

Vision: “is recognised as a world class provider of amateur golf services”.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

President: Naadir Agherdien

Senior Vice-President: Martin Saaiman

Second Vice-President: Henk Smith

Report of the President:

Calling 2020 an eventful year would be an understatement of immense proportion. The Covid-19 pandemic with the associated lockdowns in our country were the lead players in the year's drama. Adjectives which aptly describe the year include chaotic, exhausting, tragic, relentless, surreal, stifling and heartbreaking. I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to those who lost family members and dear friends over this period. Many also lost their health, their jobs and some had their businesses adversely impacted.

In the same breath I must add that the year introduced us to new ways of working and reignited charitable human endeavor amongst us. It brought out a resilience, innovativeness, and resourcefulness amongst people who either forgot or did not realise that they had it in them. It is pleasing to see that this trend is continuing.

On a personal note, I was struck down in September by a debilitating spinal disease called DISH (Forestiers Disease) and was forced to take a medical leave of absence. I have since taken up early retirement from my employer Sanlam, resigned from all voluntary associations which included the vice-Presidency of the African Golf Confederation. My duties as SAGA President were suitably delegated to the deputised Office Bearers, Martin Saaiman and Henk Smith, and the GolfRSA CEO Grant Hepburn. I am thankful to them for having stood in admirably and successfully on my behalf.

A Mature GolfRSA

This year has proven the foresight to establish GolfRSA a few years ago to be a master stroke. Since its establishment in 2015, it really came into its own in 2020 and I stretch my neck out to say that without GolfRSA, the old SAGA would have found itself floundering to deal with the impact of the pandemic on Golf. I will be so bold as to say that the impact on the entire golfing industry in South Africa was arguably minimized due to the leading efforts of GolfRSA. The GolfRSA Board, the staff, the Office Bearers (SAGA and WGSA) and the SAGA NEC all played their role as a collective to lead the way with our associates and stakeholders and ensure that the industry could turn around from the depths of despair to recovery.

Golf shut down by National Lockdown

Given the trend of the global pandemic and the rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus in 2020, GolfRSA took the

decision to put tournament play on hold immediately following the announcement of the first case in South Africa on 5 March. This decision was activated on 16 March, well ahead of the official nationwide lockdown that took effect on 27 March.

The first challenge that GolfRSA faced going into the Level 5 Lockdown was to ensure that golf clubs could continue to operate with a basic skeleton staff of maintenance workers to keep golf courses "alive".

These discussions were hastily convened through a combined approach to government by the CEO of GolfRSA, Grant Hepburn, GolfRSA Board members and the CEO of the PGA of the South Africa Ivano Ficalbi and Club Managers of South Africa Association (CMASA) chairman Chris van der Merwe. On March 26th, GolfRSA issued instructions, along with a Pro Forma Permit to perform Essential Services – in accordance with Government Regulations published by Government Notice 318 of 18 March 2020 – to all golf facilities to ensure golf course maintenance could continue until Golf was reopened.

This was the first of many challenging aspects that were dealt with, and the approach to engage government as a combined force remained a feature of Golf's handling of the pandemic.

Planning for the Return of Golf

The announcement of the Level 5 Lockdown saw all sporting activities suspended with an intent to resume at Level 1. Work commenced with GolfRSA leading a team from the industry to approach the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to hasten the reopening of Golf before Level 1.

GolfRSA consulted with leaders in the golf industry at the PGA of SA, CMASA, as well as the golf unions and clubs to determine the best approach for the safe and quick return of Golf. Part of this strategy saw GolfRSA consulting with health professionals who were guiding the government's National Corona virus Command Council (NCCC).

Expert opinion and feedback led to GolfRSA proposing a return to Golf that focused on risk mitigation and safe practice. Highlighted in the proposal was that golf lends itself well to natural social distancing, as well as the fact that the sport is played outdoors in wide open spaces with a strong emphasis that golf is a non-contact sport and a healthy activity for both exercise and mental wellness for people of all ages.

The comprehensive GolfRSA Risk Mitigation Strategy provided strict measures for the care and maintenance

of golf facilities and the compelling health and safety elements, which was completely aligned with the government's Risk Adjusted Strategy and Regulations at every level of lockdown.

At the core of the presentation to government was the urgent need to save thousands of jobs at all levels. It was estimated that the golf industry employs up to 40,000 people at clubs alone, with most of the employees falling in the most vulnerable section of society, including caddies, laborers, waitrons and casual staff. The golf industry delegation emphasised that golf clubs make their money through participants who pay to play, and this playing aspect was vital in order to generate revenue to save the clubs, and by extension, to save thousands of jobs. Further discussions included a strategy to repurpose this vulnerable work force when golf facilities are reopened.

The initial proposal for a safe return of Golf was well received by the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC), Minister Nathi Mthethwa and his team on 30 April, who presented the proposal to the NCCC.

Many meetings and discussions followed the initial engagement with government as DSAC and the NCCC consulted with GolfRSA on various aspects of the risk mitigation as well as Golf's ability to implement the plan and controls throughout the country.

During this time, the collaborative Steering Committee, including several of our most recognised industry experts from across the country, enhanced and refined the Risk Mitigation Strategy, and created a "Good Golf Practice Guideline", including amendments to the rules of golf which was aligned with International Best Practice, and the acquisition of the HealthDocs application for the industry.

Golf Returns After the Enforced Hiatus

Golf was the first sport allowed to re-open, after many weeks of discussion with government at all levels. The return of Golf on 12 June 2020 at Lockdown level 3 was a huge relief and many clubs and jobs were saved by not having to wait until Level 1 for a return to play.

Although no national events were held after golf reopened since cross-border travel was still prohibited, tournament golf was allowed to resume at union level under strict prescripts and protocols and at the discretion of the unions. Some unions elected not to host events to negate the need for extensive travel.

GolfRSA launched "the Race to 2021" to promote the return to competitive golf within the unions and to generate interest in local events. This also intended to

assist in getting rounds played at local clubs within the unions.

The initiative was further designed to reward the winners of the individual provincial order of merits that were based on the regulations stipulated by GolfRSA. The winners could take up a spot in the SA Amateur Championships, which included financial support and those that were unable to take up the spot, were given a fixed contribution towards their annual membership fees at their club.

I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone that was involved in the massive effort to get golf back onto the fairways. It took a huge, combined effort from GolfRSA Board members and Office Bearers, staff, clubs, unions, the PGA of SA and CMASA as well as numerous volunteers to implement the successful return to the sport.

Financials

Despite the challenges facing us in 2020, it is very positive that we were able to collect 99% of the affiliation fees due from Unions. Thank you to our constituents for the role that they played in this.

Inevitably the lockdown forced us to cancel most of the tournaments throughout the year. The effect on our financial reserves was therefore positive as most income was still received. The lockdown had a severe impact on golf clubs and provincial golf unions, especially those with smaller members bases. The going concern of these clubs and unions will have a direct impact on the going concern of GolfRSA and the Board will continue to carefully monitor the situation.

We created a member fee reserve in excess of R1.3M to cater for the discount that was passed on to affiliate member fees for 2021. We are also carrying a liability of R1.3M in our reserves which is the development levy surplus which will be distributed to Unions as per usual practice.

Our staff related costs is 14% less than the previous year, largely as a result of the employees generously agreeing to voluntary salary reductions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

GolfRSA realized a surplus of R12,8M for the 2020 financial year. Though this result reflects positively on our cash situation, it came at the cost of curtailment of normal tournament operations for most of the year. The GolfRSA Board, together with the SAGA NEC and WGSA NEC, will seek to leverage this position and bring assets into the GolfRSA fold to embed financial resilience and ensure our future sustainability.

GolfRSA Help Fund

During the initial Level 5 Lockdown period GolfRSA established a Help Fund to provide relief in the form of food vouchers to thousands of caddies around the country. The GolfRSA Help Fund project was headed up by Mr Selwyn Eagle to manage the process and raise funds through raffles and auctions. GolfRSA donated R1 million from retained operational funds, the SAGDB put in R500 000 and the GolfRSA National Squad fund put in R500 000. In total, R 4.5 million was raised and GolfRSA issued 17 630 food vouchers, supporting more than 4000 individuals from golf clubs throughout South Africa.

I wish to thank Mr Eagle and Mr Paul Adams who gave of their time and expertise to auction and raffle the sourced items so kindly donated by many of our friends and associates who we need to also thank. A large part of the fund raising was due to world-renowned golfers and sport stars offering, for example, an opportunity to win a round of golf with them, through the raffle or to purchase an opportunity of a lifetime through the auction.

Covid-19 Compliance

GolfRSA established a Compliance Committee, comprising Ms Sarah Braude (President of WGSA), Mr Grant Hepburn, Mr Eden Thompson and Ms Wimpie du Plessis. This team continues to consult with DSAC as well as the Department of Health and Department of Home Affairs regarding various matters relating to compliance.

The GolfRSA Risk Mitigation Plans are continuously updated as the pandemic shifts in various ways. In conformance to regulations, GolfRSA appointed Ms Wimpie du Plessis as head Compliance Officer due to her background in health care. The work done by Wimpie and her team has been significant and is ongoing.

Not only does this Compliance team deal with every-day golf club queries and challenges with compliance, but it also advises and formulates the Risk Mitigation policy and strategy for GolfRSA related to amateur tournaments, professional tournaments, Sunshine Tour events and European Tour events hosted in South Africa. Due to the constantly changing and complex environment of the ongoing pandemic, the Compliance Committee has an ongoing role to play as the pandemic unfolds.

Transformation

Though Social Responsibility and Transformation initiatives were largely curtailed by the lockdown, this space remains a high priority for SAGA. Our transformation charter is actively implemented, but the scorecard is unfortunately not tracking well due to the enforced halt of activities.

2020 was supposed to be the year for the culmination of a three-year process to meet transformation targets in Provincial representative teams. This unfortunately did not happen due to the forced suspension of tournaments. However, future tournaments will have representivity as a condition of participation and will be applied as per pre-agreed guidelines in September 2016.

We are proud to indicate that access for previously disadvantaged individuals to play elite amateur golf at all age levels is a remarkable success story of SAGA. There is a proliferation of black talent regularly winning national tournaments and holding their positions in order of merit standings on absolute merit.

Ground roots development is another success story largely attributable to the activities of the South African Golf Development Board and long may SAGA's association with the SAGDB continue.

Truth be told, these are merely two successful steps on a transformation ladder of many rungs. More commitment and effort must be put into expanding representation in the fields of Team Managers, Golf Coaches, Rules Officials and Golf Administrators. It is not good enough that the post-apartheid era of more than a quarter century has done no better than to still have 80 to 90 percent "white-domination" in these areas.

The GolfRSA office also recognizes its related shortcomings in the employment equity and preferential procurement endeavors. This situation is not due to lack of trying but it is clear that fresh and innovative approaches need to be adopted and embarked upon to achieve an accelerated turnaround.

It is pleasing to see transformational progress amongst many of our associate stakeholder partners for example the Ernie Else Foundation who play an exemplary role for academies and similar institutions.

External Communications

Lali Stander and Brendan Barratt of GolfRSA still spearhead our external communications which has served us well this year. We are much more visible on digital channels and attempt to optimally exploit modern-day social media platforms.

Lots of effort had to be invested into dealing with some of the negative and unfounded criticism of GolfRSA on social media platforms while trying to get Golf re-opened during Lockdown. Suffice to say that there were numerous lessons learnt but we mostly succeeded on all counts.

World Handicap System (WHS).

Plaudits from around the world was abound as South Africa demonstrated its readiness for the WHS as a global leader in this endeavor. We were not only ready before the rest of the world but also played a huge role in assisting our sister nations in Africa to prepare by getting them ready and aligned to the USGA Course Ratings (with Slope). Our success is largely attributable to the foundation work of Mike McGrath and the implementation by Wimpie du Plessis for whom we will always be grateful.

GolfRSA National Squad

Mr Johann Rupert, for whom we are eternally thankful, is the benefactor of the funding of our National squad and being in its 5th year of implementation, it is clear that the quality of amateur stars arising out of the squad is phenomenal. Last year we were confident that our team for the next World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy) will not be competing for a top 10 spot but will actually be contenders for title honors.

The tournament was postponed due to the pandemic, and we have in the interim lost many of the talent cream to the professional ranks. We may have to temper our expectations for the next Eisenhower but I firmly believe that our current depth of talent will see us amongst the top amateur golfing nations on the global stage.

Stakeholder Relationships

We maintain very strong relationships with stakeholders namely The Sunshine Tour, the PGA of South Africa, Club Managers Association of South Africa, and the Nomads. Closer to home, the relationships between the SAGA, the Golf Unions, the

golf clubs and the affiliated golfers are now even stronger than ever.

Initiatives are still in progress, in collaboration with potential strategic partners, to look at creative solutions to help retain golfers in the national pool. More will be revealed about this later this the new year.

SAGA Sub-Committees

The SAGA Strategy & Policy Implementation subcommittee held an externally facilitated workshop to review the as-is sub-committee structures with a view to either rationalize, enhance, or retain the structures to support the strategic vision of SAGA. The key outcomes which require consideration for implementation by the NEC include:

- Championship & Tournaments – this subcommittee must be retained. Preparation and implementation are the responsibility of the GolfRSA Office and the NEC remains the final decision maker.
- Finance - Responsibility for, and implementation of all financial matters should be done by a single NEC member (as opposed to a committee) and he/she will report to the NEC where authorisations are required.
- Selection – The GolfRSA office will draft team selection recommendations but the Selection committee makes the final decisions
- Rules of Golf and Amateur Status and Talent Management – These subcommittees can be dissolved, and responsibilities can be managed by the staff. The GolfRSA office must submit a regular report to the full NEC.
- Strategy and Communications – This subcommittee will be retained with a proviso that the responsibility for strategic communications remains with the NEC and communication on operational matters be the responsibility of the Office.

Sponsors and Benefactors

On behalf of the National Executive Committee I wish to extend my gratitude 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, Tempest Car Hire, Srixon, Tsogo Sun and Antonij Rupert wines. It was sad to see the departure of AON as a sponsor.

We remain grateful to the Nomads for injecting money into junior golf and recognize the personal contributions Mr Johann Rupert, GolfRSA Board Chairman, who continue to place the interests of amateur golf high on his agenda.

Words of Thanks and Goodbye

I am grateful to all who contribute to the success of SAGA. I am particularly thankful to the Office Bearers, the SAGA Manco, The National Executive Committee, and the staff of GolfRSA.

It will be remiss of me not to also thank HNA, the SAGDB and the Board of Directors of GolfRSA for their valued contributions to amateur golf.

Finally, our Auditors also deserve a special mention, “thank you for the huge role that you play.”

2020 marks my 12th year of service on the Executive of SAGA and I can unreservedly state that I am a better person for having done that. Through golf administration I am so much richer in experiences and friendships. My retirement begins in earnest after the 2021 AGM and I wish the incoming office bearers and NEC well in all your future endeavors.

Happy golfing.



Naadir Agherdien
President

2020 Tournament Performances and Results

JUNIOR GOLF

NOMADS NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT TOURNAMENTS

Tournament & Date	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score	Top Finishes	Score
Coastal Noom 1 6 – 7 January Mt Edgecombe CC	Ayden Senger	210	Luka Stanisavljevic	210	Hezron Frieslaar Cole Stevens	211
Inland Noom 1 9 – 10 January Benoni CC	Christiaan Maas	210	Cole Stevens	215	Marcus Taylor	216

NOMADS S.A. BOYS UNDER 15 CHAMPIONSHIP - Killarney GC, 2 - 4 JANUARY

Rorisang Nkosi lifted the trophy when he closed with a two over par score of 72 and a one stroke victory over the chasing pack that finished one stroke adrift.

Final Results

1	Rorisang Nkosi (Jnr)	Pecanwood Golf & Country Club	72	74	72	218
T2	Tyron Groenveld	Modderfontein Golf Club	75	71	73	219
T2	Marno Lange	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate	76	73	70	219
T2	Hannes Strooh	Randfontein Golf & CC	73	71	75	219
5	Keegan Shutt	Zimbabwe	72	76	73	221

OPEN AMATEUR

SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP – Randpark CC, 9 – 12 January 2020

The 2020 edition of the SA Open was played at Randpark for a second successive year. Eleven amateurs got to tee it up with only three players making the cut which fell at 4 under par, 138.

Louis Oosthuizen looked like he was coasting to victory for a second year in a row after he made a hole-in-one on the 8th hole, but he could only manage 1 birdie for the rest of the round while Branden Grace's putter warmed up and he closed with 5 birdies over the last 10 holes, to finish 3 stroke ahead of Oosthuizen.

Jayden Schaper made a name for himself in finishing in a tie for 6th place overall. In the process Schaper won the Freddie Tait Cup, traditionally presented to the low amateur at the SA Open Championship.

Final Results (Top 10 and Amateurs making the cut)

1	Branden Grace	RSA	R2,773,750.00	-21	263	64	70	67	62
2	Louis Oosthuizen	RSA	R1,925,000.00	-18	266	65	69	64	68
3	Marcus Armitage	ENG	R1,298,500.00	-16	268	65	72	62	69
4	Jack Senior	ENG	R791,000.00	-15	269	67	66	69	67
4	Jaco Ahlers	RSA	R791,000.00	-15	269	66	66	68	69
6	Hennie du Plessis	RSA	R457,450.00	-13	271	67	67	69	68
6	George Coetzee	RSA	R457,450.00	-13	271	65	69	68	69
6	JC Ritchie	RSA	R457,450.00	-13	271	63	72	67	69
6	Jayden Schaper (a)	RSA	Amateur	-13	271	65	67	69	70
6	Andy Sullivan	ENG	R457,450.00	-13	271	66	68	67	70
6	Martin Rohwer	RSA	R457,450.00	-13	271	66	71	64	70

36	Casey Jarvis (a)	RSA	Amateur	-7	277	68	70	72	67
76	Christo Lamprecht (a)	RSA	Amateur	+8	292	70	68	77	77

AFRICAN AMATEUR STROKE PLAY & TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS – Leopard Creek CC, 3 – 6 February 2020

Martin Vorster became the 2020 African Amateur Champion after an exciting 3-hole playoff with Englishman, Olly Huggins. In the playoff, the players played the 18th hole twice, both times halving the hole in adventurous ways. An hour lightening delay then ensued before the playoff could continue, up the 1st hole, where a par was sufficient for Vorster to be declared the champion.

Individual Results

1	Martin Vorster	Pinnacle Point Golf Club	70	67	76	71	284
2	Olly Huggins	Frilford	76	69	72	67	284
3	Ryan van Velzen	Benoni Country Club	64	66	83	72	285
T4	Joseph Long	Lansdowne GC	74	68	81	66	289
T4	Jordan Duminy	Pinnacle Point Golf Club	69	74	74	72	289
T6	James Sugrue	Mallow	69	68	78	76	291
T6	Caolan Rafferty	Dundalk golf club	74	72	71	74	291
8	Haider Hussain	Kendleshire	70	71	77	74	292
T9	Yurav Premllal	Glendower Golf Club	72	75	72	74	293
T9	Tom Mckibbin	Hollywood Golf Club	75	73	73	72	293

The team component was dominated by the South African teams that finished first and second (juniors). The SA Open Amateur team members were Martin Vorster, Sam Simpson, Kyle de Beer and Casey Jarvis while the Junior team was made up of Tyran Snyders, Jordan Duminy, Ryan van Velzen and Christiaan Maas

Team Results

1	South Africa	-8
2	South African Juniors	-3
3	Ireland A	+4
4	England	+16
5	Sweden A	+20
T6	Ireland B	+23
T6	Scotland	+23
8	France A	+30
9	Sweden	+42
10	France B	+44
11	India	+73
12	Mauritius	+75
13	Zimbabwe	+88

SOUTH AFRICAN STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP – Randpark CC, 10 – 13 February 2020

Casey Jarvis put on a master class in winning the championship by a 9-stroke margin. The 2019 Amateur Champion, James Sugrue finished in sole 6th place while Joseph Long, who would go on to win the 2020 Amateur Championship later in the year, finished with a host of players in a tie for 7th on 11 under par.

Final Results

1	-25	Casey Jarvis	State Mines Country Club	66	65	67	65	263
2	-16	Kyle de Beer	Port Elizabeth Golf Club	67	71	67	67	272
3	-15	Caolan Rafferty	Dundalk golf club	70	71	65	67	273
T4	-13	Kieron van Wyk	Ruimsig Country Club	69	72	66	68	275
T4	-13	Keagan Thomas	Pearl Valley Golf Estate	70	69	68	68	275
6	-12	James Sugrue	Mallow	70	66	72	68	276
T7	-11	Tom Mckibbin	Hollywood Golf Club	71	75	64	67	277
T7	-11	Joseph Long	Lansdowne GC	72	70	67	68	277
T7	-11	Rowan Lester	Hermitage	66	67	69	75	277
T7	-11	Haider Hussain	England	65	71	72	69	277
T7	-11	Amilkar Bhana	Country Club Johannesburg	71	66	70	70	277

AON SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS – Royal Johannesburg & Kensington GC, 16 – 21 February 2020

2020 saw the first time in South African golfing history that both the men's and women's championships were held at the same venue on the same dates. It made for a festival atmosphere and the week culminated with the finals of the match play and a breakfast, hosted by the championships' sponsor, Aon, for media, SA sport stars, and SA Golf stake holders.

Proudfoot Trophy

Sam Simpson lifted the prestigious Proudfoot Trophy when he won the 36 holes qualifying stroke play, played over the West and East courses, on an incredible score of 12 under par, 131.

Final Results

1	Samuel Simpson	Bellville Golf Club	65	66	131
T2	Casey Jarvis	State Mines Country Club	63	71	134
T2	Christiaan Maas	Pretoria Country Club	66	68	134
T2	Joseph Long	Lansdowne GC	69	65	134
T5	James Biggs	Diss GC	65	71	136
T5	Darren Howie	Peebles	66	70	136
T5	Sam Bairstow	Hallowes	67	69	136
T5	Connor Wilson	Castle Park GC	65	71	136

Championship (Match Play)

Casey Jarvis continued his rich vein of form as he romped home to a 7&6 victory in the 36-hole final. On the ladies' side Caitlin Macnab defeated Kyra van Kan 4&3 after trailing 2 down after the morning 18 holes. Caitlin Macnab also won the SA Stroke Play earlier in the week thereby completing the "double".

Final

Casey Jarvis (State Mines CC) defeated James Wilson (Baltimore, Sco) 7&6

Semi-Final

James Wilson (Baltimore, Sco) defeated Jake Bolton (Ogbourne Downs, Eng) 3&2

Casey Jarvis (State Mines CC) defeated Joseph Long (Lansdowne GC, Eng) 2&1

Quarter-final

Jake Bolton	(Ogbourne Downs, Eng)	defeated	Olly Huggins (Frilford, Eng)	1Up
James Wilson	(Baltimore, Eng)	defeated	Christiaan Maas (Pretoria CC)	19th
Casey Jarvis	(State Mines CC)	defeated	Christo Lamprecht Jnr (Pinnacle Point GC)	2&1
Joseph Long	(Lansdowne GC, Eng)	defeated	Aneurin Gounden (Glendower GC)	1Up

MID-AMATEUR AND SENIOR GOLF

Due to Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 and subsequent government restrictions no National Amateur championships or inter provincial tournaments were held in the Mid-Amateur and Senior age categories.

Ends