**SENIOR GOLFERS SOCIETY OF GAUTENG NORTH**

**Report of the President at the 11th Annual General Meeting**

**held on 13 March 2019 at the Pretoria Country Club**

The 2018/2019 year has been a year of growth and continued success for our Society. I am happy to report that the ship of the Gauteng North Seniors is still on a steady course heading towards even more memorable milestones whilst continuing to provide special enjoyment to our members.

**Membership**

Towards the end of 2018 we received wonderful news from Mancom. As a result of our request Mancom decided to increase the membership quota of the Gauteng North Senior Golfers Society from 90 to 100. Our increased quota allocation confirms Mancom’s acceptance of our representations to them that our Society is a young and vibrant Society which is rapidly growing and going from strength to strength with a substantial number of potential new members. Thank you to Mancom for recognising the growth potential of our Society.

We currently have 83 Active Members and 4 Non-Playing Members. Two members, Don Williams and George Kyriakos have been granted extended leave of absence for a limited period.

I am also satisfied that we are well on our way to make our Society more representative of our unique South African Society. This process was started 2 years ago under Graham Damp and we will actively continue with our responsibility in this regard.

During the 2018/2019 year, 3 New Members were inducted, Flip Diedericks, Isadore Matunhire and Gerhard Lombard. We had 2 resignations, Burgert Geldenhuys and Blignault Gouws, due to their business commitments. Frank Pretorius has relocated to Bloemfontein and has joined the Free State Senior Golfers Society. Happily, Frank is still a member of our team to the Nationals before becoming a Cheetah!

One of our founder members and a very popular member, Dieter Vogel, has not been well for some time and has not been able to join our games during the last months. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dieter and his family in this difficult time.

**10th Anniversary Celebrations and Gala Dinner**

On 10 October 2018 our Society celebrated its 10th Anniversary by hosting a fun golf day followed by a gala dinner. This event was certainly the highlight of the year for our Society.

Mike Silberman and his team organised a fantastic golf day with lots of prizes and the format of a four-ball alliance was ideally suited to the less than favourable conditions at our home club with all the greens being redone, resulting in us playing on a shortened course with temporary greens. The gala dinner was a very special and enjoyable event, and tribute was paid to Corné Kruger, the founding father of our Society, the founder members, past presidents and all the members who have contributed to making our Society so successful and popular.

Prominent members of other Societies from Kwa-Zulu Natal, Border, Free State and Gauteng, joined our celebrations and they were all unanimous in their praise of our Society, the camaraderie which they experienced and the wonderful event and dinner which we put together.

A special word of thanks therefore to Mike Silberman, Petra Ackermann, André Le Grange, John Loftus, Jan Van Der Merwe, Peet Du Toit and all the other members of the team who worked so hard to make our celebrations such a huge success. Thank you also to so many of our members who sponsored many prizes resulting in virtually every participant winning a prize, in the true spirit of the day.

**Playing Statistics and Golf Events**

During the year we had 22 golf matches, including 2 Across the Border matches against our friends of the Senior Golfers Society of Gauteng. In addition, we participated in the quadrangular match in Parys with 3 other Senior Societies (Free State, Gauteng and Northern Cape). The Parys match has become a very popular event amongst our members and we look forward to continue our good relationship and interaction with our fellow Senior Societies during this yearly event. Apart from the quadrangular match, a total of 963 rounds of golf were played this year.

Our members’ participation in our games every month has become a cause for concern. Our player statistics reveal that we only have a participation percentage of around 54% for our regular games. The success of our Society depends on regular participation by our members and it also serves to fund our budget and balance our books.

We do appreciate that due to the fact that we have many “*younger*” members who are still actively pursuing their professions and business careers, such members cannot participate in all our regular games. The financial viability of our Society does, however, depend on good participation. I would therefore like to implore our members, myself included, to do their utmost to play more games next year so that we can achieve a participation percentage of at least 60% or more. I believe we owe it to this great Society.

In April 2018 we fielded a team of 24 players at the Nationals in Johannesburg. We had some excellent performances at the Nationals. Jan Van Der Merwe was Runner Up in the Individual Stableford Competition and received the Leslie Satchwell Trophy.
John Loftus was Winner of the Class A Gross Competition - 36 Hole Gross Stableford. The camaraderie and spirit of our team who participated in the Nationals stood out and was again evident at our traditional team dinner at a local restaurant on the evening before the close of the Nationals.

From 7 April 2019 our Society will be represented by 22 members at the 2019 Nationals in George. Eight members were selected to represent our Society in the Inter-Provincial team competition. We are looking forward to a great National Tournament and wish our entire team everything of the best. We would obviously like to bring home some silver ware, but in the tradition of our Society, enjoyment of the tournament remains equally important.

**Championship and Other Competitions**

Due to our 10th anniversary celebrations and the state of our home course, the annual championships of our Society were postponed to 13 February 2019. We had a turnout of 55 players at the Pretoria Country Club with a prize giving function in the Vodacom Room afterwards. We also decided to extend the competition and prizes by having 3 divisions with 3 prizes in each division. The feedback on this extension of our championships was very positive. We believe that we should continue with this format in future.

Our champion senior golfer for the year was Jamie Paola with a gross score of 82. The nett score champion was Paul Van Rooyen with a nett score of 74. In the individual stableford competition the results were as follows:

* **A Division**

1st Paul Van Rooyen

2nd Vic De Stadler

3rd Jamie Paola

* **B Division**

1st Corné Kruger

2nd Hennie Uys

3rd Johann Ströh

* **C Division**

1st Theo Swutala

2nd Bjorn Schildt

3rd Jan Van Der Merwe

The Eclectic Competition was won by Stephan Ferreira, and the Iron Man Competition winner was Johan Willemse.

Congratulations to everyone who won prizes and participated in this wonderful event.

**Home Club**

A special word of thanks to the Pretoria Country Club for hosting many of our golf events during the year, our regular committee meetings, 10th celebrations and gala dinner, and our annual championships. Our Home Club also provided sponsorship for our 10th anniversary celebrations.

We would like to thank our members for their patience during the months of replacing the greens at the Pretoria Country Club. The greens have been a great improvement and once they have completely settled we will be privileged to be able to play on a fine golf course with excellent club house facilities.

**Trophy Cabinet**

The process of stocking our trophy cabinet in the Vodacom Room has been completed and is a proud reflection of our Society and its traditions of friendship, camaraderie and good golf.

**Financials**

The financial situation of our Society is sound and re-assuring thanks to the excellent management and control of our finances by Peet Du Toit, our treasurer. An increase in annual subscriptions and game participation fees were approved by the Committee. We believe that this is necessary for the financial viability of our Society and that our fees are still very reasonable.

**Administrative Secretary**

The Committee and all the other members contribute to the successful and smooth running of our Society. The one person who must, however, be mentioned is Petra Ackermann. Petra stepped into the shoes of a formidable predecessor and she has done a magnificent job of ensuring that the administration of our Society, including the organisation of all our golf matches and events, runs smoothly and efficiently.

Petra is the silent power engine of our Society and without her tremendous input our Society would not be so well-organised and enjoyable. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Petra and we thank her for the wonderful work she is doing.

**Committee**

I would like to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to every member of our Committee during the past year, namely, Jan Van Der Merwe, John Loftus, André Le Grange, Peet Du Toit, Mike Silberman, Harold Teague and Francois De Vos. Without the tremendous assistance and input of all these committee members it would not have been possible to fulfil the responsibilities of the Presidency for the past year. Thank you to a great Committee who is dedicated to the success and growth of our Society and making it enjoyable for our members.

Mike Silberman who has been a Committee member for the last few years has tendered his resignation due to the fact that he would like to spend more time with his family and visit his place in Kwa-Zulu Natal more often. We regret Mike leaving the Committee but we respect his decision and wish him and his family all the best for the future. Fortunately Mike remains as an active member and he has also volunteered to organise the Kwa-Zulu Natal – Gauteng North Seniors Match on 18 and 19 July 2019 in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Thank you Mike for years of excellent service to our Committee and being a wonderful friend and member of our Society.

Your 4 office bearers and 2 elected members for the 2019/2020 year are:

* President Jan Van Der Merwe
* Captain John Loftus
* Secretary André Le Grange
* Treasurer Peet Du Toit
* 2 Elected Members Francois De Vos

Harold Teague

Two new Elected Members will be elected at the AGM on 13 March 2019.

It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as President of our Society which is very special and dear to me. I would like to thank all the members of my Committee and all other members who generously supported me during the past year. Serving on the Committee of our Society for the past 5 years, and as President for the 2018/2019 year, has been extremely rewarding and fulfilling.

The ethos, camaraderie and goodwill amongst the members of the Gauteng North Senior Golfers which I have experienced over the years and the friendships forged whilst playing the game we all love so much with my fellow senior golfers, is something which I will always cherish and I will strive to uphold the ideals and values of our great Society at all times.

**Johann Ströh**

**President**