



Director of Golf Report 2016

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 players for supporting the Southern Cape Tournaments, and for representing our Teams with pride.

Special thanks must also go to our Union Partners and Sponsors: Pam Golding Properties, The Pro Shop, Department of Sport, Srixon, Cleveland, Sanlam, Golf In Heaven, E-Z-GO, Harvey World Travel, Imperial Auto, Nomads, Oakhurst Hotel, Jaguar and Land Rover.

Congratulations to the respective Order of Merit winners: Ivan Williams won the 2015/16 Overall Order of Merit. His point's total of 2093.25 is also a new record. Overall runner-up, Nicholas Mitchell won the Mid-Amateur Order of Merit with a point's total of 2002.00, and Hans-Jurie Human the Country Districts Order of Merit with 1637.20 points.

Our Southern Cape Teams again competed very well throughout the year with three historic victories at the following Team Events: The U/19 Inter provincial Team won the A-Division of the SA U/19 Inter Provincial in Worcester for the first time. The Women's Golf Inter Provincial Team also won the B-Division of the SA Inter Provincial Tournament in Kwazulu Natal. The Men's Premier Inter Provincial Team won the 56th SA Inter Provincial Tournament in what was a strongly contested A-Division at Fish River Sun Golf Club in the Eastern Cape. After finishing 3rd in 2013, 2014 & 2015, this proves that we are now a force to be reckoned with. Our victories against Central Gauteng (9 – 3), Boland (9 – 3) & Gauteng North (7.5 – 4.5) 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 2016. The new "2017 Team Selection Criteria's" Squad System and the 2017 Super League will give our players further Team Match Play exposure, and will assist in getting them even more Match Play ready. The success of the Union is often measured on how well we do at Provincial Level.

We also had some outstanding achievements during this year.

- (1) Mossel Bay Golf Estate won the Handicaps League
- (2) Fancourt Golf Estate won the Super League
- (3) Jovan Rebula won the EP/Border Championship and WP Amateur Championship in April
- (4) Nicholas Mitchell won eight Club Opens on his way to clinching the Mid-Amateur OOM

- (6) Andre Nel & Jovan Rebula represented South Africa on the annual UK Tour, competing in the British Amateur
- (7) Jovan Rebula also represented South Africa in the Eisenhower Trophy (World Amateur Team Championship) in Mexico. Making this Team the highlight of any Amateur Golfers career.
- (8) Christo Lamprecht, Franklin Manchest and Bradley de Beer had National Junior Order of Merit victories.
- (9) Christo Lamprecht and Martin Vorster represented South Africa in the U/16 Italian Team Championship
- (10) Franklin Manchest represented the Presidents Team at the Challenge IPT.
- (11) The 2017 SA Stroke Play was awarded to Southern Cape, and will be played at Kingswood Golf Estate from 07 – 10 February 2017 (11) Brandon Cloete won the Wisconsin State Championship in America with record score of 19 under par, and qualified for the 2016 US Amateur Championship.
- (12) The Premier IPT side was nominated as a finalist for Team of the Year.
- (13) Jovan Rebula was named the EDEN Sportsman of the Year.

The 2016/17 Overall Men's Order of Merit Year will now have 25 Tournaments, namely the Fancourt 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, Heidelberg 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, Eden District Open & Central Karoo District Open.

It is also worth mentioning that we now have 8 Players in the Top 70 on the South African Order of Merit Rankings. They are Jovan Rebula (Nr. 3), Andre Nel (Nr. 11), Brandon Cloete (Nr. 21), Franklin Manchest (Nr. 32), Noel Anderson (Nr. 35), Jade Buitendag (Nr. 46), Caylum Boon (Nr. 47) & Nicholas Mitchell (Nr. 70).

New goals for 2017 include the introduction of the Southern Cape Supporters Club, and more Union Partners 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.

2016 also saw the amalgamation of Men & Women's Golf, and the full integration of Senior Golf. We have successfully restructured staff duties, and made some office and structural changes to accommodate the amalgamation & integration. The move further highlights how much golf has grown over the past few years. Womens Golf & Senior Golf has now joined 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. Jenny du Preez is the new Womens Golf Chairperson/President, Maurice van Merch the new Senior Golf Chairman, and Stephen Murray the Junior Golf Chairman.

The Union also started to re-rate all 26 Affiliated Golf Courses during 2016, with Tannah Harris and Rita Herholdt spearheading the rating team to provide the necessary credibility during the highly complex 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. 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 260 children share in the benefits of the program in George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale, Stilbaai, Beaufort West & Heidelberg. We also look forward to introducing new program chapters to Plettenberg Bay, Oudtshoorn & Ladismith during 2017.

Johan Erasmus must also be commended for his efforts during the 2016 Caddie League season. The Caddie League now functions with sufficient structure, and saw the introduction of the Tannah Harris Challenge Cup at Mossel Bat Golf Club. During this event the Southern Cape Caddie League Team competed against the Southern Cape Police Team, and an SAGDB Invitational Team, beating both to claim the title.

Special thanks must also go to Koos Sieberhagen, Maurice van Merch & Pieter Els and Stephen & Lindy Murray and Johan Erasmus 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. Thanks also for the lovely understanding that we have developed over the past 4 years.

I would also like to welcome Deon Botes-Schoeman in his new position as Women's Golf Administrator. Deon's enthusiasm and passion for life will now further strengthen our Team's ability to handle the new workload, and his efforts will help grow the Union in years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank the Union Secretary, Sheila Fraser and our Golf Coordinator, Lindy Murray: Thank you very much for being my left and right hand this past year ladies. 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 2017.

Kind Regards,

Billy Valentyn

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Director of Golf

Southern Cape Golf Union