

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017**

## **Introduction**

This report covers the 12-month period from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. It is a pleasure to present this report on behalf of the National Executive Committee.

Agreement was reached with the National Executive Committee at the biannual meeting held in George in March 2016 that I would take on the role of acting president and Naadir Agherdien would take on the role of acting Senior Vice-President until the next Annual General Meeting which was to be held in Port Elizabeth held in February 2017. At that annual general meeting I was duly elected as President, Naadir Agherdien was duly elected as Senior-Vice president and Martin Simon was duly elected as Second Vice-President.

## **Strategy Fulfilment and the Realisation of GolfRSA**

Following the strategy formulated and adopted in February 2015 to promote and grow golf in this country, 2017 saw the real manifestation of GolfRSA coming to the fore and I am pleased to report that despite some loss of time in 2016, GolfRSA will be completely functional and operational by the end of 2018.

GolfRSA is a SAGA and WGSA not-for-profit company that is mandated to act as the umbrella body for all amateur golf in South Africa to promote and grow amateur golf in the country. Golf RSA is authorised by the SAGA and WGSA to run amateur golf in the country, and thereby carry out all the operational aspects of the two national federations and commercialise their properties and all pertinent opportunities in a way that promotes and grows amateur golf.

GolfRSA is also mandated as far as practically possible unite all other bodies that operate in the amateur golf space with the umbrella body, GolfRSA. These organisations would include the South African Golf Development Board (SAGDB), the South African Disabled Golf Association (SADGA) and the South African Deaf Golf Association.

The migration of responsibility from the SAGA to GolfRSA for the running of golf as the umbrella body was discernible in 2017. The diminished operational responsibility of the national executive committee is replaced by increased responsibility for the development of strategies to take golf forward, and to impart these strategies to GolfRSA to implement. This change in focus to strategic thinking and the development of overall strategies materialised at the biannual meeting held at the end Bryanston Country Club in September. The number of SAGA subcommittees was reduced substantially with a new SAGA subcommittee formed to ensure that the appropriate strategies are developed for each strategic objective.

The operational aspects that will not be ceded to GolfRSA at this time are those elements that the SAGA must remain in direct control of as a national Federation:

- The development of overall strategies and the ensuing strategic plans to promote and grow golf
- The control of the rules of golf, the handicapping system and the course rating requirements
- Team selection
- Discipline of the SAGA members

In the course of 2017 all staff members who were previously employed by the SAGA and WGSA were transferred to GolfRSA as the new employer. Also, by the end of 2017 the vast majority of the accounting and financial control processes were transferred from the SAGA and WGSA to GolfRSA.

GolfRSA must hold its AGM following the first full financial year (01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017) by June 2018.

The full board of directors as at 31 December 2017 is comprised of the following directors:

- Mr Johann Rupert Independent, non-executive director Chairman
- Mr Zanosini Kunene Independent, non-executive director Vice-chairman
- Ms Cynthia Rayner Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Dale Hayes Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Jabulane Mabuza Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Ken Walker Independent, non-executive director
- Ms Sally Greasley Member's representative director (President – WGSA)
- Mr Naadir Agherdien Member's representative director (Senior Vice-President – SAGA)
- Mr Geoff Taylor Member's representative director (President – SAGA)

All the above positions of voluntary and directors are not remunerated for their services.

A number of achievements were realised in 2017. These are highlighted below.

### **Social Responsibility and Transformation of Golf**

Development and transformation of golf and the industry it creates is a very high priority for the SAGA.

In 2017 GolfRSA took the step of employing a transformation officer on full-time basis. Mr Greg De Doncker, previously director of golf at Eastern Province Golf Union, possesses the skills and experience to the effect meaningful initiatives ensure the transformation of golf in this country.

GolfRSA ran a highly successful transformation indaba in September 2017, held at the Bryanston country club. Government was represented by attendees from the Department of Sport (delete the s) and Recreation, as was SASCOC and the Black Management Forum. The indaba was well attended by representatives from the various Provincial Golf Unions, and from the Club Managers Association, as well as the Professional Golfers Association of South Africa. Next steps were agreed and which are being followed up by GolfRSA, under the leadership of Greg De Doncker.

The strategic partnership with the South African Golf Development Board (SAGDB) is strengthening and delivering results. All 14 golf unions utilise the operations of the SAGDB for their development and transformation programmes. The SAGA transformation charter and balance scorecard has been deployed at union level and is accessible via the SAGA website

### **Talent Development, Talent Management and the National Squad**

Having completed the second year of its first three-year cycle, the concept of a national squad which is properly resourced and which offers access to professionals, such as sports psychologists, professional coaches and physiotherapists is already showing results.

Kyle McClatchie, South Africa's number one amateur, won the England strokeplay while on tour to the UK with the national squad. The national squad will go from strength to strength and will deliver quality players capable of competing on the highest level on the international arena.

Our thanks go to the SAGDB and Mr Johann Rupert for enabling the national squad.

### **International Relations**

Our profile in international relations is on the rise. Besides Kyle's magnificent win in the England Strokeplay Championship, South Africa hosted an expanded test match series against DELETE DUPLICATE INDIA India, held at Leopard Creek Golf Estate.

Our top juniors certainly did us proud when they occupied 4 of the 12 spots in the International Team at the inaugural Junior Presidents Cup tournament held in the USA as a precursor to the real Presidents Cup. Well done to these junior players - they certainly were wonderful ambassadors for team South Africa.

Our Senior Vice-President Naadir Agherdien was appointed as Vice-President (South) of the African Golf Confederation. Well done, Naadir and I imagine it is only a matter of time before your excellent administration skills are felt beyond our borders, for the betterment of golf on this continent.

### **National Relations**

Our relations with our stakeholders in the golf services industry and our relations with the amateur and professional golf bodies in South Africa continue to strengthen. GolfRSA and the approach adopted by its CEO Mr Grant Hepburn, has again made extremely valuable contributions to the building of these relations.

### **South African Government Relations**

Our relationships with both SASCOC and the Department of Sport delete the s end of sports and Recreation remain sound.

### **International Competition**

The juniors once again excelled at the All Africa Junior Golf Championship held in Zambia, but only managed to finish in a 8<sup>th</sup> spot finish at the Toyota Junior World Team Championship held in Japan.

The return test match against India for the Mid-Amateur and Senior Amateur teams was expanded to include a four-man team of junior players. The test match, held at Leopard Creek golf estate, was a resounding success for Team South Africa.

### **Rules of Golf, Handicapping and Course Rating**

The SAGA, together with Handicaps Network South Africa (HNA), continues to participate in the global movement headed by the R&A and USGA to develop an unified global handicapping system. It is anticipated that the final design and configuration of the world handicap system

will be forthcoming January 2018, at which point the SAGA, WGSA and GolfRSA will assess the options available and decide what system could be feasible to deploy.

Course rating is the domain of the individual golf unions but because of the complexity of the USGA rating system the provincial resources require special training. To this end a resource has been provided by HNA to lead this project is to re-rate all golf courses. The efforts of Eric Lefson and his interaction with the various unions have resulted in all but about 10 golf courses being re-rated by the end of 2017. Well done to you Eric and your team of volunteers around the country. You have covered a vast amount of ground in a short space of time. A very big thank you goes to Mr Mike McGrath of HNA who enabled this to happen.

### **Business Plan**

After experiencing some delays in 2016 with the formation of GolfRSA, 2017 saw it come into its own and start operating at near full capacity. The transition of operations and responsibilities from the SAGA to GolfRSA, and from WGSA to GolfRSA is still in the process of wrapping up the end pieces but that should be complete by the end of Q1, 2018. All staff formerly employed by the SAGA and WGSA were transferred to GolfRSA during the course of 2017. This new company is on track and it's ready to start reaching its potential. It has already has notched up a number of achievements, such as the Champion of Champions event, the Bridge junior golf series, etc, it also, it also has a number of high-level umbrellas sponsors in discussion.

### **Sponsors and Benefactors**

On behalf of the National Executive Committee I wish to extend my gratitude and thanks to all our sponsors and benefactors who continue to assist with the promotion, growth and development of amateur golf in this country. These include Titleist, Sanlam, Tempest Car Hire and particularly the Nomads organisation. Our gratitude is expressed to Mr Mike McGrath of HNA and to Mr Johann Rupert who have the interests of amateur golf at heart.

### **Affiliated Membership**

The SAGA finally has real meaningful data regarding the membership of affiliated players and all the clubs in the country supplied by the HNA handicapping system. It is a major concern that membership numbers have been contracting for the past few years. Interim figures extracted in December 2017 indicate that the contraction seems to have levelled off, even showing a slight increase in the number of members and an increase in the number of rounds these members are playing.

In closing I wish to thank all members of the National Executive Committee for their support, and for their commitment and work ethic. The ongoing support and guidance provided by the two Office-Bearers Naadir and Martin is highly valued.

Last but not least, sincere thanks to the staff of the GolfRSA, Bruce, Greg, Clinton, Neil, Hilary, David, Eden, Priscilla and Ingrid in good for their hard work and efforts. And finally to Grant Hepburn, CEO of GolfRSA, thank you for your dedication, support and most of all, patience.

Geof Taylor  
PRESIDENT