



NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

THE 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.

16 December 2023

Dear Members,

Administration

The executive administration and the board of directors met on 3rd October 2023 and resolutions were adopted.

The website, including the Players' sign-in and statistics were not completed this year due to the spend provision going towards the purchase of a new Golf Genius 'Live Scoring APP system." We trust that these elements of the website will be completed in 2024 and assisted by budget approval from the directors.

We state again that we still strive to secure an overall or naming sponsor that will enable the company to employ permanent staff and thereby improve communications and efficiency of operations. Members are encouraged to seek potential sponsors for events and to communicate this with the COO. Commissions are available to the prospector upon a written agreement with SAST and the deal coming to fruition. A booklet is available for members to hand out to potential sponsors if you elect to prospect on behalf of SAST. A letter from the COO is necessary for a member to approach corporate companies on an on-going basis, and contracts/ commissions must be agreed in writing and signed off with the COO.

Adilson Da Silva won the first event on the Legends Tour this year beating Keith Horne in a playoff



and James Kingston won again as well. Well done to these valuable members of our Tour, no mean feat considering the quality of players on that tour. Chris Williams and Doug McGuigan also played well in their appearances overseas. We had a meeting with the Legends Tour in England in August, and



we will keep the membership posted on developments derived from the meeting. Adilson finished 2nd on the Legends order of merit for 2023 and James Kingston 3rd, while Chris Williams ended 42nd.

Events Schedule 2024

Please see as posted on the website, the Provisional 2024 Events Schedule with some confirmed tournaments and others still to be signed off. This will be edited from time to time. The 2024 Ranking and Exemption List was presented from the 2023 ORDER OF MERIT including the new members. The qualifying school will take place from 25th – 26th January 2024 at Royal Johannesburg WEST course and thereafter the Ranking list 2024 will be finally edited. **Entries close 4th January 2024.**

We must thank all our sponsors involved during 2023 that made it possible for our members to participate in tournaments. *Fidelity* continues to support us, and we are incredibly grateful. *Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality* continue to support our Tour, as well as the new sponsors like *Piet Pretorius and associate companies, Zambesi Gold, Nelson Mwale, Mangais Resort, Angola, Leon Van Der Walt, Phillip Degenaar of Blue Bird Manufacturing, MH Tayob and Sun International.* We also thank all the clubs who agreed to host events this year as well as all the amateur participants who supported our cause.



We again advise members that to retain regular membership for 2024 that you needed to finish in the top 40 of the 2023 order of merit list as of 31st December 2023 and having played in a minimum of three (3) OOM events. Also, please check the Ranking List 2024 to see your playing opportunities.

This is again an instruction that you enter events through the TD, Pat Lowth, via SMS response or by telephone or WhatsApp and you must confirm your entry by email to entries@seniortour.co.za, where you will receive a response reference. A commitment form to enter an array of events is available upon request from the TD. The onus is on the player/entrant to confirm his entry at any tournament with the TD before the close of entries, especially in limited field events and where you may need to pre-qualify.

Please do not enter events through Fiona, she manages our financial matters.

All tournament related queries must be addressed to the Tournament Director, Pat Lowth at td@seniortour.co.za. Pat will also be responsible for posting player information, draws and results on the website. There will also be a 'Blog' button soon, where weekly articles of interest will be posted including some golfing tips from many different tutors.

All financial matters and entry fees must be addressed to fd@seniortour.co.za for the attention of Fiona Burger. **Payments for events must be made by email to fd@seniortour.co.za and then you will be given confirmation and a reference number.** At the closing date of entries final

acceptances to the starting field will be made as well as the Pre-Q terms and conditions, if necessary. Late entries will not be accepted in 2024, and late withdrawals within 7 days of the starting date of an event will still attract the entry fee. The player who does not pay this penalty will not be allowed to play in further events until payment is received. Only medical and family crisis positions will be considered for withdrawals within this period.

All our events are played in Pro-Am format at this stage and in most tournaments our members are required to enter with an amateur or a team of amateurs. This is where you as the members assist SAST financially to make these Pro-Ams viable by bringing amateurs to play in the events. It is a great challenge to secure funding for events and your directors will try their utmost to arrange tournaments and amateur participants away from Gauteng.

We played 12 events in 2023.

- **Senior PGA Championship**, sponsored by Zambesi Gold and played at the Parys Golf Club, and won by Doug McGuigan after a playoff with James Kingston on 8 under, 208 for the three rounds.
- The **Nelson Mandela Bay Classic** held from 10th – 12th May was an outstanding success and enjoyed by all. Adilson Da Silva won the event by one shot from Keith Horne with a ten under par total of 206, this after a first round 63.
- The first **Fidelity** event was played at **Kyalami** from 17th – 18th May and won by Michael Scholz with a score of 140 on a wet course with pacy greens. Thanks go to Fidelity for their continued sponsorship and the club for their hospitality.
- The second **Fidelity** event was played at **Jackal Creek** and won by Callie Swart on 3 under par 141.
- The second **Mangais Senior Classic** held from 15th – 17th July 2023 was again a resounding success, and won by Doug McGuigan on 10 under par, 206. There was discrepancy about the prize fund production and that was sorted with explanations given to those concerned. The payment of the prize fund from the main or host sponsors became an issue beyond their control. We were informed that there were forex matters at the issuing bank in Angola, that caused the delay in the funding reaching our bank in SA. Payments were completed, 7th September 2023 to those winning money at the Angolan tournament. **This is an appeal for members not to approach our sponsors at tournaments without prior permission from the TD or COO of the Senior Tour. All value-added funding by a third party for a tournament in money or product promotion at the event must be sanctioned by SAST.**
- The **Lost City Pro-Am** was also very successful with a full limited field and enjoyed by most. Grant Muller defended his title won last year with a good score of 2 under par, 142 on severely quick greens that only the confident putter could handle.

- The **SA Senior Masters** was played at Middelburg Golf Club from 25th – 27th September 2023 with an increased prize fund at R500 000 over the three days, two of which were Pro-Ams. At this event we remember the late Jannie Ackerman, who initiated the event at Witbank, and also held the same at Silver Lakes. Here we also take the opportunity to thank the main sponsors for their funding including Babcock, Nashua and the associate companies involved with Pieter Pretorius and Bertram Lear. The event was won in some inclement weather by Chris Williams on 8 under par, 208, from a very strong field.
- This event was immediately followed by the **Ebotse Pro-Am** in Benoni, 28th – 29th September 2023, hosted by Nelson Mwale over 36 holes of stroke play including a one day Pro-Am for a prize fund of R150k. We thank Nelson Mwale and the other partners who supported the funding of the event. Doug McGuigan won the tournament with a fabulous score of 6 under par, 138.
- **The Fidelity Kingswood Pro-Am** was next on the schedule from 12th – 13th October 2023. Another new name to the winners' box was Rob Wiederkehr on 3 under par, 141, where the first round was played in very challenging weather conditions. Thanks again must go to Fidelity for their funding and support, as well as the Kingswood Golf Estate staff and George Municipality.
- Then we had a short time to prepare for the **Bluebird Manufacturing Pro-Am**, sponsored by Phillip Degenaar and MH Tayob. The Rustenburg Golf course was in good condition on this tight course that really punished bad shots. This was the venue for the SA Senior Open, an event not played for two years. The winner was Wallie Coetsee on a very good score of 9 under par, 207, beating the likes of Doug McGuigan and James Kingston.
- **The Simon Hobday Classic, held at Blue Valley Golf Estate** was next, and the event was washed out on the initial days of 7th & 8th November. Dates were rescheduled after the SA Senior Open and after a reduced field size the winner was Keith Horne on a good score of 8 under par, 136.
- **The Wild Coast Sun Pro-Am** was played from 27th – 28th November 2023 and won by stalwart Mark McNulty on 143. The second day was played in windy conditions and Mark held on to win from a Swiss raider and member Igor Brandstatter, after scoring 68 in round 1 and breaking his age by two shots. Hospitality was tremendous and supplied by Sun International, Wild Coast Sun, while the course was in good condition with spectacular changes in scenery from holes 1, 4 and 13. Thanks to Freddy Beaver, Arnie Mentz, Pinkie and all the management and staff at WCS for their wonderful efforts to make the event the success it deserved.

- The John Bland Trophy at Fancourt is scheduled for May 2024.
- Many prospective tournaments were cancelled this year, and we deduct that most of the decline from our proposals stem from economic conditions in SA, as well as the real benefits we can offer as a membership to willing clients. Current economic conditions and upcoming elections in SA and abroad will be a determining factor in our ongoing success to provide tournaments next year and beyond.
- Much work is done behind the scenes, and it is tough to provide tournaments to the expectation of members. The membership can assist by showing real interest in the growth of the organisation by staying on after play and attending Pro-Am and winner's prize giving's.
- We are also concerned about the discipline of some members on and off the course. Your operating staff and executive management have been lenient up till now, so please adhere to the company General Regulations as well as the additional local rules created sometimes by way of requests from the hosting club or other necessary rules to make for the safety and enjoyment for all participants.
- We take this opportunity to thank all our operating staff, directors, members and guests for their participation in making 2023 successful and further wish all our members, sponsors, stakeholders, management and hosting clubs a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024.

SAST Management.

