



Director of Golf Report 2015

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 2014/15 Overall Order of Merit by a record margin of 615 points. His point's total of 1921.25 is also a new record. Ivan Williams won the Mid-Amateur Order of Merit with a point's total of 1441, and Andre Nel the U/23 Order of Merit with 1229 points. The Order of Merit System was further improved in 2015, and is now linked to each player's date of birth. This was a monumental task, but these changes were necessary due to SAGA cancelling the U/23 Inter Provincial and dropping the Mid-Amateur age from 35 to 30. The Country Districts Order of Merit will now replace the U/23 Order of Merit, and all players that turn 18 before 14 May 2016 have been included in the new Country Districts Order of Merit. For the Mid-Amateurs, all players that turn 30 before 08 October 2016 will see their names included in the Mid-Amateur Order of Merit.

Our Southern Cape Teams again competed very well throughout the year with strong finishes at the following Team Events: The Senior Inter Provincial Team retained their A-Division status by finishing 6th at the 2015 Senior IPT at Ebotse, and the U/23 Inter Provincial Team went unbeaten to claim the B-Division of the 2015 U/23 IPT at Johannesburg Country Club. The Mid-Amateur Inter Provincial Team finished 2nd in East London after narrowly losing to EP, and the Premier Inter Provincial Team finished 3rd in what was a strongly contested A-Division at Glendower Golf Club in Johannesburg. This was the 3rd straight year that our Premier Inter Provincial Team finished 3rd, and proves that we are now a force to be reckoned with. Our victories against WP (10 – 2), Boland (9 – 3) & EP (9 – 3) further proves this point. It also highlights how important the new Super League was in getting our players Match Play ready. Our players had noticeable better Match Play performances during 2015. The 2016 Super League will give our players further Team Match Play exposure, and will assist in getting them even more Match Play ready.

To further our Teams' competitiveness in 2016 more Match Play Tournaments (i.e. Provincial practice matches), 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 success of the Union is often measured at how well we do at Provincial Level.

We also had some outstanding achievements this past year. (1) Kingswood Golf Estate won the 1st Handicaps League (2) Oubaai Golf Club won the 1st playing of the Super League (3) Andre Nel won the WP Amateur Championship in April (4) The U/23 IPT Side won the B-Division of the SA U/23 Inter Provincial (5) Nicholas Mitchell won five Tournaments on his way to clinching the Order of Merit (6) Andre Nel, Jade Buitendag & Jovan Rebula represented South Africa at the Zone Six & African Challenge. This was the first time in SCGU's history that we had three National players in the same year (7) Cameron Moralee, Julien Sale & Caylum Boon represented the SA Junior Team at the Challenge IPT (8) Franklin Manchest represented the Presidents Team at the Challenge IPT, and also leads the SAGDB SA Order of Merit (9) The 2016 SA Amateur was awarded to Southern Cape, and will be played at George Golf Club from 28 February – 4 March 2016 (10) Jordan Duminy was named the EDEN JUNIOR SCHOOL Sportsman of the Year (11) Andre Nel was nominated as a finalist for Sportsman of the Year (12) Jovan Rebula was 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). It was decided that this prestigious award will be shared by Jovan Rebula, Andre Nel & Jade Buitendag.

The 2015/16 Order of Merit Year will now have 24 Tournaments, namely the Links Open, Southern Cape Match Play, Southern Cape Open, Southern Cape Foursomes, Southern Cape Pairs, Mossel Bay Open, Kingswood Open, Riversdale Open, George Open, Knysna Open, Oubaai Open, Plettenberg Bay Open, Stilbaai Open, Pinnacle Point Open, SANLAM 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 Tournaments are also in the planning stages for next year: Eden District Open & Central Karoo District Open.

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 Andre Nel (Nr. 3), Jade Buitendag (Nr. 4), Cameron Moralee (Nr. 22), Jovan Rebula (Nr. 24) & Nicholas Mitchell (Nr. 48). Due to their Top 5 ranking, Andre and Jade received an invitation to compete in the 2016 SA Open.

The 3rd Southern Cape Golf Union Fundraiser will take place on Thursday 26th November, and your support of this Golf Day will be much appreciated. R 35 000 was raised in 2014 to assist the Union with its annual Team expenses. Special thanks must go to our Sponsors, Affiliated Clubs and Inter Provincial 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. We will also be offering Golf Tours & Accommodation packages through our associated partner, Golf in Heaven, who will officially launch in January 2016.

I would also like to mention that we will host our second R & A Rules School on Saturday 26th November 2015. This Course will again be presented by SAGA, and will be a Level "1" Course over one day, with Level 2 & 3 following later in 2016. The Course can accommodate 30 participants, and entry forms are still available. It is also worth mentioning that 18 people passed the 1st Level 1 Rule School that was held in March of 2015. Well done guys!

1 October 2015 saw the amalgamation of Men & Women's Golf, and the full integration of Senior Golf. The process will be completed tonight when the changes to the constitution is adopted. We have restructured staff duties, and made some office and structural changes to accommodate the amalgamation & integration. Even though some financial matters must still be finalized, the move further highlights how much golf has grown over the past few years. Womens Golf & Senior Golf will join Junior Golf as an Official Division of the Southern Cape Golf Union. All three Divisions will consist of a Sub-Committee, with Chairman's and will assist the Union in the running of all the Divisions. Laetitia Higgs will be the Womens Golf Chairperson/President, Deon Kruger the Senior Golf Chairman, and Stephen Murray the Junior Golf Chairman.

The Union will also re-rate all 26 Affiliated Golf Courses during 2016/17, 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 2016. 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, and the credibility thereof.

The SCGU/SAGDB Golf Development Programme has also grown from strength to strength this past year thanks mainly to the efforts of Johan Erasmus. Special thanks must also go to Grant Hepburn (CEO of SAGDB & Golf RSA) for his respect towards our partnership and for his vision to grow the game of golf. Currently 240 children share in the benefits of the program in George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale, Stilbaai, Beaufort West & Heidelberg. Congratulations also to Franklin Manchest, the Nr. 1 Development Golfer, on being selected to play for the Southern Cape Premier Inter Provincial Team. We also look forward to

introducing new program chapters to Plettenberg Bay, Oudtshoorn & Ladismith during 2016.

Special thanks must also go to Deon Kruger, Koos Sieberhagen & Maurice van Mersch 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 last few years .

I would also like to welcome Lindy Murray in her new position as Golf Co-ordinator. Lindy has predominantly run Junior Golf for the past 4 years, and her enthusiasm and passion for golf will now further strengthen our Team's ability to handle the new workload, and her efforts will help grow the Union in years to come.

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 2016.

Kind Regards,

Billy Valentyn

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Director of Golf

Southern Cape Golf Union