

SENIOR GOLFERS SOCIETY OF GAUTENG NORTH

Report of the President at the 13th Annual General Meeting held on 07 April 2021 at the Pretoria Country Club

The 2020/2021 year has been a year that will forever be remembered for lockdown levels, the stress and tension of rampant world-wide disease, the disruptions to daily life, overcrowded medical facilities, the destruction of economies around the globe, consequential unemployment and small business collapses, new 'work from home' strategies, glaring mistakes made, fumbling policy decisions and tragic loss of life caused by a virus that emanated from Wuhan, China the preceding December. Covid-19 changed the world. Many of our members and their families (both in Gauteng North and Nationally) have been affected by the virus, either physically or have suffered the consequences of lockdown in their businesses and personal lives. It has not been an easy year, but with more and more vaccinations appearing and the prospect of being vaccinated, there is indeed light at the end of the tunnel.

Membership

We currently have 83 Active Members and 5 Inactive Members. Various members have been granted leave of absence for a limited period to attend to family matters or to focus on their businesses which were affected by Covid-19. We wish them all a speedy return. The society misses you.

During the year, 4 New Members were inducted, Pieter Els, Andries du Plooy, Lucas Luckhoff and Pieter Viljoen. We are delighted to welcome them to the society. Their inductions were dismal affairs as a result of Covid and our policy of not holding prize-givings. Your committee has, however, agreed that all new members will be properly inducted, as per our tradition, at the next annual dinner. Hopefully we will be able to host a dinner in 2021. We had 6 resignations last year citing various reasons including relocations to coastal homes, pressure of business, and health. We thank each of them for their support and friendship over the years and wish each of them all of the best. We will miss Chris Dey, Lou van Wyk, Johann Stroh, Nico Maas, Paul Jenkinson and Geoff Irons.

Annual Gala Dinner

Sadly there was no annual dinner in 2020.

Playing Statistics and Golf Events

During the year we only had 17 golf matches, including an Across the Border match against our friends of the Senior Golfers Society of Gauteng.

Once our normal fortnightly games resumed we were delighted at the turnout. Thank you to all our members for making such a tremendous effort to support the Society and to reconnect with old friends.

The 2020 annual quadrangular match in Parys was cancelled (Covid-19) as was the 2021 event.

Nationals 2020 which was to be held in East London (Border Society) was cancelled due to Covid-19. Subsequently, Nationals 2021, again awarded to Border, was also cancelled. Nationals 2022 is now once again planned for Border (East London). Let's hope that the tournament can proceed. As a result of the above cancellations and postponements, Gauteng North should now be hosting Nationals in 2023.

Championship and Other Competitions

This year, your committee decided to rotate the annual venue for our own championships to different clubs in order to be more representative of our members. Last year (2020) the Championships were held at Centurion Golf estate. We had an excellent turnout but sadly no prize giving function. Our thanks to Centurion for accommodating us and for presenting the course in such spectacular condition.

Our champion senior golfer for the year was Wim Fourie with a gross score of 80 and the individual stableford competition was won by Gerrie Nel with a score of 44 individual points. The full results were as follows:

Society Championship

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Wim Fourie |
| 2 nd | Derek Ackermann |
| 3 rd | Johan Struwig |

Stableford Championship

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Gerrie Nel |
| 2 nd | Flip Diedericks |
| 3 rd | Lucas Luckhoff |

The Eclectic Competition has fallen away, as has the Iron Man which was replaced by the par 3 championship and the inaugural event was won by Jacot Jacot-Guillarmod.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this wonderful event.

Home Club

A special word of thanks to Pretoria Country Club for hosting many of our golf events during the year, our regular committee meetings and our trophy cabinet

Financials

The financial situation of our Society is sound thanks to the excellent management and control of our finances by Hennie Uys, our treasurer and his predecessor, Peet du Toit. Our reserves are healthy and despite a reduced number of games in 2020, we returned a surplus for the year. As such, we perceived no need to increase either subscription fees or competition fees for the year. In order to ensure that we do not once again return a surplus for the 2021 year, your committee has agreed, inter alia, to an additional sponsorship of R20,000 for the annual dinner. Our R25,000 provision for Nationals 2023 remains in place.

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, always be mentioned is Petra Ackermann.

Petra is the organiser of our Society and without her tremendous and efficient 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, André Le Grange, Harold Teague, Hennie Uys, Piet Botha, Jamie Paola and Francois De Vos. Without the 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 to making it enjoyable for our members.

There were some changes to the roles of the committee during the year. In years gone past (a legacy, no doubt, of a smaller society) committee members fulfilled various roles, none specified. This year we rearranged ourselves and the following roles and responsibilities were allocated to non office-bearing members of the committee:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Members and membership matters | Jamie Paola |
| Legal and constitutional matters | Francois de Vos |
| Competitions and results | Andre le Grange (Captain) |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Prizes, meetings, minutes and records | Harold Teague (Society Secretary) |
| Finances and accounts | Hennie Uys (Treasurer) |
| Member without portfolio | Piet Botha (able to assist on all matters) |

I believe these changes have resulted in a more streamlined and effective committee able to address issues timeously and effectively.

Your committee members for the 2021/2022 year remain unchanged in line with most societies and indeed our own Mancom:

- President John Loftus
- Captain Andre le Grange
- Secretary Harold Teague
- Treasurer Hennie Uys
- 3 Elected Members Francois De Vos
 Jamie Paola
 Piet Botha

It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as President of our Society. 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 4 years, and as President for the 2020/2021 year, has been extremely rewarding and fulfilling despite the handicaps imposed by Covid-19.

This is undoubtedly one of the greatest golfing societies anyone of us could possibly belong to. It's ethos of friendship, gentlemanly conduct and camaraderie is what sustains this society. I've been proud and humbled to have been your president for the last twelve months and with your ongoing support this committee hopes to maintain and even improve on the offering of the society for the year ahead.

John Loftus
President