



THE SA SENIOR TOUR
NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

THE SUNSHINE SENIOR TOUR MANAGEMENT:

Your management continues to strive for good governance with respect to the activities of the Senior Tour, while always trying to secure and deliver to most of the expectations from members.

03 February 2021

Dear Members,

A tribute to Mr Jannie Ackerman

It is with extreme sadness that the Board of the Senior Tour announces the passing of Jannie Ackerman in the early hours of yesterday morning. Condolences go out to his family, all his friends and business associates- he will be sorely missed.

We know Jannie as a professional golfer, who played on the Sunshine Tour and whose early business interests were at the Witbank Golf Club Pro Shop, where he served as the local PGA professional for over 20 years. He then moved on from there to become a phenomenally successful businessman in the coal mining and associated industries.

Jannie appeared to be larger than life to all who met him. His kind and helping heart to all was his biggest attribute. All were welcome in this space.

He joined the Senior Tour 13 years ago and immediately made an impact in assisting with the growth of the game of golf. Eight years ago, Jannie was one of the founders of the company (Senior Professional Golf Tour of SA) formed to create the NPO to which he became Chairman. Further, Jannie will be remembered as the force behind the organisation of 41 consecutive annual tournaments for professional golfers. Initially these were held at the Witbank Golf Club and later at the Silver Lakes facility near Pretoria. His quiet contribution to golf was enormous and appreciated by all who played in these pro-am events. The SA Senior Masters was his baby, and the tournament is a permanent fixture on the Senior Tour calendar.

In the background and unknown to most was his never-ending possession of generosity to his fellow human beings. We can announce that he has assisted many

fellow members in our organisation in cash and kind without expectation of return. He was a figure head at the Witbank Golf Club, Silver Lakes, the Senior Tour, his businesses but more importantly with his love and friendship to all. Always courteous, calm, and collected with an available helping hand to most. Socially he was active and fun to be with his bellowing laugh. He just loved the company of people and friends loved him in return.

There are many memories of Jannie, and we can write a novel about his life and activities. We take this sad period to say goodbye to Jannie for it is God's will and he has gone to a place of eternal life. We commiserate with Pam, Jason, Thys, and other family members for their loss and pray that the Lord will find healing in their hearts and minds.

Cheers Jannie you were a fantastic friend and human being.

Yours Sincerely,

The SA Senior Tour Management

It is our intention to continue with the SA Senior Masters as a prominent tournament on our event calendar. It may be presented as a memorial event or by another name and the venue may alternate on an annual basis between Witbank and Silver Lakes, respectively. Some members continue to question the number of tournaments organised in 2020, prize funds and how the sponsorship was derived. The management will advise of this at the AGM 2021.

We expect the President of the nation to announce further details and direction on the **Covid-19** position on 15 February and probably golf will be opened to have larger events into the future. It will then be possible for us to release an event schedule for 2021. Statistics of Covid-19 are still broadcast daily, and the President may move the restrictions to level 2 based on improved numbers.

The Sunshine Tour has suspended its tournament schedule for 2021 to begin in March. They too have agreements with Sun International and scheduled events have been delayed by two months. This has affected the Senior Tour and we are trying to re-schedule our events with SI at their facilities and golf courses nearby.

The Q-School at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club from 21-22 January 2021 was remarkably successful and 10 players gained full membership and playing rights. A further five received conditional membership cards and the rest of the entrants were allocated Affiliate membership with limited playing opportunities and probably the need to pre-qualify for tournaments. Congratulations to Kenneth Dube on being the leading qualifier, while Michael Du Toit, Michael Scholz and Rob Wiederkehr also had good performances. The Ranking and Exemption List will be revised and posted on the website after the Centurion event and by month end.

The 2021 AGM will be held on 09 March 2021 at the Centurion Golf Club and notification will be sent out to members on 16 February 2021. Nominations for the members to become part of the Players' Committee and two nominations for a director must be forwarded to the Senior Tour Secretary at admin@seniortour.co.za or fd@seniortour.co.za by 23 February 2021. Only nominated applicants, who are from fully paid-up registered members of the Senior Tour from 1 March 2021 will be accepted.

Tournament news:

A draft tournament for 2021 has been designed and is a working document now to secure sponsorship. We hope to release a schedule with confirmed events by 9 March 2021.

MEMBERSHIP-SUBSCRIPTIONS, TOUR SCHOOL, CARDS AND BADGES

Subscriptions have been held to R1600, the same as last year for the period 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 for the regular member category. Due to the Covid-19 position and golfing restrictions this year, membership for 2020 has been extended to all members until 28 February 2021. All members who finished in the top 40 positions on the 2020 SAST order of merit list will automatically qualify for regular members in 2020, if they wish to continue their membership.

Membership Playing Badges and Cards will be provided for players qualified in categories 1-7(c). Please check the Senior Tour Website for details on the player rankings and starting field categories after AGM on 9 March 2021.

Membership Cards only will be issued to Affiliate Members.

On 18 May, we sent certain members an email to submit some career details about themselves. Some did, most did not. Please send these to Neville Clarke (admin@seniortour.co.za), so that we can archive the details and promote the Tour.

WEBSITE REVIEW AND RECONSTRUCTION

A new website has been designed and we have experienced problems. It is under further construction. There has been agreement from the Board to constantly review the website with new offerings and newsworthy blogs. Also, we have linked into their the Sunshine Tour website and now have the same look and feel as theirs. Phase two for us is to complete the player archives and tournament menus. We are also talking to a media/digital marketing company interested in compiling performance clips and interviews at our tournaments for social media interaction.

Thank you to all our members for your continued & loyal support of the Senior Tour during 2020.

SAST Management.