

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

Introduction

This report covers the 12-month period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. While from an operations perspective, we edged closer to business as normal this year, COVID-19 continued to affect almost everything we did, and it was once again a challenging year for the South African Golf Association (SAGA).

Despite this, golfers have proven to be resilient bunch. We saw an increase of 3% in the number of Affiliated golfers (127 582) and a 2% growth in the number of rounds (4 490 275) registered on the HNA system in 2021. Of particular interest was the increase in the number of junior golfers on the system, with this section growing from 5,7% in 2020 to 6,8% in 2021. It is beholden upon us to ensure that these golfers remain part of the golfing system for many years to come.

We were devastated by the passings of board member Jabu Mabuza in July and SAGA president Martin Saaiman in August. Both gentlemen made significant contributions to amateur golf and their experience and passion for the game is severely missed.

As a result of Martin's passing, I took up the role of Acting President of the SAGA, with Deon Nel taking up the role of Acting Senior Vice President.

In more positive news, we were once again able to run the GolfRSA Club Champion of Champions event in 2021, having been forced to cancel the 2020 tournament due to COVID-19. Once again the cream of club golfers, in three divisions, gathered for a successful National Final, at Kyalami Golf Club, where they competed for the title of the country's top club champion.

Our GolfRSA Race to 2021 concluded successfully at the SA Amateur in February. Players who topped their Orders of Merit from their respective competing Unions received automatic qualification into the 2021 SA Amateur and GolfRSA contributed towards the cost of their travel and participation.

In December, we launched the inaugural Coastal vs Inland Challenge, which featured the country's top-ranked senior and mid-amateur golfers in a Ryder Cup-style tournament. Held at St Francis Links, the event was a roaring success and promises to be a fixture on the GolfRSA calendar.

Financials

GolfRSA achieved a surplus of R4.6 million (provisional) during the 2021 financial year, largely due to an increase in affiliation fee collection, where actual income exceeded budget by 19%. Although operational expenses exceeded the budget by 7%, this is directly attributed to the increase in affiliation fee collection, which has a bearing on the development levies paid back to unions.

As at 31 December 2021, the operating cash position of GolfRSA is positive. These operating funds, together with a healthy reserve fund, created from a previous year's savings, ensures that GolfRSA is in a good financial position.

Board of directors

The full board of directors as at 31 December 2021 comprised the following directors:

- Mr Johann Rupert Independent, non-executive director (Chairman)
- Mr Moss Gondwe Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Moss Ngoasheng Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Dale Hayes Independent, non-executive director

- Mr Craig Moorgas Independent, non-executive director
- Mr Ken Walker Independent, non-executive director
- Ms Sarah Braude Member's representative director (President – WGSA)
- Mr Henk Smith Member's representative director (Acting President – SAGA)

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

Transformation/Development

Development and transformation of golf and the industry it creates is a high priority for the SAGA. While we acknowledge that more can and needs to be done, there are numerous positive stories and player achievements that highlight the successes of our endeavours. SAGA's strategic partnership with the South African Golf Development Board (SAGDB) continues to strengthen and is delivering results. All 14 Unions use the operations of the SAGDB for their development and transformation programmes.

In the Premier IPT, three SAGDB players featured in the A-Section, while seven SAGDB players played in the B-Section. These numbers improve in the SA Under-19 IPT, where 21 SAGDB players took part, with nine in the A-Section and 12 in the B-Section.

SAGDB graduate Kieron van Wyk received his national colours when he was selected to represent South Africa in The Spirit International Amateur Championships, placing tie-16th in the individual event.

GolfRSA National Squad

2021 was the sixth year that the National Squad has been in existence and it goes from strength to strength. Squad members won all three SA Swing events (SA Amateur, African Amateur, SA Stroke Play) and many other titles throughout the year.

Squad camps were held throughout the year, including camps at the National Junior Development Centre (NJDC) in Malelane and at San Lameer in KwaZulu-Natal. The camps introduced players to experts on technical and fitness matters, advisors on management companies and guest speakers.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 travel restrictions meant that we were unable to send any representative teams to international events, including the annual United Kingdom tour. However we were able to put together a team of US-based players for The Spirit International Amateur Golf Championships in the USA, where the men finished in tie-5th position. Christo Lamprecht finished tie-4th in the Individual event.

We also contributed towards the travel expenses of Martin Vorster for the US Amateur Championship in August. Unfortunately, Martin did not qualify for the match play stage.

Stakeholder relationships

We maintain very strong relationships with stakeholders, namely The Sunshine Tour, the PGA of South Africa, the Club Management Association of South Africa (CMASA), Nomads and the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture (DSAC). This can be seen through various projects that we run together with our stakeholder partners.

As a result of the success of the Help Fund, where GolfRSA raised over R5 million for caddies affected by the Lockdown in 2020, DSAC contributed a further R33 million that was successfully distributed by GolfRSA to caddies and casual workers at the beginning of 2021. In July we launched the GolfRSA Training Programme. Funded by DSAC, and in partnership with CMASA, these learning programmes are aimed at upskilling golf industry members. Further funding from DSAC, secured in 2021, has allowed us to add the Caddies Champion of Champions tournament to our Champion of Champions event in 2022.

Our partnership with the Sunshine Tour sees our top players receive invitations to play on the Big Easy Tour and in selected Sunshine Tour events. These are valuable platforms for our top amateurs to learn about the rigours of the professional game.

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, Tsogo Sun, Tempest Car Hire, the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture and Nomads.

We are grateful to the Nomads, whose sponsorship now extends to 10 GolfRSA boys' events. We would also like to pay tribute to Mr Johann Rupert and Mr Mike McGrath (Handicaps Network Africa) for their extensive efforts behind the scenes of amateur golf in South Africa.

In closing

I would like to acknowledge GolfRSA CEO Grant Hepburn for his valuable contribution, guidance and leadership during a challenging year for all. My thanks also goes to Deon Nel and the National Executive Committee for their support, a commitment and work ethic. Finally, my sincere appreciation to the staff of GolfRSA for their tireless work and efforts over the past 12 months.

Henk Smith
Acting President: SAGA