

NEWSLETTER

– MARCH 2017 –



CHEERS, MR PRESIDENT!

Thank you, and congratulations on a job well done!

This is my last Newsletter and as usual, there is much to report.

National Tournament in Cape Town

We will be fielding a record team of 30 players in this tournament and I am sure that it will be, as usual, great fun and hopefully good golf.

We were recently advised that we will be entitled to field three 4-man teams in the inter-provincial element of the tournament. In an attempt to select the two strongest teams available, the committee decided to modify the selection criteria for the three teams to represent Gauteng North. It is hoped that, as a result, we may return with some silverware this year.

The top 4 players on our eclectic scoreboard were automatic picks and the other 8 were selected using two criteria. The committee identified who of our members were considered to be “steady under pressure on a consistent basis” and then applied the 2016 match attendance results. Our three teams will be made up from Johan Coetzee, Harold Teague, Henk Prinsloo, Corné Kruger, Jan van der Merwe, Derek Ackermann, Wim Fourie, John Loftus, Francois de Vos, Pieter Krogh, Mike Silberman and Joachim Mennen.

In addition, of course, all members of the 30-man squad will participate in the Division trophy competition. Good luck to you all.

Iron Man Competition

We tried the Iron Man format for the first time at our PCC match in February and the general response was that it should be continued in future. As was to be expected, there were a number of very positive suggestions from members and I am sure that the new committee will ensure that these are properly considered and implemented for future matches.

Carine has very kindly offered to provide us with The Iron Man trophy which will now become a regular award at our annual dinner – thank you Carine.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is on 15th March, 2017 and I would like to remind members about the 2 vacancies that exist on the committee at present. Proper representation is important, so please complete the necessary nomination form, available from Carine, if you have anyone in particular you would like to see on the committee.

New Members

Recently we received nominations for a further 4 members and assuming they will all proceed through to full membership in due course, we have only 6 vacancies for new members in future. The committee is of the opinion that it is essential that this window of opportunity to attract non-white players to our society should not be lost and as such, took the decision that, until further notice, no nominations for white candidates will be considered. This matter will be a specific focus of the incoming committee.

Website

Our website gets better and better and if you are not already a regular user, I urge you to get started. Have a look at the Gallery of members' photos that we have created and if you are not on it, please ensure that when you next see Carine after a match, she takes your picture and it will be published.

Administrative Secretary

Carine will be handing over the reins to Derek Ackermann's wife, Petra on the 1st April, 2017. I would like to welcome Petra to our society and wish her every success in her new role.

I have said it many times before, but it bears repeating, just what a contribution Carine has made to our society over the years. Unless one has had the pleasure and privilege of working with Carine, one cannot quite understand how much love and attention she has devoted to all of us. Thank you Carine and here's wishing that, when you do leave our shores for Australia, you will be very happy with your family over there. Who knows, maybe there is a Senior's society that needs someone like you to assist.

President of the Senior Golfers Union of South Africa

On the 1st April, 2017, Corné Kruger will take over as the President, for the next year, of the Senior Golfers Union of South Africa. To celebrate this, I recently met with Corné to find out a little more about him and his achievements and there is a separate article in this Newsletter which I hope you will enjoy. Congratulations Corné – you really do deserve this honour.

It has been a real privilege to serve as President this last year and as I look back, I feel very satisfied with what has been achieved. Thank you all for the support that you have given me.

Warm regards
Graham



CORNÉ KRUGER

Gauteng North Society's

1st NATIONAL PRESIDENT (2017/2018)

~ An interview by Graham Damp ~

In April this year, our Honorary Life Member and founder of the Senior Golfers Society of Gauteng North, Corné Kruger, will take over as President of the Senior Golfers Union of South Africa. Congratulations Corné, you thoroughly deserve this recognition for all that you have done for our Society over the years.

Recently I had the pleasure of spending some time with Corné over lunch to see if I could unearth more details about him and his many achievements over the years. Hopefully I succeeded in getting “the lowdown” with information that even those who see him regularly may not have known.

Corné is now 73 (he looks more like 63 to me), having been born in Lydenburg in 1943, at a time when his dad was one of two teachers at a school in Steelpoort. On moving to Edenvale, Corné attended the Edenvale Primary School, where his dad was the Principal and he became the head boy. Later, he attended Kensington Hoër, which at the time was the second oldest Afrikaans school in Johannesburg and once again, Corné was head boy. Having finished his schooling, Corné moved on to the Pretoria Teachers Training College and there he served for a time as the Vice Chairman of the Student's Representative Council.

Having been a teacher for a short while, Corné worked for IBM, then the Jan Pickard group and thereafter entered the insurance industry where he has spent the rest of his working career. He served the industry in many ways, including being on the board of the Insurance Brokers Council. He is now semi-retired, having handed over the reins of his business to his daughter after 40 years in the industry. Looking back, he is totally satisfied and has no regrets at all.

Like his dad who represented Western Transvaal in rugby and athletics, Corné was a sports fanatic from an early age and he got his Barberton Daisies (provincial colours) in rugby, golf and later bowls.

Corné is married to Gail and they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren, all living in Pretoria.

Taking up golf at the age of 26, this became the sporting passion which he still has to this day. At his prime, he played to a 2 handicap (which he says is when “the Peter Principle” kicked in and he reached his level of incompetence). His lowest score was 68, he has had 4 holes-in-one and he reckons that when he got to 100, he gave up counting the number of courses he has played locally. He won't say which is the best course he has played in South Africa, but he says that Royal Port Rush in Ireland is the best overseas course he has experienced.

Corné got involved in golf administration in the early 1980's as a member of PCC's golf committee. Later, as the PCC golf captain, he is particularly proud of the tree planting project he initiated, which he reckons added at least 600 trees to the course over a period of time. This transformed the course into the parkland course we all enjoy today, so next time you are stuck behind a tree, remember Corné!

In the late 1980's, during his term as President of the Gauteng North Golf Union, having seen how the veteran squash players of the time hosted a national tournament, he sold the idea of a similar league for senior golfers and as a result the Senior Amateurs League was founded, thus giving better golfers over the age of 50 the opportunity to continue to play competitive golf.

Corné has been involved in the San Lameer Country Club for many years and also served on that committee as its Chairman.

In 1999, Corné first became involved in Seniors, via Gauteng Seniors, and that was the start of the association that continues to this day. He reflects that, due to work commitments and the challenges of having to drive through from Pretoria to Johannesburg to play Seniors golf, he was probably not an ideal Senior at the time. This experience gave him the idea of forming Gauteng North Seniors and the rest is history. On its inception in October, 2008 with 24 new members, it had been 55 years since a new province had been established as a member society of SGUSA.

We all owe Corné a huge debt of gratitude, as we are all so privileged, as a result of his hard work in getting this project off the ground, to be able to play with our Senior friends here in Pretoria and the surrounding areas without having to make the “trek” through the traffic every second week to Johannesburg.

It’s not all been plain sailing for Corné along the way. When he was 23 he fractured his wrist playing rugby and as a result, in 2009 he had wrist surgery and had a steel pin, about 7 to 8 inches long inserted in his wrist. At the time, Corné was told that he would never play golf again, but of course, he was undeterred. You know the rest of the story! Today, even with his “vrot wrist” as he refers to it, he plays a consistently good game of golf and is often in the prizes. Because of the steel pin, even though he can’t bend his wrist, he knows that he can’t break anything and is thus able to give every shot “a full go” – it’s effective!

Like all of us, Corné most appreciates his Seniors golf as it enables him to “see the sun, smell the roses and play golf with a wonderful bunch of friends on a regular basis”.

Not surprisingly when I asked him what his favourite colour is, he hesitated momentarily and then answered “blue”. It didn’t take too much intuition to anticipate the answer when I asked who his favourite rugby team is – the “Blue Bulls”.

Today his favourite music is “contemporary” but in his young days he was an Elvis fan, not Cliff Richard and definitely not Pat Boone!

Like many others (me included), he is concerned about Donald Trump and will be watching things develop in America and abroad with great interest.

Corné loves to be in the bush and told me that at one stage of his life he purchased a Sauer 3006 hunting rifle. He shot one Impala and that was the last time he used the rifle – it just wasn’t for him.

Corné plays a lot of golf these days, including a regular school on a Tuesday known as “the Dagga Boys”. He refers, of course, to the old buffaloes who have left the herd, so when asked why this name had been chosen for the group, the answer was all too obvious. Dagga boys have all manner of aches and pains and so are grumpy, they make pals with other grumpy old dagga boys, they “take no shit” from anyone, they look at the young females in the herd and “wonder”, and they walk out when their “playing days” are over – they are never kicked out!

When chatting about the challenges for golf in the future and the issues closest to his heart for our society and SGUSA, there is a golden thread applicable to both. Corné sees the very real need for Seniors to move with the times and to always seek to be representative of the golfing community in particular and society in general. As President of SGUSA, he has a number of ideas that he hopes will move Seniors in that direction.

He will also be encouraging the various societies to engage in more inter-society competitions and cites the quadrangular match at Parys last year, in which our society participated for the first time, as an example of the tremendous fun and enjoyment that can be developed through these activities.

In his view, golf is increasingly challenged by emerging sports such as cycling. This is a worldwide issue, as younger people do not have or are not prepared to set aside the time for golf, which is also an expensive sport to participate in. His hope is that “fifty years from now, Seniors will still be relevant and thriving” and this will be a key focus issue for him as SGUSA President.

Reflecting on the commitment he made to Mancom at the time he was trying to persuade it to agree to the formation of Gauteng North Seniors, “an all-South African membership mix” was the objective, and in his opinion we are not there now and should continue to work toward that.

Corné is extremely proud of the fact that he was chosen to represent Gauteng North as President of SGUSA in 2017. Having had the opportunity to chat with Corné about himself and his achievements in our South African golfing community, I cannot think of a person more deserving of this honour and I am sure that you all join me in congratulating Corné and wishing him every success in the year ahead.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Petra Ackermann who will be taking over from Carine on 1st April.

Petra is no stranger to the game of golf – not only as her husband, Derek, is an avid Senior golfer, but also as one of their son's, Stefan, is a PGA professional golfer currently working at the Saadiyat Beach Golf Club in Abu Dhabi. Petra is in the process of getting her own golf handicap and firmly believes that *"it is never too late to start"*. For the last 6 years, she has worked with Derek in his business, assisting him with his administration and finance. Prior to that, after arriving in South Africa 30 odd years ago, her career was with German multinational companies in the roles of Financial Director and Business Center Controller for South Africa and Sub Saharan Africa. Initially she only intended to stay in South Africa for 3 years or so, but having met Derek, he persuaded her to stay and the rest is history. Petra loves the climate in South Africa and has made many friends in this country. She always enjoys challenges and new projects, so her latest challenge, which we are delighted about, is to assist the Seniors Golfers Society of Gauteng North in the role of Administrative Secretary.



A warm Seniors welcome, Petra!

COMPETITION RESULTS

15th February at PCC – “Iron Man” Competition – Individual Stableford:

Winner: Johan Willemse (36 points)

Runner up: Corné Kruger (35 points)

Third place: Bennie Geeringh (33 points)

ECLECTIC COMPETITION – Results will be continuously updated and published on the website under the MEMBERS home page.

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Happy Birthday!

Hope you have an amazing day and may this be the start of a year filled with love, joy and happiness!

2 nd	Wayne Grace	18 th	Mandi Geeringh
2 nd	Ronald Wainwright (70)	20 th	Geoff Irons
3 rd	Paul van Rooyen	20 th	Willem Krige
4 th	Wessel Theron	24 th	Brian Cassidy
5 th	Mimi Uys	24 th	Vic de Stadler
5 th	Miranda Vogel	26 th	Rob Scherman
13 th	Ray Hakim	29 th	Erna du Toit
13 th	Hilary Silberman	31 st	Lynette Dahlman
14 th	George Kyriakou		