



Director of Golf Report 2014

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Affiliated Clubs within the Southern Cape for their continued support towards Amateur Golf in the region. Also thank you to our loyal Sponsors & Players for supporting the Southern Cape Tournaments, and Club Opens.

Congratulations must go to the respective Order of Merit winners: Nicholas Mitchell won the 2013/14 Overall Order of Merit by a record margin of 528 points. Stafie Barnard won the Mid-Amateur Order of Merit and Breyten Meyer the U/23 Order of Merit. The Improved Order of Merit System is proving to be a huge success, with renewed interest now from Players toward the Order of Merit and Tournaments. It was extremely important to me to listen to the comments from our Top Players over the past few years, and to implement these suggestions as best as possible. Most of the Tournaments are now exceptionally well supported, which creates a healthy but competitive environment for our Players.

Evidence of these new and improved structures could be seen at the Inter Provincial Tournament's. Our Southern Cape Teams competed very well throughout the year with strong finishes at the following Team Events: The Country Districts Team finished 3rd in Fish River, and the Premier IPT Side finished 3rd in Cape Town, in what was a strongly contested A-Division. To further our Teams' competitiveness in 2015 more Match Play Tournaments (incl. Super League), Mental Coaching, Practice Programmes and Structured Team Camps will be introduced. Looking at my own Managers' experience and reading and listening to the other Team Managers' reports, it is imperative that we invest in the above exposure. Camaraderie leads to a healthy Team environment, and stronger mentality leads to more close games being won, and Players trusting their own ability under pressure. Constructive practising will also lead to our Top Players peaking at the right time of year to maximize our chances of winning Team Tournaments. The best results often come when Players in a Team play for each other, and this is the main reason for introducing Structured Team Camps. The recently launched Super League will also give our players Team Match Play exposure, and will assist in getting them Match Play strong.

We also had some outstanding achievements this past year. (1) Mossel Bay Golf Club won both the B & C Leagues (2) Gavin Reynolds managed the SA Junior Team at the Youth Olympic Games (3) The Senior IPT Side won the B-Division of the SA Senior Inter Provincial (4) Nicholas Mitchell won eight (8) Tournaments on his way to clinching the Order of Merit. Nicholas also had five other top 3 finishes, and was unbeaten playing Number 1 for Southern Cape at the Premier Inter Provincial in Cape Town. He currently leads the Order of Merit

again (5) Jovan Rebula won the Proudfoot Trophy at the Sanlam SA Amateur in February, and was chosen for the South African Junior Team again.

Jovan was also named the EDEN JUNIOR Sportsman of the Year, SCGU Junior Player of the Year and will tonight receive the Presidents Golden Putter Award (SCGU Player of the Year).

The 2014/15 Order of Merit Year will now have 22 Tournaments, namely the Links Open, Southern Cape Match Play, Southern Cape Open, Southern Cape Foursomes, Mossel Bay Open, Kingswood Open, Riversdale Open, George Open, Knysna Open, Oubaai Open, Plettenberg Bay Open, Stilbaai Open, Southern Cape U/23 Championship, Pinnacle Point Open, Cape Province Open, Goose Valley Open, Beaufort West Open, Southern Cape Mid-Amateur Open, Pezula Open, Oudtshoorn Open, Simola Open & Southern Cape Closed. Two additional Match Play Tournaments and two Opens are also in the planning stages for next year.

It is also worth mentioning that we now have 5 Players in the Top 50 on the South African Order of Merit Rankings. They are Jade Buitendag (Nr. 12), Andre Nel (Nr. 32), Jovan Rebula (Nr. 34), Nicholas Mitchell (Nr. 48) & Breyten Meyer (Nr. 49).

The 2nd Southern Cape Golf Union Fundraiser once again took place in September, and was extremely well supported. R 35 000 was raised to assist the Union with its annual Team expenses. Special thanks must go to our Sponsors, Affiliated Clubs and Premier Inter Provincial & Mid-Amateur Players for their dedicated support, sponsors, donations and assistance in making this a successful Golf Day. My goal is to grow this Day into the most sought after Golf Day in the Southern Cape.

Further goals include the introduction of more Union Partners in 2015 to grow the marketability of the Union and to assist with better deals for our visitors, affiliated members and SCGU Players. New Sponsorships will also be negotiated to further strengthen our image, and to help ease the cost of running Tournaments professionally. The newly launched Handicap & Super League will be an exciting time for the Union, and I cannot wait to see the festive vibe & camaraderie as 90 Players play League at the same venue. The new League System will start 18 April 2015.

I would also like to mention that we will host our first ever R & A Rules School early in 2015. This Course will be presented by SAGA, and will be a Level "1" Course over one day, with Level 2 & 3 following later in the year. The Course can accommodate 60 participants, and entry forms will be available shortly. 2015 will also see the amalgamation of Men & Women's Golf. A few office, structural and constitutional matters must still be finalized, but the move will further highlight how much golf has grown over the past few years. The Union will also re-rate all 25 Affiliated Golf Courses during 2015/16, using the USGA Course & Slope Rating System. The USGA Training Course was attended in Hermanus (February 2014) by Billy Valentyn, Tannah Harris, Stephen Murray & Rita

Herholdt. Due to available time, high cost and the complexity of the Course Rating System, the rating of our Golf Courses was postponed until 2015. All the Golf Unions in South Africa have experienced the same challenges, and this matter is being addressed by SAGA and HNA, who will possibly assist financially to at least cover the Rating cost, so that Unions can further train up individuals to assist with the Course rating process.

The SCGU/SAGDB Golf Development Programme has also grown from strength to strength this past year thanks mainly to the efforts of Johan Erasmus & Joseph Booysen. Special thanks must also go to Grant Hepburn (CEO of SAGDB) for his respect towards our partnership and for his vision to grow the game of golf. Currently 220 children share in the benefits of the program in George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale, Stilbaai, Beaufort West, and Garden Route G.C. Congratulations also to Franklin Manchest, the Nr. 1 Development Golfer, for winning a Junior Order of Merit Tournament this past year, and for finishing 4th in the Southern Cape Match Play Championship. We also look forward to introducing new program chapters to Plettenberg Bay & Oudtshoorn during 2015.

Special thanks must also go to Deon Kruger & Koos Sieberhagen and Stephen & Lindy Murray for all the hard work they put in for Senior & Junior Golf respectively in the Southern Cape. Your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work are much appreciated. Thank you very much for a lovely working relationship this past year.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the SCGU Committee for their efforts, with a special thanks to Tannah Harris, Stephen Murray and Sandra Lennox for all your assistance this past year. Your knowledge in key areas was of great help to me, and enabled us to grow the Union to the next level. It also helped me to become even more comfortable in the position of Director of Golf. It is indeed a great comfort to know that you are there to assist with anything that I might need. Thanks also for the lovely understanding that we have developed over the past year.

Finally, I would like to thank my Secretary, Sheila Fraser: Thank you very much for being my left and right hand this past year. Thanks for always understanding and respecting my opinion & instructions. Your input is also much appreciated. We have succeeded in creating an extremely pleasant working environment, which will lead to even more success in years to come. Please enjoy your leave break, and I look forward to a great year in 2015.

Kind Regards,

Billy Valentyn

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Director of Golf

Southern Cape Golf Union