

WOMENS PRESIDENT REPORT 2014

2014 Has been a year of many new exciting developments and a lot of highlights on the golf course. This report will highlight only but a few

At the beginning of the year the Womens Professional Golf Association of South Africa announced the start of a professional tour for women in SA and our squad members were asked to participate as "pros" in the Di Data event that took place at Oubaai and Fancourt in February. This gave the players a taste of what it feels like to play on the professional tour and the nerves were shattered. However, it was great to see our own Monique Smit winning this event with Leigh Ann Pace short on her heels. We would also like to congratulate Leigh Ann with her recent win in China

From a squad perspective the **ultimate highlight of the year** was undoubtedly when our A Team won the B Division of the 72 Hole Championship that took place at Mossel Bay Golf Club in May 2014. They will therefore be competing in the A Division next year and we wish them good golf. It was a close encounter with the team from Border and this rivalry continued at IPT where we unfortunately lost to them in the B Division.

Individual player highlights were many.

Sonja Bland won the Mid Am National Championship at Graceland in November 2013, she also came joined 4th in the Boland Championship.

Charnay Williams won everything in the B Division at the SA National Stroke Play Championship in Stellenbosch in April.

New girl Sarah Blythe Wood progressed to the 4th round in the plate of the SA Match Play Championship while Steph Perkins (currently studying in the USA) made the 5th round.

At the Cansa Finals in Sun City Ann Riemer and Trisch Leach both came 3rd in their respective divisions.

Our three major Southern Cape Championships had mixed successes.

The Mixed Championship took place at Knysna Golf Club in January with the usual full field. Tyron Farell and Maggi du Toit defended their title successfully for the 3rd year running.

The Mid Am and Seniors Open Championship had 98 entries which is a 36% increase from last year. Boland has decided to follow our example and hosted a Mid Am and Seniors Championship in July. Unfortunately both events were hampered by bad weather.

Our winners were as follow:

Mid Am	Silver Division – Vossie van Schalkwyk – Boland
	Bronze Division – Tanya Lightley – Knysna
Seniors	Silver Division – Maggi Minnie – Boland
	Bronze Division – Dot Wilson – Plettenberg Bay

The participation in the Southern Cape Open and Closed Championship was very disappointing, especially by local players for various reasons. These are being addressed by ourselves and by WGSA to ensure better attendance of all Provincial Championships

Our winners were as follow:

A Division	Demi Flanagan – Border
B Division	Adele Beytell – Gauteng North
C Division	Margie Steward – Plettenberg Bay

One of the highlights of the year was the R30 000 that we received from DCAS in March for **Capacity Building**. A beginners program was launched consisting of two sets (Beginner and Intermediate) of 7 lessons each. One of the lessons in each set is spend on Rule and Etiquette. To date 16 players has completed the Beginners part of the program including the rules lesson and are ready to move on to the Intermediate program. A further 18 ladies are busy with the Beginners part and some of them are waiting for the rules lesson. The number of affiliated women players remained the same through 2014 and hopefully this program will assist in increasing the number of women players in the Southern Cape

The **junior development** program included taking 8 juniors to the Boland Junior Championship, the Western Province Junior Championship as well as the Rose Bowl (National event). This was in addition to the 6 girls that went to the SA Girls at Orkney.

The best results were:

Charnay Williams in the SA Stroke Play as already mentioned, 5th in the Silver Division at the Rose Bowl and 4th in the WP Junior Championship, Semi Finals in the EP B Division Match Play Championship

Anye Verster won the B Division of the EP Match Play Championship

Hijke Pretorius came 7th in the WP Junior Championship B Division

Michelle Muller was 2nd in the Bronze Division of the Rose Bowl and 4th in the C Division of the WP Junior Championship

Sylken Leigh November came 5th in the D Division on the Rose Bowl and 2nd in the D Division of the WP Junior Championship

Unfortunately we lost 2 very promising juniors because of other demands on their time.

We cannot end 2014 without thanking our **major sponsors** of the year. These include DCAS who contributed funds for the SA National Seniors Championship, the 72 Hole Team Championship and the Southern Cape Open and Closed Championship. This was over and above the funding they give us for administration, development programmes and travelling. Without them we would have been a struggling province.

Nomads sponsored our Mixed Championship as usual and they are also the National sponsor for the Rose Bowl and SA Girls.

The Mossel Bay Municipality and Mayor Marie Ferreira contributed hugely to the success of Southern Cape hosting the 72 Hole Team Championships by sponsoring the prize giving lunch and the printing of the programmes

Standing at the end of my term I want to thank each and every player in the Southern Cape, the SCGU Executive, the WGSa Executive and the SCWGA Executive of the past 2 years for the support and for giving me the opportunity to serve this great game golf, and to allow me to grow as an individual. Mistakes were made, criticism was accepted and the “thank you” was appreciated. I am looking forward to playing regular golf again

Good luck to the new president and her executive and I hope that women’s golf in the Southern Cape will keep on growing. **This game is bigger than all of us and it deserves respect from everybody who plays it.**

Compiled by

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