

SENIOR GOLFERS SOCIETY OF GAUTENG NORTH

Report of the President at the 10th Annual General Meeting held on 14th March, 2018 at the Pretoria Country Club

The year under review has been one in which the legacies of Brian Richter and Graham Damp have been preserved and enhanced and I am pleased to report that much has been achieved.

Membership

We currently have 82 Active Members and, in terms of the Mancom decision in 2015, have the potential to increase to a maximum of 90 Active Members. We now have seven Non-Playing Members. Our focus to attract non-white players to our society is working; and the inductions in 2018 will see the Society enriched and more representative of our Gauteng North golfing community in particular; and society in general.

During the year ended December 2017, five new members were inducted, one moved from Active to Non-Playing status and we had four resignations. We said farewell to Piero Grobler, who left South Africa for new opportunities in the USA. Our belief is that we have sent abroad a true ambassador of the South African game.

Playing Statistics and golf events

During the year we had 21 golf matches, including two Across the Border matches against our friends in the Senior Golfers Society of Gauteng. In addition, we were the organizers and convenors of the quadrangular tournament in Parys with three other Senior societies (Free State, Gauteng and Northern Cape). Our members' participation in matches organized, continues to track at over 60% and the message that participation is very important in making tough decisions for player eligibility at National tournaments has been well received by members.

In April, 2017 we fielded a team of 30 players at the Nationals in Cape Town. And, we are very proud to honour here, again, our very own champion at the Cape Town tournament, viz. Wim Fourie. Other notable performances came from Johan Coetzee, Corné Kruger, and Tallies Taljaard. The social interactions between our members, particularly on the evening when we all met for a dinner at **Barristers** in Cape Town, were tremendous. The camaraderie and friendships amongst our members remains an abiding theme of commentary when members reflect on the value they derive from the Society.

We look forward to the performance by our team at the Nationals in Johannesburg this year and wish every one of the 24 players selected good golfing. We owe a word of thanks to Mancom and the Gauteng National's organising committee for making it possible for two of our players to be selected in place of the two withdrawals from Northern Cape. Special thanks are due to John Loftus for producing a really superb, short, document on selection criteria for national and other key tournaments. We will have 24 players in total competing this year and we wish them all good luck, good golf and lots of enjoyment.

In 2017 we successfully tested a new competition format called "The Iron Man Competition", in which individual stableford match, no club "longer" than a 3- iron or its equivalent hybrid club is used. We again acknowledge the generous donation of the trophy for this competition by Carine Oldridge. Worthy early frontrunners in this competition included Johan Willemse, Corné Kruger,

Committee

I would like to express my sincere thanks to every member of our committee for 2017/18; viz. Sydney Mpipi, until he needed to stand down for business reasons; Johann Ströh, Johan Willemse, Harold Teague, Peet du Toit, Mike Silberman and Jan Van der Merwe. John Loftus quickly established himself as an able replacement for Sydney. Everyone has given willingly of their time and expertise; and it has, in my opinion, made the work of the committee both rewarding and effective.

Your new office bearers for 2018 are:

President: Johann Ströh

Captain: Jan Van der Merwe

Secretary: John Loftus

Treasurer: Peet du Toit

Additional Members: Harold Teague and Mike Silberman

It has been a great privilege and an honour to serve as your Captain in 2016; and President in 2017; and I would like to thank the committee; and all our esteemed members for the generous support that has been lavished on me. You have all been generous in your support and very tolerant of my foibles. I will value your mentorship for the rest of my golfing career.

Bruce Edwards

President