part of the year did some coaching points resume a scaled-down coaching programme, in compliance with the COVID-19 Coaching risk mitigation protocols. The status quo continued into 2021 with few further coaching points re-opening.

## **WGSA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

After the national lockdown, the National Squad management team set about developing a new approach, together with the players in the Elite Squad, B Squad and TID (talent identification) Squad to ensure a degree of continuity in the player's development.

There were several zoom webinar sessions with the members of the respective squads. These sessions included online fitness sessions, technical sessions, mental coaching and guest speaker, Ashleigh Buhai, who hosted a session with all three National Squads.

After the resumption of competitive golf a decision was taken, for reasons of risk mitigation, not to bring the players together in the typical camp setting. Rather day-camps were held remotely for the Elite and B Squad members in Cape Town and Johannesburg simultaneously. There were two camps held on this basis and they proved a constructive approach under the circumstances. However, there were greater challenges for the TID Squad who are younger and reside in different centres across the country, making it impossible to bring the players together in camps.

In order to resume camps for the 2021 TID Squad, a camp was held immediately after the Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championship in April 2021. The players travelled with family members as chaperones and attended daily sessions at the tournament venue. Four of the Squad members, namely Tebogo Lefifi (Gauteng), Lucia Mhlabane (Mpumalanga), Chloe Malgas-Kelpin (Southern Cape), Zara le Keur (Western Province) were given the opportunity to participate in the 2021 Nomads Rose Bowl with all costs being covered, by Nomads and WGSA. The remainder of the TID Squad members travelled independently and their travel and accommodation costs were covered by the TID Squad budget.

This was a successful way for our National Coaches Val Holland and Anna Becker-Frankel to resume a TID Squad coaching programme. In 2021 mental coaching was added to the TID Squad coaching, with sport psychologist Shaun Landsberg appointed to work with the players.

As part of the GolfRSA National Squad WGSA received funding from the National Squad budget. WGSA considers that one of its most important mandates is to provide the tools and skills to top golfers to enable them to be the very best they can be and to reach their golfing goals.

In 2021, the Elite and B squads received coaching from our National Coaches, Val Holland and Anna Becker-Frankel, as well as Mental Coaching from sport psychologist Grant Flaum. In addition, a fitness assessment process and programme development has been established using biokineticists local to the players and supervised by National Squad Physiotherapist Sandra Winter.

All players selected for the squads receive financial assistance to attend Provincial Championships.

### **WGSA NATIONAL SQUADS: ELITE & B SQUAD 2021**

The 2021 Elite Squad members are:

- Caitlyn Macnab (Ekurhuleni)
- Kaylah Williams (Western Province)
- Kiera Floyd (Ekurhuleni)
- Kaiyuree Moodley (Gauteng)
- Megan Streicher (Boland)
- Kaleigh Telfer (Gauteng)
- Kajal Mistry (Gauteng)
- Symone Henriques (Gauteng)
- Samantha Whateley (Gauteng) (promoted from the B Squad)

The B Squad members for 2021 are:

- Ineke Brynard (Boland)
- Kera Healy (Gauteng)
- Kyra van Kan (Ekurhuleni)
- Stephanie Barbaglia (Gauteng)
- Isabella van Rooyen (Western Province) (new)

The Talent Identification Squad members for 2021 are:

- Anika Smit (KZN)
- Chloe Malgas-Kelpin (Southern Cape)
- Ellandri van Heeden (Free State)
- Kesha Louw (Border)
- Lucia Mhlabane (Mpumalanga)
- Tebogo Lefifi (Gauteng)
- Zara le Keur (Western Province) (new)

It should be noted that players may be moved up or down from these squads depending on both performance and recommendations from the National Coaches.

## **GOLFRSA BOARD**

GolfRSA Board Meetings were held on 24 June 2020, 30 September 2020, 10 March 2021 with the AGM to be held on 9 June 2021.

## **WGSA ADMINISTRATION FINANCE & MEDIA**

The WGSA Annual General Meeting was held via video conference on the 26 April 2020, just one month into the national lockdown. At the AGM outgoing president Sally Greasley was acknowledged for her measured leadership which played a huge role in advancing the unity in golf in South Africa and we wish her well in her retirement.

At the AGM, Sarah Braude was elected as President of Womens Golf South Africa and Susan Andrew elected as Vice President. Their term started in the most challenging of times and together with the GolfRSA CEO, Grant Hepburn, WGSA and the SAGA Executives, GolfRSA staff and industry partners, collectively navigated the road ahead.

The Executive continued to carry out its administrative and governance functions by meeting virtually.

Changes in Union Presidents:

Border: Hanlie Bassingwaithe took over from Louise van Niekerk in February 2021

Kwazulu-Natal: Sue Rohwer took over from Jane Lind in March 2021

WGSA decided to give up its offices and now only has a meeting space within the Sunshine Tour House in Somerset West. Verucia Bell continues to ably manage the WGSA office, now working from home. WGSA extends its appreciation to Verucia for accommodating this change in work environment.

Ingrid Davis performs the bookkeeping tasks for WGSA. Laetitia Higgs (Tournament Administrator) carries out all the tournament administration and ATMS functions at all our National Championships and Thelma Dippenaar (Tournament Administrator) attends to the staging and operational requirements at our National Championships. WGSA extends its appreciation to both Laetitia and Thelma for their dedication and thoroughness in delivering our national championships.

The GolfRSA website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter continue to be the go-to places for all information on amateur golf in South Africa.

Lali Stander is now in the full time employ of GolfRSA and together with Brendan Barrett they keep the golfing community informed across the social media platforms. Lali and Brendan were key in the communications during the past year and we thank them for their incredible effort in ensuring the GolfRSA platforms remain very active.

## **SOUTH AFRICAN GOLF ASSOCIATION (SAGA)**

Together with Womens Golf South Africa, the SAGA is a shareholder of GolfRSA.

On 7 September 2020, SAGA President Naadir Agherdien decided to step down due to medical reasons. The Executive acknowledges and commends Naadir on his service to amateur golf and golf administration and wishes him well for the future.

Ekurhuleni's Martin Saaiman was appointed Acting President of the SAGA and Henk Smith Vice President until the next elections.

Martin Saaiman was appointed as President of the SAGA following their Annual General Meeting held at the Protea Hotel in Stellenbosch on Sunday, 18 April 2021. Henk Smith from Western Province was elected as Vice



President together with Junior Vice President Deon Nel from Eastern Province as the SAGA office bearers for the next 24 months.

## **HANDICAPPING**

The new World Handicapping System (WHS) came into operation around the world, with a few exceptions, on 1 January 2020.

The implementation of Rule 6.2a of the Rules of Handicapping was effected on 1 March 2021, so as to give golfers of all abilities and handicap levels a fair and equitable chance of winning in competition play. The implementation of Rule 6.2a also ensured that South Africa would be fully aligned with the World Handicap System in the rest of the world.

## **PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS & THE WPGA**

The following player turned professional in 2021: Nadia van der Westhuizen

## **SUNSHINE LADIES TOUR (SLT)**

Our amateurs are very privileged to be able to play in the SLT events and gain insight into the world of the Professional player. Six SLT events were played in 2021 and South Africa's number one Caitlyn Macnab made history winning the Jabra Ladies Classic at Glendower, as the first amateur since Ashlei Buhai (nee Simon) in 2007 to win a professional event. With her win, Caitlyn earned an invitation to the Jabra Ladies Open in France in May. We are incredibly proud of Caitlyn and wish her every success in the Ladies European Tour event.

## **ERNIE ELS AND FANCOURT FOUNDATION**

There are seven members in of the Ernie Els & Fancourt Foundation for 2021:

- Thamara Sandys (Oppenheimer, Welkom)
- Crystal Beukes (Stellenbosch)
- Cara Ford (Randpark, Jhb)
- Demi Flanagan (East London)
- Larissa du Preez (Silver Lakes, Pretoria)
- Nomkhosi Mthiyane (Royal Durban)
- Celiwe Biyela (Royal Durban)
- 

## **R & A BURSARY: PGA PATHWAY PROGRAMME**

GolfRSA/Womens Golf South Africa, the Professional Golfers Association of South Africa (PGA) and the Womens Professional Golf Association South Africa (WPGA) submitted a proposal to the R&A for the development of Women PGA Professionals to assist with the growth of women's participation across golf clubs and events in South Africa, as well as create opportunities for women to enter into sustainable careers within the golf industry. .

As part of its intention to support Women in Golf, the R&A granted a bursary for three suitable candidates to study and complete the PGA of South Africa's Pathway to Membership. Nomkhosi Mthiyane and Celiwe Biyela (both from KZN) were two of the succesful applicants and will start the programme in 2021.

## 2020 Momentum gsport Awards

GolfRSA's top ranked Caitlyn Macnab and Womens Golf South Africa President Sarah Braude both made the short-list of finalists for the 2020 Momentum gsport awards. Caitlyn was in the Emerging Athlete of the Year category and Sarah in the Women of the Year category.

2020 marked the 15th edition of the longest-running women's sports awards in South Africa, which honour South African athletes and women who promote the development, growth and coverage of women's sport in South Africa and Africa.

## GENERAL

The Executive wishes to thank all players, clubs and Union Executive and Staff for their support over a very challenging past year. We would also like to record our appreciation of the support we receive from our very generous National sponsors Nomads South Africa. Thank you to the management and members of golf clubs that have allowed us the use of their facilities during this past year and have always gone out of their way to ensure the successful running of all our tournaments.

While the challenges have been significant, it has required innovative thinking and the introduction of new approaches in how we deliver on our mandate. In addition, it has resulted in a significantly greater integrated effort between all parties. The tireless and collaborative effort of our partners and stakeholders and within GolfRSA has been momentous and we salute everyone involved.

23 May 2021