



## **NEWSLETTER MAY 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.

**30 May 2021**

Dear Members,

### **Administration**

#### **Covid-19**

Much has happened since our last Newsletter. We have had three events, two of which were at the coast and one at Centurion. Added to this we squeezed in our AGM and have introduced a HealthDocs App for use by our members to fit in line with Covid-19 related risk mitigation protocols. Also, we have been in contact with the Compliance Officer responsible for Covid protocols, ensuring that senior professional golf events are administered and run in a safe way with the risk of infection of contacting Covid keep to the lowest possible level. We encourage our members all to go on to **HealthDocs** daily to input their status as previously communicated. You must have consecutive 10 days captured on your App to secure your participation in an organized SAST tournament. Failing this, you will have to produce a certificate of your Covid status by way of an antigen test at your cost. A nurse with antigen test kits may or may not be available at the tournament venue and therefore the onus will be on the member/competitor to obtain their own certificates. Amateur entrants for our pro-ams now fall into the same 'bubble' and must produce App confirmation or an antigen test certificate before play. We urge members to visit the Golf RSA website to familiarize themselves with the respective Covid protocols. The Senior Tour also publish a document at every tournament covering the procedures of play integrating Covid-19 protocols with risk management.



#### **AGM**

**The 2021 AGM** was held on 09 March 2021 at the Centurion Golf Club and attended by 27 members. Nominations for members to become part of the Players' Advisory Committee (PAC) and two nominations for

directors were forwarded to the Senior Tour Secretary. After a voting session, eight members were elected to the PAC, two of which were forwarded at a later stage to the Board as directors, all in line with the MOI.

We are pleased to confirm and announce the compliment of the PAC and thank each of them for giving of their time to assist with the player/member/board relationship issues. You PAC is as follows: Derek Ferreira, Chairman and Director, Henry Roodt, Vice Chairman and Director, Craig Frauenstein, secretary, Paul Marks, Grant Muller, Chris Davison, Kenneth Dube, Nic Henning.

Some members continued to question the number of tournaments organized in the Covid year of 2020, prize funds and how the sponsorship was derived. This was resolved at the AGM 2021 from questions from the floor.

We again reiterate that the last three events were hastily arranged when golf was opened for official tournament play and sponsorship was difficult to secure at short notice resulting in low prize funds. The good that came out of 2020 was the establishment of a new partner in Sun International and a new event arranged at Orkney. Fidelity came to the party at Copperleaf, and we thanked them for their sponsorship in tough times. We again state that David Frost did not receive an appearance fee for playing at Silver Lakes and the 2019 sponsor withdrew his apparent commitment to the 2020 SA Senior Masters based on company performance during Covid.

We presented our 2019 financial results, and the unaudited 2020 financials were discussed on screen at the AGM. At the time of the AGM, and as they were not audited, we did not copy members and the financials still remain in limbo and at the auditors. Remember that 2020 was a Covid year with low financial activity and has shown a loss for the year again. It was explained to the AGM that the loan from the Sunshine Tour was the determining factor on the debt side of the balance sheet. Our repayment plan was hampered through the lack of events in 2020 and therefore income generation. In previous years we have supported the Simon Hobday event prize fund through player levies and the management fees from two SA Senior Opens. If these monies had rather gone to the repayment of the ST loan, then the loan would have been liquidated by now. We endeavour to give members enough time to peruse the financials prior to the next AGM by way of secure and private member password access on the website. As soon as the audited results are signed off, we will advise members and you can request an electronic copy. We are not trading in an insolvent position although the financials show differently. We have a five- year period to repay the loan and ST are aware of the position as discussed with them in January. We will review our position towards the end of the year and given no Covid stoppages of tournament play, we will be better off. The pertinent points of the AGM were posted on the website after the meeting.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

It is our intention to continue with the SA Senior Masters as a prominent tournament on our event calendar for 2021 and beyond. We mention this because of the passing of Jannie Ackerman, the pioneer of this event and others before spanning the past 38 years. We are please to announce that we have had talks with Jason,

Jannie's son, who has approved that we hold the SASM at Silver Lakes this year in honour of Jannie and then in years to come move to have an invitational memorial event. The event is confirmed for 3-5 November 2021.

The Ranking and Exemption List has been revised from the one given to members in the 'pack' at the AGM. Also, the 'points' system also given at the pack has been scrapped and the money earnings will now be valid for the Race to WCS.

The draft tournament schedule for 2021 as presented at the AGM has been altered with confirmed and unconfirmed tournaments. It is attached with prize funds to be finalized.

Management is focused on collaborating with the private and public sectors to secure tournaments for our members. Sun International has become an important partner in our strategy to create events that benefit both parties as well as private sector corporate entities. In this regard, we are pleased to announce that the Sun City pro-am 2021 will be from 23-25 August over 54 holes and all rounds played on the Lost City course.

This is a limited field event for 25 senior professionals and 75 amateur participants. All amateurs are obliged to pay an entry fee of R3 000.00, and professionals must organise their own teams of three amateurs. Sun International- MVG guests will be assigned the top 10 professionals from the 2021 SAST Ranking and Exemption List, based on the Order of Merit 2020 or by special invitations by agreement with SAST. The remaining entry exemptions will go down the list to 22<sup>nd</sup> spot. Thereafter those who enter with teams will have to pre-qualify at a venue to be announced for the remaining three spots. We envisage that the professionals will receive complimentary accommodation for three nights and amateurs will have special prices for two nights.

The next event is sponsored by Fidelity at Copperleaf from 17-18 June 2021. Entries close 3<sup>rd</sup> June to give adequate notice about Covid protocols. The prize fund is R100 000, and we thank Fidelity for their continued support. There are three other Fidelity events to be confirmed at Kyalami, Eagle Canyon and either Blue Valley or CCJ.

We are working on a Groblersdal event in early September on a 9-hole course which may also be a limited field size tournament. This will be followed by events in Orkney, Witbank, and Kingswood (George) in October while we expect to have the SA Senior Masters at Silver Lakes (3-5 November) followed by events at Dainfern and Wild Coast Sun. The co-sanctioned event with the Legends Tour is still work in progress scheduled for the last week in November and requiring large sponsorship.

Congratulations to Chris Williams on winning the opening event of 2021 at Centurion with a good score of 66 on a waterlogged and shortened course due to flood damage.



James Kingston won well at Plettenberg Bay in the SA Senior Open with a superb score of 13 under par 275. The weather played its part although two of the days were played in tricky and slightly windy conditions making shot options and selection difficult. The course was in magnificent condition and the functions after play were well attended and created

much interest for our organisation. This ended a three-year contract and the 4<sup>th</sup> running of the event in Plett. We are working on a new three deal and hope to conclude the business in July sometime.

Chris Williams won the Nelson Mandela Bay Classic in fine style on a score of 3 under par 213 over the 54 holes played on the terrific Humewood Golf Course. This was a great effort given that day 2 produced winds of 40-50Km per hour. The greens were magnificent but extremely difficult to read, especially the speed downwind. The fairways were well covered even given the severe drought the region has



experienced lately. The Humewood course showed why it is a wonderful design as the layout demands the player to be imaginative in his shot options and execution. Sun International supplied complimentary accommodation to the players and delivered a splendid Tuesday function. It is without doubt our best event on our schedule and we hope that a 3-year deal can be reached. Thanks must go to the SAST and Accelerate Sport staff who worked extremely hard to ensure the success of the event. Pat Lowth was back with his internet-based scoring system and doubled up as the TD and the event was delivered smoothly under his direction. Unfortunately, there was a technical or systems glitch in the TV broadcast of the 56 Minute package that has since been sorted with a pending report to be delivered. The correct sequence of the production is available on 'catch up' on DSTV.

## **MEMBERSHIP-SUBSCRIPTION, 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 membership category.

The distribution of membership metal badges has been scrapped due to our supplier going out of business and increased costs. Fiona has the membership cards if you have not yet received yours.

## **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 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. Ingress Technologies are busy with an enhanced design that awaits a presentation for approval next month.

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 2021.***

***SAST Management.***