

## **WOMENS GOLF SOUTH AFRICA - EXECUTIVE REPORT AND PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE YEAR MAY 2022 TO APRIL 2023**

GolfRSA is the unified body of Womens Golf South Africa (WGSA) and the South African Golf Association (SAGA) administering, operating and providing service to amateur golf in South Africa.

This report covers the activities and achievements of women's golf from May 2022 to April 2023.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Thankfully there was a return to a less restricted tournament environment following the pandemic and participation in international tournaments became increasingly available. For the remainder of 2023 the National and Provincial Championships continued to be played safely and successfully.

In May 2022 the eagerly awaited inaugural SA Women's Mid-Amateur Inter-Provincial Championship was played by 12 union teams competing in two divisions at the beautiful Parys Golf Club, Free State.

Participation in National and Provincial Championship remained constant, with the Mid-Amateur circuit showing significant growth amongst our 30 & over golfers.

Year on year there was an encouraging growth in affiliated golfers from 13098 as of 31 December 2021 to 14192 as of 31 December 2022.

This can be attributed to the post-pandemic growth in golf, as well as improvements in the collection process by the Unions and clubs of the national GolfRSA affiliation levy. We extend our appreciation to golfers, the clubs, Unions and GolfRSA staff involved in this process.

South Africa was able to return to participating in international events (albeit still with travel restrictions) which was very welcoming for our players and especially as many had missed out on these opportunities.

Our players featured on the international stage and we are very proud of the following achievements:

- After qualifying earlier in the year in Egypt, the team of Bobbi Brown, Kyra van Kan and Samantha Whateley placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the Toyota World Junior Golf Championship in Japan and Samantha Whateley finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Individual event.
- Team SA of Caitlyn Macnab, Kajal Mistry and Bobbi Brown finished 15<sup>th</sup> out of 56 countries at the World Amateur Teams Championship – Espirito Santo Trophy.
- Team SA of Bronwyn Leigh Doeg, Bobbi Brown and Gabriella Venter won the All Africa Challenge Trophy in Tanzania.
- Gabbi Venter won the St Andrews Links Trust Junior Ladies Open at St. Andrews in Scotland
- Crystal Beukes was selected by University Sport South Africa (USSA) to participate in the FISU World University Games in Torino, Italy and was accompanied by WGSA Vice President, Susan Andrew.

The 2022 GolfRSA Champion of Champions once again brought together the cream of club golfers, in three divisions. The regional finalists gathered for a successful National Final at Kyalami Golf Club, where they competed for the title of the country's top club champions.

Further funding from DSAC, secured in 2021, allowed for the Caddies Champion of Champions tournament to be added to the GolfRSA Champion of Champions event in 2022.

## **GOLFRSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The current Board of Directors comprises the following directors:

- Mr Johann Rupert Independent, non-executive director (Chairperson)
- Mr Moss Gondwe Independent, non-executive director (Vice Chairperson)
- Mr Moss Ngoasheng Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Dale Hayes Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Pieter Verwey Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Ken Walker Independent, non-executive director
- Mrs Keneilwe Moloko independent, non-executive director
- Ms Sarah Braude Member's representative director (President – WGSA)
- Mr Henk Smith Member's representative director (President – SAGA)
- Mr Deon Nel Member's representative director (Vice President – SAGA)

GolfRSA Board AGM and meeting was held on 14 June 2022 and a further meeting on 16 November 2022. We extend our appreciation to Mr Rupert and the Board members who give of their time voluntarily.

We also extend our thanks to Ken Walker (who chairs the GolfRSA Finance Committee) and Mrs Keneilwe Moloko who are the WGSA independent representatives.

## **FINANCE**

GolfRSA achieved a surplus of R 1.8 million for the 2022 financial year. The income exceeded budget by 2%, largely due to an increased annual contribution from HNA for management fees and tournament participation.

The GolfRSA investment portfolio also recovered well in the last quarter of 2022. Affiliation fee income was slightly higher than budget, which is encouraging as no decrease in affiliated numbers was experienced.

Operational expenses were 4% under budget and although tournament expenses exceed budget by 1%, GolfRSA's Tournament income (Entry fees and sponsorship) exceeded budget by 5%.

Collectively, the abovementioned factors contributed to the surplus achieved.

The GolfRSA auditors expressed satisfaction with the results of the recently conducted GolfRSA audit.

## **PLAYER AWARDS 2021/2022:**

Our annual player awards were presented at the WGSA Annual General Meeting in May 2022:

Player of the Year: Isabella van Rooyen

Junior Player of the Year: Gabrielle Venter

Most Improved Open Player of the Year: Gabrielle Venter

Most Improved Junior Player of the Year: Zara le Keur

Gilly Tebbutt Trophy: Kyra van Kan was the receipt of this award presented to the leading GolfRSA Women's Open Amateur ranked player following the IPT Seeding round.

We congratulate Isabella, Gabrielle, Zara and Kyra on their achievements and respective awards. Isabella and Gabrielle have both turned professional and we wish them every success on the professional circuit.

## **GOVERNMENT : SASCOC**

GolfRSA received confirmation from SASCOC In February 2022 that it would be the National Federation recognised by SASCOC.

On the 22 April 2023, SASOC held their General Meeting. Sarah Braude, Susan Andrew and Anne Vermaak attended the meeting on behalf of GolfRSA. This was the first time that the women's office bearers had attended and the discussions and presentations were most informative in terms of the policy direction of SASOC and the work of the various Commissions.

## **SPONSORSHIP**

In 2022 a multi-year sponsorship was secured with Sun International/Sun City for our two Nomads junior championships. This provides the opportunity for the players to compete at the world class Sun City resort.

We extend our appreciation to our tournament sponsor partners Nomads SA (Furtherance of Golf) and Sun International (Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championship and Nomads SA Girls Championship both presented by Sun International) for their incredible support of junior girl's golf and enabling playing opportunities to be provided at the highest standard.

By staging the event at the iconic Gary Player Golf Course and the Lost City course together with the World Amateur Golf Ranking points on offer, it should assist in encouraging international participation in future years.

Elegant Fuel returned for a second year as the sponsor partner for the SA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. We value their partnership and support for women's amateur golf.

In addition, our sincere appreciation to the sponsors at host venues who contribute towards completing the players experience at national championships.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Changes in Union Presidents:

Western Province: Maureen Weimar took over from Erica Lefson in June 2022

Free State: Louise Hattingh took over from Sarita Sadler in October 2022

Northern Cape: Natasha Maritz took over from Gladys Poonawassy in November 2022

KwaZulu-Natal: Nicci Taylor took over from Sue Rohwer in April 2023

Eastern Province: Ilse Botha took over from Cathy Bezuidenhout in April 2023

WGSA Secretary, Verucia Bell continues to work from home, ably managing the women's golf administration. We extend our sincere appreciation to Verucia for her dedication, commitment, and contribution to women's golf and GolfRSA.

Ingrid Davis performs our bookkeeping tasks and together with Caitlin Boekee and Clinton Logie their assistance and support is greatly appreciated.

In achieving an integrated GolfRSA Tournament Division:

Laetitia Higgs was appointed as Tournament Operations Manager (Women's events) in January 2023. Laetitia's focus is on the women's national championships and will also be assisting with men's events when available.

Thelma Dippenaar has been appointed as (Tournament Operations: Staging & Administration) assisting Laetitia at the women's events. Thelma will also assist at men's events when needed.

The Executive extends its appreciation to Laetitia and Thelma for their hard work and dedication and we are pleased to see them take on these positions in GolfRSA and for always going the extra mile to the benefit of golf and especially girls and women's golf.

The GolfRSA website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter continue to be the go-to places for all information on amateur golf in South Africa and we thank Lali Stander and Brendan Barrett for their incredible effort in ensuring the GolfRSA platforms remain very active. Brendan Barrett and his family have relocated to Australia after his wife was offered a position. Brendan continues to assist GolfRSA remotely on a scaled down basis.

Eden Thompson was offered a position in the R&A as Development Officer for Africa. We thank Eden for his dedication, sacrifice and hard work over the years and wish him all the best on his future endeavours.

Kagiso Bogopane and Khomotso Kgopa were appointed as Golf Tournament Co-ordinators. Kagiso started on the 1 February 2023 and Khomotso started on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. We welcome them both and wish them success in their new roles.

Anne Vermaak was appointed as the GolfRSA Operations Manager and started on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Anne was the CEO of Gymnastics South Africa and she is a well-known and highly respected sports administrator. Anne is highly regarded amongst South African sports federations and has extensive networks in SASCO, as well as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and across the sporting industry.

Anne has a vast skill set including collaborative team and project management, systems implementation, risk management resolution, and business processes, to name a few. We are delighted that such a respected and high-profile sports industry leader has joined us.

## **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The Development Programme has as its foundation the girl's grassroots coaching nodes and junior and provincial squads across the country.

Every golfer in the country is making a positive contribution to the growth of the game in that a portion of their annual GolfRSA Affiliation Fees/Levies is allocated as a Development Levy to fund the Development Programme.

A process was started to achieve an equalisation of the women's Development Levy from R43.45 to R75.73 so as to equate with that of the men's allocation. Indications are that this equalisation will be achieved for 2023 and this will be reported in the next Executive Report.

Together with other initiatives within the development of girls and womens golf there has been positive growth in younger players coming through the ranks. Many Unions have also partnered with the South African Golf Development Board (SAGDB) to deliver the programme in their Unions and together with other stakeholders we look forward to continue growth in our Development Programme.

## **PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The GolfRSA National Squad is an important part of our player development programme and the adjustment to the structure to form one GolfRSA National Squad structured into an A (Elite), B and C group started in 2022 and continued in 2023. Trackman coaching was expanded and introduced for the C Group and together with the Trackman coaching provided in the Elite & B groups it is of significant benefit to the players.

Squad camps are also held during the year with there being a National Squad camp at the beginning of the year for all squad members, with a further three camps for the Elite & B groups and two further camps for the C Group.

We wish to thank the National Squad professional team of Val Holland, Anna Becker-Frankel, Costanza Trussoni (Trackman), Grant Flaum and Shaun Landsburg (mental conditioning coaching), Bianca Bloemhof (biokineticist) for their collective efforts to equip the National Squad with the best tools available for them to perform and achieve on the global stage.

In order to identify potential talent earlier and provide a feeder to the National Squad as well as assist Unions in growing their Squads, the establishment of the Qalisa Squad remained a top priority. The establishment of the Qalisa Squad is linked to national government funding, which unfortunately was not available in 2022. Fortunately

this funding has been secured from the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023, such that the phased rollout of the Qalisa Squad programme is now achievable.

#### **GolfRSA WOMEN'S NATIONAL SQUAD 2023:**

Seven new players were inducted into the Golf Women's National Squad in 2023. (\*inductees 2023). The GolfRSA National Squad continue to shine on the National and Provincial circuit as well as on the international stage.

Alessia Goussard  
Bobbi Brown  
Caitlyn Macnab  
Casey Twidale \*  
Charlotte Millard \*  
Ellandri van Heerden  
Erica Chen\*  
Gia Raad  
Jasmine Furstenburg  
Kaitlyn van de Vyver  
Kaiyuree Moodley  
Kajal Mistry  
Kaylah Williams  
Kaylee Webster \*  
Kera Healey  
Kesha Louw  
Kyra van Kan  
Lea van der Merwe \*  
Lisa Coetzer  
Megan Marais  
Megan Streicher  
Olivia Wood \*  
Phenyo Sebata  
Samantha Whateley  
Shivania Kalimuthu \*  
Stephanie Barbaglia  
Zane Kleynhans  
Zara le Keur

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

#### **GOLF RSA RANKINGS**

There are four national GolfRSA rankings: Women's Open, Junior – Girls, Women's Mid-Amateur and the Performance Rankings.

Starting 01 January 2023, the Executive decided to change the Junior age parameter to "under 19 years on the commencement date of the first round of a championship". Accordingly the GolfRSA Junior – Girls ranking criteria were updated effective from 01 January 2023.

#### **NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

Seven national events were successfully staged during the reporting period. The full results of these championships are set out at the end of this report.

We wish to thank the host venues, their club committee, club managers and staff for all their assistance and support in staging these championships. A special mention and appreciation to the respective club members who kindly give up their golf courses for the playing of these championships.

Our appreciation also to the respective host Unions for their assistance with preparations for the hosting of these events.

The GolfRSA Tournament Division moved to consolidating the men's and women's Terms of Competition, resulting in the GolfRSA General Terms of Competition being introduced in 2023. In addition, Terms of Entry are drafted on a by tournament basis to deal with specific tournament related parameters.

Further, a GolfRSA Logos and Marks Policy for GolfRSA Championships and Inter-Provincial Championships (IPT)'s, which was presented to the Executive and adopted in October 2022.

#### **SA Women's Mid-Amateur Inter-Provincial Championship (IPT), Parys Golf Club, Free State, 30 April – 4 May 2022**

There was much anticipation for the playing of the inaugural SA Women's Mid-Amateur Inter-Provincial (IPT) Championship. Adding the IPT to women's golf season for those golfers aged 30 and over has increased the presence of the mid-amateur circuit. Together, national and provincial championships now provide 21 events for the Mid-Amateurs. Who are the majority of our golfing community.

The SA Women's Mid-Amateur IPT was played in two divisions with Southern Cape (Division 1) and Ekurhuleni (Division 2) crowned the 2022 champions.

#### **SA Women's 72-Hole Teams Championship, Mbombela Golf Club, Mpumalanga 22 - 25 May 2022**

Our sincere appreciation to Mbombela Golf Estate Homeowners Association, Club Management and Mpumalanga Golf Union for hosting a successful championship.

The Central Gauteng A team of Samantha Whateley, Kaiyuree Moodley and Marine Legentile (cpt) returned to the winner's circle for the first time in six years with a 19-stroke victory in the Swiss Team Trophy. Samantha Whateley also lifted the Individual trophy.

Western Province A's Vicki Traut, Jordan Rothman and Bobbi Brown finished second on 592 and Central Gauteng took third place on 596.

GolfRSA's No. 1-ranked amateur Gabbi Venter led Free State to a historic victory and promotion with rounds of 152, 162, 146 and 155. Together with fellow national squad member Ellandri van Heerden and debutant Chéré Myburgh, Free State lifted the Challenge Trophy title with a runaway 31-stroke victory.

Central Gauteng C's Shannon Berry, Gia Raad and Casey Twidale took second on 630, while Southern Cape took third, a further five strokes back.

#### **Nomads SA Girls' Championship presented by Sun International, Sun City, Gary Player Course, North West, 4 – 6 July 2022**

GolfRSA's Nomads SA Girls Championship presented by Sun International took on a grand new look in being staged at the iconic Gary Player Golf Course.

The partnership with Nomads SA and Sun International offered our junior girls in the Championship, Silver (B), Bronze (C) and Copper (D) divisions the opportunity to compete on a top championship course and experience the world renowned Sun City resort. Through the Nomads SA, Sun International and GolfRSA sponsorship all eligible players identified by their Unions have their entry fees, green fees, travel, meals and accommodation sponsored.

In 2022, 45 girls played in their first Nomads SA Girls Championship and this growth in girls golf is very encouraging.

In a thrilling playoff in the Championship Division between Gabriella Venter and Samantha Whateley, Gabrielle was crowned the Nomads SA Girls Champion.

Ekurhuleni's Kyra van Kan closed with a round of 70 to finish third on six over, with KwaZulu-Natal pair Anika Smit and Charlotte Millard rounding out the top five on 232.

Gauteng North's Pheny Sebatla and Central Gauteng's Kaylee Webster were neck-and-neck during the final round in the Silver (B) division. But it was 14-year-old Sebatla, starting the last day two shots off the pace, who came up trumps. The GolfRSA National Squad member carded a closing 85 to claim her first national title with a slender one-shot victory on 252.

Danielle Chong, the youngest player to tackle the Gary Player Country Club stepped it up with rounds of 34 and 31 to finish on 65 points alongside 15-year-old Aimee-Leigh van Rooyen from North West (34, 31) and was rewarded for her bravery with the C Division Trophy in a count-out.

In the D Division, Lwazi Goba from KwaZulu-Natal also celebrated a successful first national start with a victorious debut.

We extend our appreciation to the Union Chaperones for so ably looking after their players and guiding them during the championship

### **61<sup>st</sup> SA Women's Inter-Provincial Championship, Silver Lakes Golf and Wildlife Estate, Gauteng North, 2 – 7 October 2022**

Gauteng North A delighted the home crowd when they rallied to win the 61<sup>st</sup> South African Women's Inter-Provincial for the first time since 2013 at Silver Lakes Golf and Wildlife Estate. Winning The Women's Inter Provincial Tournament starts a new era for the Gauteng North Daisies and will motivate them to go from strength to strength.

Brown from Western Province won the Individual Stroke Play in the Seeding Rounds with a round of four-under-par 68. Next best was Zanê Kleynhans with a 70, with Stephanie Barbaglia from Central Gauteng and Southern Cape's Jasmine Furstenburg tied for third on 74.

Meanwhile Ekurhuleni won the A-Division A-2 Section on a games count-out against KwaZulu-Natal.

Both teams had 5 points following a draw and two wins, but the Ekurhuleni foursome – Kyra van Kan, Lisa Coetzer, Candice Wort and Tayla Howroyd – had accumulated 13.5 games points in the matches against KwaZulu-Natal, Boland and Eastern Province and won by 1.5 games points

Border's Demi Flanagan, Kesha Louw, Millie Dondashe and Sanet Pieterse had a huge incentive to win the promotion battle and they pulled it off with a classy performance, achieving promotion for 2023.

In the B-Division B2 Section, North West came up trumps after defeating log leaders Free State 3.5 – 2.5 in a battle royale on the final day.

### **SA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship, Mossel Bay Golf Club, Southern Cape, 13 – 15 November 2022**

The momentum in entries for this championship reached new heights in 2022. For the first time since 2010 the field had to be capped given a record number of entries. With nearly 150 players teeing up at Mossel Bay Golf Club and 54 golfers made their debut across the three divisions.

Southern Cape golfer Sandra Winter strolled into the records books once again celebrating a double victory as the Championship winner as well as the Senior trophy winner. Firing rounds of 76, 76 and 73 in tough coastal conditions, Winter wrapped up title No 5 with a four-shot victory.

Hermien Jones from Eastern Province claimed her first national title, as she was crowned the 2022 Silver Division champion. Jones parred the last two holes for an 82 to seal a two-shot victory. Roberts-Gouws closed with 89 to finish second, and Theron finished a further shot back in third after carding 88.



Boland golfer Louise Olivier went wire-to-wire in her title defense, posting rounds of 37 points, 34 points and a final round of 35 points to win by four.

Our sincere appreciation to Elegant Fuel for their continued partnership and sponsorship of the Players Dinner.

### **South African Amateur Championships (SA Women's Amateur Stroke Play And Match Play Championships): Mount Edgecombe Country Club: 19 – 24 February 2023**

This was the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the successful staging of the combined women's and men's South African Amateur Championships.

Mount Edgecombe last hosted the SA Women's Stroke Play Championship in 1986 and it was a welcome return to The Wood and The Lakes courses, uniquely offering a two course venue for the combined championships.

Entries were very positive and 86 players , including five players aged 13 or younger and nineteen Mid-Amateurs featured in our flagship Amateur Championship.

#### **South African Women's Amateur Stroke Play Championship**

Central Gauteng Golf Union's Samantha Whateley went wire-to-wire to lift the South African Women's Stroke Play Championship title. Rounds of 69 on the par-70 Woods Course and a level-par 72 and closing 75 on The Lakes were ample to earn Whateley a long-awaited victory on a tournament total of two-over-par. The Country Club Johannesburg golfer finished six shots clear of Kyra van Kan from Ekurhuleni, Chloe Royston from KwaZulu-Natal, and Southern Cape's Jasmine Furstenburg.

Home favourite Charlotte Phipps gave the Mount Edgecombe members a great reason to cheer when she made the most of her local golf course knowledge to race to a 14-stroke victory and lift the Abe Bailey Trophy in the Silver (B) division with rounds of 84, 79 and 88.

Oubaai Golf Club's Holly Erler finished in second place with rounds of 92, 90 and 83 while Jaime Meth from Country Club Johannesburg was a further stroke adrift in third after carding rounds of 92, 89 and 85.

#### **South African Women's Amateur Match Play Championship:**

The Top 64 of the combined results of the Championship and Silver divisions at the SA Women's Amateur Stroke Play Championship qualified to move on to the SA Women's Amateur Match Play Championship.

Kyra van Kan, from Glendower Golf Club, enjoyed her biggest success of her young career as she lifted the SA Women's Amateur Match Play trophy. The 36-hole final with fellow GolfRSA National Squad member was Ellandri van Heerdan was momentous and both players came out firing. It came down to birdies and eagles, and Kyra carded seven birdies in 9 holes in the afternoon session to close out the victory.

The Flight Division was won by Jemima Ulliyett. The Zimbali teenager beat Germany's Stephanie Kiefer 2-up in their 18-hole final.

### **Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championship Presented By Sun International, The Lost City, North West, 21 – 22 March 2023**

For the second time, the GolfRSA Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championship presented by Sun International took place at the iconic Lost City Golf Course in the North West Province.



GolfRSA No 1 Kyra van Kan, Sarah Gutuza and eight-year-old Milani Sikhonde had a lot to celebrate after scooping the 2023 Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl presented by Sun International titles with outstanding performances.

Kyra van Kan backed up an opening one-under 71 with a 73 on day one in the blistering heat and waltzed to a 13-shot victory in the Championship Division, courtesy of an unrivalled third round of five-under 67.

Fellow GolfRSA National Squad members Gia Raad from Central Gauteng (224) and Kesha Louw from Border (225) finished second and third respectively in the Championship (A) Division.

Sarah Gutuza trailed fellow Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club junior Valentina Sakota by five shots after an opening 85, but she rallied with a second round 87 to pull two shots clear in the Silver (B) Division. A final round 82 was enough to secure victory. Fellow Central Gauteng junior Yaone Mokgatle closed with an 87 to finish in second, while Ekurhuleni's Keira Howroyd and Amy Stanton from Central Gauteng tied for third.

Serengeti Golf Estates' young sensation and first-time participant in this prestigious event, eight year old Milani Sikhonde, was the talk of the town in the Bronze Division. Carding rounds of 35 and 34 for an impressive four-point victory on 69 points..

Caitlen van Heerden from Bloemfontein and Western Province pair Aminah Hendricks and Tyra Booysen tied for second on 65 points.

GolfRSA National Squad members scored a clean sweep in the individual age categories, with Lisa Coetzer from Ekurhuleni winning the Junior Girls U-12, North West's Megan Marais the Junior Girls U-14 and Raad from Central Gauteng the Junior Girls U-16.

## **INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

All international events scheduled on our calendar were staged during the reporting period following the lifting of travel restrictions. Travel conditions did vary according to the host country risk mitigation requirements, however our players and managers were able to participate safely and successfully. We extend our appreciation to the host venues and countries for putting this at the forefront.

### **Toyota World Junior Golf Team Championship – Hakuzan Village Golf Course, Japan, 21 – 24 June 2022**

Samantha Whateley, Kyra Van Kan and Bobbi Brown qualified by winning the All Africa Junior Team Championship in Egypt earlier in the year. Likewise the South African Boys Team of Gunther Pascal, Daniel Bennett, Joshua Koekemoer and Fabrizio de Abreu also qualified In Egypt by winning the Boys Team event. The players were accompanied by WGSA President, Sarah Braude and Eden Thompson and Theo Bezuidenhout from GolfRSA. Karen Olivant, Past WGSA President was invited to attend as a Rules Official.

The venue in Japan was changed in 2022 so as to accommodate all the participants and tournament officials in a 'bubble' and as such stay in accommodation adjacent to the golf course. The golf course was in immaculate condition and the international field of a very high standard.

The team competed well with South Africa finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the Girls Team event and Samantha Whateley finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Individual event. Toyota and their sponsor partners sponsor the flights, accommodation, meals. Together with the tournament organisers Toyota were very pleased to have the South African Girls and Boys team competing.

### **R & A Junior Open Championship – Monifieth, Scotland, 11 – 13 July 2022:**

All golfing nations affiliated to the R & A are invited to enter their best under 16 boy and girl into this biennial event which is always held at a venue close to The Open.

Kesha Louw and Fabrizio de Abreu were selected for this combined girls and boys event and SAGA Vice President Deon Nel accompanied the players.

Both Kesha and Fabio made the 36 hole cut and went on to finish 70<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> respectively in the field of 110 players.

#### **St. Andrews Junior Ladies Open – St. Andrews, Scotland, 31 July – 4 August 2022:**

This event, hosted by the St. Andrews Links Trust was added to the schedule to provide additional playing opportunities in conjunction with the R&A Girls Amateur Championship. Gabrielle Venter and Kyra van Kan were selected and were accompanied by WGSA President Sarah Braude.

Comprising an 18 hole stroke play qualifier followed by the match play, Gabrielle Venter and Kyra van Kan opened their campaign on the Strathtyrum Course. Gabriella won the stroke play qualifier on a 5-under 67 and progressed through to the Top 16 match play.

Gabrielle won her Top 16 and Quarter-Final matches on the Eden course to progress to The Old Course, St. Andrews where the semi-finals and final would be played. Gabrielle won her semi-final match and then went on to beat England's Katie Stephens 4 & 3 in the final.. A historic achievement with Gabrielle lifting the stroke play and match play trophies on the Swilken Bridge.

#### **R & A Girls' Amateur Championship – Carnoustie, Scotland, 8 – 14 August 2022:**

For the first time the match play stages of the R&A Girls' and Boys' Amateur championships were played simultaneously at one venue at Carnoustie. Gabrielle Venter and Kyra van Kan were selected and accompanied by WGSA President Sarah Braude.

Carnoustie is a tough links course and Gabrielle and Kyra put in strong performances to finish an impressive 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> respectively (in the field of 144 players) in the 36 hole stroke play qualifier and book their place in the Top 64 for the Girls Amateur (match play).

The championship draws the top juniors in the world and notwithstanding golf of the highest standard, unfortunately Gabrielle was knocked out by Paula Balanzategui of Spain and Kyra lost to Fleur van Beek in the first round.

Lottie Wood (England) who had finished runner up in the stroke play qualifier went on to win The R&A Girls Amateur.

#### **World Amateur Teams Championship - Espirito Santo Trophy, Paris, France, 24 – 27 August 2022:**

The WATC (Espirito Santo Trophy) is held biennially and falls under the auspices of the International Golf Federation (IGF) and has always been considered the premier event on any country's golfing calendar. 52 teams from around the world participated over 72 holes stroke play, in teams of three players with the two lowest scores from each team constituting the team score for each round.

Kajal Mistry, Caitlyn Macnab and Bobbi Brown were selected to represent South Africa in Paris and WGSA President Sarah Braude and Val Holland accompanied the players.

The WATC was played over two courses, with two rounds at Le Golf Nationale (the 2018 Ryder Cup venue) and two rounds at Golf de Saint Nom La Breteche. The two courses are very different and in addition to the official practice rounds the team was able to prepare for Le Golf Nationale with a session in a golf simulator with Costanza Trussoni and a hole-by-hole briefing at the July National Squad camp.

Team SA finished a credible 15<sup>th</sup> out of 56 countries matching its finishing position at the 2018 WATC. This was also a strong finish given that the number of teams had increased from 36 in 2018 to 56 in 2022.

Sweden won the Espirito Santo Trophy after a count out with the U.S.A.

The WATC – Espirito Santo Trophy now moves to an odd-year cycle from 2023, where it will be played in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

#### **All Africa Challenge Trophy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 3 - 8 September 2022**

This biennial team championship organized by the All Africa Challenge Trustees and the host country, draws entries from across the African continent in a 54 hole stroke play format, with the lowest 2 scores of the team of 3 players counting.

Twenty countries participated representing the largest entry in the championship's history.

Gabrielle Venter, Bronwyn Leigh Doeg and Bobbi Brown were selected to represent South Africa and were accompanied by WGSA President, Sarah Braude.

South Africa were defending champions and Gabrielle, Bronwyn and Bobbi successfully defended the title at the Dar-es-Salaam Golf Club on a score of 444, five shots ahead of Morocco.

In the individual results, Bobbi Brown finished 2<sup>nd</sup> (221), Gabrielle Venter 4<sup>th</sup> (223) and Bronwyn Leigh Doeg 6<sup>th</sup> (234). Bobbi Brown won the Individual Junior Individual title and Gabrielle Venter finished runnerup.

Besides the highly anticipated championship, the AACT plays another important role in bringing delegates from the various countries across the continent together to meet and exchange ideas and discuss and plan for driving the growth of girls and women's golf on the continent.

#### **Annika invitational USA, Eagle Creek Golf Club, Orlando, Florida, 14 – 17 January 2023**

The Hilton Grand Vacations Annika Invitational presented by Rolex is a highlight on the international calendar. Annika Sorenstam 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.

An invitation was received from the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) who coordinate the international entries on behalf of the Annika Foundation for Kyra van Kan.

Kyra closed with a level par 73 in the final round to finish T55th on a score of 226. GolfRSA provided financial assistance to Kyra to participate and the experience gained at this championship is invaluable.

#### **All Africa Junior Team Championship, Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa, Uganda, 15 – 21 April 2023**

The All Africa Junior Team Championships is the continental qualifier event for both the girls and boys teams for the Toyota Junior Golf Team Championship in Japan.

Jasmine Furstenberg, Kyra Van Kan, Zane Kleynhans and Non-traveling reserve Ellandri van Heerden were selected to represent South Africa in the Girls team. Keagan Crosbie, Jack Buchanan, Amilkar Bhana and Jaden Deltel were selected for the Boys Team. Susan Andrew (WGSA Vice President), Heinrich Lourens and Theo Bezuidenhout accompanied the teams.

Jasmine, Kyra and Zane won the Girls team championship and will be joined by the Boys team (who won the Boys Championship) in Japan.

Individual results

1<sup>st</sup> : Kyra van Kan

2<sup>nd</sup> : Jasmine Furstenburg

### **PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS & THE WPGA**

We continue to have a good relationship with the WPGA and the following players turned professional during the reporting period:

1. Bronwyn Leigh Doeg
2. Gabrielle Venter
3. Kiera Floyd
4. Kaylan Boshoff

Following their successful amateur careers, we wish them every success in the professional ranks.

### **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. At the 2023 Investec SA Women's Open, Kyra van Kan and Samantha Whateley were extended invitations being our two leading amateurs. Kyra van Kan made the 36 hole cut and went on to win the Leading Amateur trophy.

### **ERNIE ELS AND FANCOURT FOUNDATION**

The members of the Ernie Els & Fancourt Foundation for 2023:

1. Nomkhosi Mthiyane (KZN)
2. Celiwe Amanda Biyela (KZN)
3. Cara Ford (Central Gauteng)
4. Crystal Beukes (Boland)
5. Demi Flanagan (Border)

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

Professional Yolanda Duma and amateurs Nomkhosi Mthiyane and Celiwe Biyela (both from KZN) were the successful candidates in receiving three R&A Bursaries to study the PGA of SA Pathway Programme. Their studies started in 2021 and their progress is followed. In 2022 Nomkhosi Mthiyane decided to take a break from the programme due to work commitments.

### **AWARDS**

It was an honour for Gabbi Venter and GolfRSA to be named finalists in the 2022 Momentum gsport Awards alongside reigning British Women's Open champion Ashleigh Buhai.

Venter was a finalist in the SuperSport School Star of the Year. GolfRSA was a finalist alongside the Momentum Proteas and Banyana Banyana in the Team of the Year category and Buhai in the Sasol Global Women in Sport category.

We congratulate Ashleigh Buhai on receiving the Ministerial Recognition of Excellence at the gsport awards.

In March 2023, Ashleigh Buhai was recognized for her golfing achievements in received the Minister's Excellence Award as the SA Sport Awards.

## GENERAL

The Executive wishes to thank all players, sponsors, partners, clubs, Union Executives and staff for their support.

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.

My sincere appreciation to Susan Andrew and the Executive Committee for their dedication, support and giving of their time to amateur golf and specifically girl's and women's golf both at national level and especially within their Unions. I would also like to acknowledge GolfRSA CEO Grant Hepburn for his valuable assistance, guidance and leadership.

I also take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all the GolfRSA staff for their tireless work and efforts over the past 12 months.

In closing, women's golf is in a healthy space and we look forward to see continued growth in girl's, women's and family participation and development in the sport. The committed and collaborative effort of our partners and stakeholders and within GolfRSA has been momentous and we salute everyone involved.

Sarah Braude  
President, Womens Golf South Africa

May 2023  
V3

## **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (01 MAY 2022 – 30 APRIL 2023)**

### **SA WOMEN'S MID-AMATEUR INTER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP (IPT), Parys Golf, Free State, 30 April – 4 May 2022**

#### **Division 1:**

- 1 Southern Cape – 9 pts (22.5 games)
- 2 KwaZulu Natal – 7 points (19.5 games)
- 3 Boland – 7 points (16.5 games)
- 4 Gauteng North – 5 points (14 games)
- 5 Western Province – 1 point (10 games)
- 6 North West – 1 point (7.5 games)

#### **Division 2:**

- 1 Ekurhuleni – 6 points (18.5 games)
- 2 Free State – 6 points (16.5 games)
- 3 Limpopo – 6 points (16 games)
- 4 Border – 5 points (14 games)
- 5 Eastern Province – 4 points (13 games)
- 6 Mpumalanga – 3 points (12 games)

### **72-Hole Teams Championship, Mbombela Golf Club, Mpumalanga 22 - 25 May 2022**

#### **SWISS TEAM TROPHY RESULT**

- 573** Central Gauteng A
- 592** Western Province A
- 596** Central Gauteng B
- 599** Gauteng North A
- 601** Boland A
- 608** Ekurhuleni A
- 615** KwaZulu Natal A
- 634** Mpumalanga
- 636** Western Province B
- 661** Border

#### **CHALLENGE TEAM TROPHY RESULT**

- 599** Free State
- 630** Central Gauteng C
- 635** Southern Cape
- 648** KwaZulu-Natal B
- 653** Eastern Province
- 653** Western Province C
- 655** Boland B
- 658** North West
- 668** Gauteng North B
- 691** Ekurhuleni B
- 705** Limpopo

**61<sup>st</sup> SA Women's Inter-Provincial Championship, Silver Lakes Golf and Wildlife Estate Club, Gauteng North, 2 – 7 October 2022**

**FINAL RESULT**

**A-DIVISION LOG – A 1**

*(Pos-Union-Played-Won-Drawn-Lost-Points-Matches won)*

- 1 Gauteng North A (3, 2, 0, 1, 4, 11)
- 2 Central Gauteng (3, 2, 0, 1, 4, 10)
- 3 Western Province A (3, 1, 0, 2, 2, 8)
- 4 Southern Cape (3, 1, 0, 2, 2, 7)

**A-DIVISION LOG – A 2**

*(Pos-Union-Played-Won-Drawn-Lost-Points-Matches won)*

- 1 Ekurhuleni (3, 2, 1, 0, 5, 13.5)
- 2 KwaZulu-Natal (3, 2, 1, 0, 5, 12)
- 3 Boland (3, 1, 0, 2, 2, 9.5)
- 4 Eastern Province (3, 0, 0, 3, 0, 1)

**B-Division LOG – B 1**

*(Pos-Union-Played-Won-Drawn-Lost-Points-Matches won)*

- 1 Border (3, 1, 2, 0, 4, 9.5)
- 2 Gauteng North B (3, 1, 1, 1, 3, 10)
- 3 Western Province B (3, 1, 1, 1, 3, 7.5)
- 4 Mpumalanga A (3, 1, 0, 2, 2, 9)

**B-Division LOG – B 2**

*(Pos-Union-Played-Won-Drawn-Lost-Points-Matches won)*

- 1 North West (3, 2, 1, 0, 5, 11.5)
- 2 Free State (3, 2, 0, 1, 4, 13.5)
- 3 Mpumalanga B (3, 1, 1, 1, 3, 8.5)
- 4 Limpopo (3, 0, 0, 3, 0, 2.5)

**SA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship, Mossel Bay Golf Club, Southern Cape, 13 – 15 November 2022**

**RESULTS (Winners):**

**Championship Division: Handicaps 6.5 and Under (Top 5)**

- 225** Sandra Winter (76,76,73)
- 229** Vicki Traut (78,73,78)
- 235** Vanessa Smith (78, 73, 78)
- 241** Sonja Bland (78, 79, 84)
- 245** Rene Liebenberg (85, 78, 82)

**B Division: Handicaps 6.6 – 15.3**

- 257** Hermien Jones (91,84, 82)
- 259** Russo Ronerts-Gouws (82, 88, 89)
- 260** Carina Theron (91, 81, 88)
- 262** Sue Clarke (88, 88, 86), Wendy Carruthers (86, 85, 91)
- 264** Valda Ford (90, 90, 84)

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

- 106** Louise Olivier (Boland) (37,34,35 points)
- 102** Tracy Cheetham (31, 38, 33 points)
- 101** Shirley Creig (34, 33, 34 points)



**101** Leana Baard (31, 39, 31 points)

**100** Tersia Pelser (34, 31, 35 points)

**Senior Trophy:**

**225** Sandra Winter

**245** Sonja Bland

**254** Lynne Behagg, Talli de Wet

**255** Karin Watts, Stephanie Kiefer

**SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS (SA WOMEN'S AMATEUR STROKE PLAY AND MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS): MOUNT EDGECOMBE COUNTRY CLUB: 19 – 24 FEBRUARY 2023**

**SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S AMATEUR STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION RESULT (top10)**

216 Samantha Whateley 69 72 75

222 Kyra van Kan 79 72 71; Chloe Royston 73 76 73; Jasmine Furstenburg 73 75 74

223 Bobbi Brown 75 73 75

224 Olivia Wood 73 76 75

225 Gia Raad 76 76 73; Casey Twidale 73 71 81

228 Shannon Butler 76 74 78

229 Isabella Ferreira 74 76 79

**SILVER DIVISION RESULT (top 10)**

251 Charlotte Phipps 84 79 88

265 Holly Erler 92 90 83

266 Jaime Meth 92 89 85

268 Sarah Gutuza 88 90 90

270 Michelle Rae 84 102 84

271 Stacey-Lee van Gent 88 99 84; Valentina Sakota 88 90 93

274 Kerry Wood 91 94 89

281 Isabel Verwey 89 92 100

282 Russo Roberts-Gouws 87 103 92

**SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S AMATEUR MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP:**

**SA Women's Amateur Match Play Championship results**

Champion: Kyra van Kan

Runner Up: Ellandri van Heerden

Semi- Finalist: Bobbi Brown

Semi-Finalist: Jasmine Furstenburg

**Championship Flight**

Winner: Jemima Ulyett

Runner Up: Stephanie Kiefer

Semi-Finalist: Sveva Yates

Semi-Finalist: Lauren Clough

**CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION**

211 Kyra van Kan 71 73 67  
224 Gia Raad 75 77 72  
225 Kesha Louw 74 76 75  
229 Jasmine Furstenburg 75 76 78  
232 Lisa Coetzer 78 76 78; Charlotte Millard 76 76 80  
235 Olivia Wood 83 76 76; Casey Twidale 74 79 82  
236 Ellandri van Heerden 73 82 81  
237 Amy Fletcher 81 82 74  
238 Zané Kleynhans 79 81 78  
239 Jaime Meth 81 81 77  
242 Zanè Fourie 81 83 78  
243 Shivania Kalimuthu 85 78 80; Megan Marais 84 83 76  
244 Lea van der Merwe 81 83 80; Holly Erler 79 83 82  
245 Isabella Williams 80 79 86  
246 Olivia Krige 79 80 87  
248 Kaylee Webster 89 78 81; Kamaya Moodliar 82 82 84  
249 Isabella O Bray 82 86 81  
250 Lucia Mhlabane 88 82 80  
251 Jemima Ulyett 84 75 92; Ame van der Merwe 81 84 86  
252 Yuanzhen Wei 87 87 78; Ineke Brynard 83 84 85; Maegan Webster 81 86 85  
254 Bea Breedts 86 87 81  
255 Erin Bree Brinkman 89 86 80  
256 Orateng Maphake 85 83 88; Jaden Visagie 82 88 86  
257 Zayaan Hendricks 82 84 91  
259 Amy Fusedale 91 85 83; Tebogo Lefifi 88 91 80; Phenyo Sebata 88 87 84  
260 Ashley Huysamen 86 87 87  
261 Lizerie Raubenheimer 85 83 93  
263 Paola Sofia Sakota 82 90 91  
WD Kaitlyn van de Vyver 79 WD

**SILVER DIVISION RESULT**

254 Sarah Gutuza 85 87 82  
262 Yaone Mokgatle 91 84 87  
263 Keira Howroyd 91 84 88; Amy Stanton 90 89 84  
264 Stacey-Lee van Gent 87 89 88  
265 Danielle Chong 88 88 89  
269 Manule' Gonsalves 92 85 92  
270 Valentina Sakota 80 94 96  
271 Charlotte Phipps 95 93 83  
272 Monique Fourie 87 92 93  
277 Kaitlyn Rix 84 97 96  
278 Zoey Rhoda 97 88 93  
285 Charlotte Dry 96 98 91  
292 Inge De Beer 102 95 95

**BRONZE DIVISION RESULT**

69 Milani Sikhonde 35 34  
65 Caitlen van Heerden 29 36; Aminah Hendricks 29 36; Tyra Booysen 30 35  
59 Katlego Selemela 27 32  
58 Pia Daya 31 27  
56 Gemma Huxham 26 30