

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011/12**

It is a privilege to present my report after my second year as President of the SAGA. Tribute must be paid to the hundreds of administrators who have served golf so selflessly over the last twelve months. The entire golf industry has evolved and transformed itself. Today golf is a multi-billion rand industry contributing to the SA economy, providing jobs and unearthing amazing talent to grace the stages of the world. Now that golf has been accepted as an Olympic sport, all administrators have an increased responsibility to ensure the growth of the game and to ensure high level of corporate governance. The SAGA was nominated by Sport and Recreation South Africa for the "2011 Federation of the Year Award" and is indicative of the manner in which the Association is being managed, a proud achievement indeed.

The SAGA has accomplished much in the way of exercising the Department of Sport and SASCOC mandate to unify the "loose" structures in Amateur golf. Junior golf and the Senior Amateurs have now been incorporated into the SAGA with a full time staff member to oversee the administration of both of the aforementioned bodies. Mr Peter Little has been appointed as the Junior Golf Co-Ordinator and the SAGA Development Officer and has also been tasked with the administration of SA Senior Golf.

The SAGA is committed to strengthening Junior Golf as well as schools golf and huge strides have been made in this respect over the past twelve months. I would like to thank the Unions for having incorporated both Junior and Senior Amateur representatives into their ranks and in so doing taken responsibility for organising and funding their activities. This can only strengthen our structures. The fact that we have had another Major winner in Ernie Els this has done our international reputation proud and we continue to produce young golfers of world class such as Branden Grace, George Coetzee and Thomas Aiken. Our young amateur golfers are fortunate in that they are blessed with good weather, excellent golf courses and well organised tournaments at all levels from Junior to Senior level. We must realise that our role in managing talent is to produce future stars on the world stage. My sincere thanks go to all the club committees, managers, administrators and volunteers for their role in making this possible. A special word of thanks must go to Mr Selwyn Nathan and the Sunshine Tour for allowing our top amateurs to participate in their Big Easy Tournaments. This goes a long way in preparing them for the professional tour.

### **Golf Development and Transformation**

Golf development and transformation remains a priority for the SAGA and a transformation charter and balance scorecard has been adopted by the SAGA which is accessible on our website. The SAGA continues to work with the SAGDB who are ever present and assisting us with the development of both the game and our young golfers. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the contributions of Mr Johann Rupert over the past ten years.

### **Handicapping**

I am confident that the SAGA handicapping system that is now in place is truly world class. Together with our joint venture partner Superbrands the system has proved to be very successful and is under continuous scrutiny in order to improve and enhance the system as and when required. Handicap research and improvements to the system are worked on continuously.

I wish to express my thanks to Mike McGrath and Superbrands for all their hard work and commitment over the past year in ensuring that the SAGA is able to maintain our handicapping system to international standards.

### **Business Plan**

The SAGA business plan is being implemented as and when we are able to meet the financial commitment that comes with such. We have already appointed a Junior Golf Co-Ordinator and a Golf Development Officer in Mr Peter Little, who will also see to the needs of the senior's, and we are still pursuing the appointment of a CEO.

### **International Relations**

Our relationships in international golf are well cemented. In February 2012 South Africa played a Test match against Scotland at Leopard Creek. In June of this year we undertook our first ever official tour of Scotland where a team of six players participated in The Scottish Amateur Strokeplay, The Links Trophy as well as the British Amateur. We also played a Test match against Scotland which was won by South Africa, a proud achievement to beat the Scots on their home turf. We have established strong relationships with France, Italy, India and Argentina. In October 2011 a 4 man team participated in the first "Four Nations" tournament in New Zealand, incorporating the host country as well as Australia and Argentina. This tournament has replaced the Southern Cross and six more countries have indicated an interest in participating in the next Cup which South Africa will host in 2013. The R&A returned this year to run the Africa International Final Qualifying School for the British Open and we have a sound relationship with them. Bruce Younge attended this year's Open to once again officiate as a Rule's Official and his continued presence on the R&A Rules Committee maintains our strong relationship with this body.

### **Stakeholder Relationships**

Our relationship with WGSA has strengthened and I am confident that SAGA and WGSA can work collaboratively in exercising SA's golf mandates.

The SAGA has strengthened our relationship with the SAGDB and we believe it is vitally important that we work hand in glove with them to ensure success in the development of the game in our country.

I wish to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their support over the past year. Without their commitment and work ethic my tasks and responsibilities would have been that more difficult. I thank my two Vice-Presidents for their support and valuable input and advice that has assisted me in making decisions for and on behalf of the SAGA.

**COLIN BURGER**