



MPUMALANGA GOLF UNION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD AT CAROLINA GOLF CLUB

ON SATURDAY 19th MAY 2018 AT 08h00

Present :

Graeme Morrison	President	in the chair
Rob Pryde	Highveld Golf	President
Johann van Rensburg	Highveld Golf	Vice President
Johann Bezuidenhout	Lowveld Golf	Delegate
Edwin Compton	Development	MGU Manager
Robbie Haward	Highveld Golf	Delegate
Colin Mulligan	Secretary	in attendance

The Chairman warmly welcomed all to this final meeting of the financial year but expressed his disappointment at the small turnout of committee members.

APOLOGIES : Hanlie Uys, Adriaan Rabe, Stephan Potgieter, Coenie du Preez, Frkkie Fensham, Francis Themane

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes of the Executive meeting, held at Belfast Golf Club on 17 March, 2018 which had been circulated, was confirmed by the Executive and signed as a true record by the Chairman. Proposed by Robbie Haward and seconded by Johann van Rensburg.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES :

Nil

3. TOURNAMENTS AND MATCHES CONCLUDED :

- 3.1 The Highveld Mid Amateur Strokeplay Championship played at Middelburg on 8 April attracted a quality field of 70 players from all corners of the country. The course was in a really good condition and arrangements from the club out of the top drawer. Long hitting Ernest Botha from Kempton Park was just too good for the rest of the field and ran out an easy winner on 133 – he shot 64 in his opening round – runner-up was local boy Christiaan de Beer on 138 followed by the No 1 Mid Amateur player in the country Gerlou Roux on 139. Protea golfer Ryan Dreyer and Jacques van Tonder of Gauteng North were joint 4th on 142 with Gary Daniel on 144 in 6th spot. The pace of play by these mid amateurs was impressive as this big field finished at 17:10 after setting out at 07:00.
- 3.2 The Highveld Open was played at Walker Park on 22 April and attracted a small but quality field of 43 players. The greens at Walker Park will rival any other in the province with the course in good nick after good rains. No 9 ranked player in South Africa Andre van Heerden ran out a narrow winner on a score of 137 from 20 year old Ivan Mare, coming home in 65, to finish runner-up on 138. Mark Ferreira, Ian Jacobs and Stephen Morrison were in joint 3rd place all on 142. Ru-Juan Lessingh and Martin Pieterse shared 6th spot on 146.
- 3.3 The Highveld Tournament of Champions played at Ermelo on 6th May in conjunction with the Mpumalanga Ladies attracted a field of 69 players – the mens C division could not be accommodated on the same day as the field was too large. The A division was won by Ru-Juan

Lessingh on 137, scores 76–61, from Eddie Daniel 138 and Andre van Heerden 3rd on 143. The B division was won by Chrisjan Basson on 157 from Marius Lombard on 160. The Ladies A division was won by Chante Boonstra on a score of 159 – the B division was won by Sophia Stroh on 183 and the C division by J. Willemse on 80 points. Arrangements by the club were very good, the catering excellent and the course in a good condition. S.A organizer Paul Adams was in attendance.

- 3.4 The Jock Open played at Nelspruit on 13 May attracted a field of 47 players and was won by local local golfer Drikus Joubert on a good score of 137 – 69/68 – from Andre van Heerden on 139.
- 3.5 The MGU Country Districts team were expected to do well at the S.A Tournament hosted at Potchefstroom from 14/18 May as it was considered the best team available. The cold and rain played its part with the result that the team played poorly and lost 4 out of its 4 matches to be relegated to the B section next year. The only bit of sunshine that came out of the tournament was the performance of 20 year old Ian Jacobs who playing at No 1 never lost a singles match. That the team performed poorly is a huge disappointment as most expected this team to win the A section. It must be said that they lost narrowly to KZN, 7 – 5, lost 7 – 5 to North West, lost 7½ – 4½ to Free State and last but not least lost 7½ – 4½ to Limpopo who have never beaten any MGU team in the past. The selectors will have to come up with a winning formula next year.

4. **FORTHCOMING FIXTURES :**

- 4.1 The Highveld Matchplay is to be hosted at Kriel on 26/27 May with the top 16 players in Highveld taking part.
- 4.2 The Lowveld Open and Lowveld Mid Am will be played in tandem at Nelspruit on 8 July, entry forms have been circulated. A quality field is expected.
- 4.3 The MGU Foursomes is scheduled for Witbank on 17 June, the entry forms have been circulated. Clubs are requested to support this event.

5. **SAGA MATTERS :** Graeme Morrison reported –

- 5.1 SAGA second Vice President Martin Saaiman convened a managers meeting at the Potchefstroom Country Districts to discuss the status of the Country Districts – the question is did Saaiman have a mandate authorized by the SAGA.
- 5.2 Advertising will now feature on the GOLFRSA website.
- 5.3 A new red card will be issued by HNA as the new handicap card prior to September this year – SAGA are currently discussing the idea of buying the HNA share of the Handicap System so as to ensure that they own the System outright.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE :**

All correspondence, in and out, was tabled. They were made available to the Members of the Executive to peruse at their leisure after the meeting

7. **SPONSORSHIP :**

A sponsor is required for the Foursomes Championships scheduled for Witbank in June.

8. **FINANCE :**

- 8.1 The Budget is running to schedule – the Statement as at 30 April 2018 was circulated to all and

approved after a short discussion – the deficit is currently R674900 but the bulk of the affiliation fees have not as yet been paid over by the Associations. The Chairman requested the Association's to pay over the outstanding fees as the end of the Financial year is at hand. The committee further approved a motion to hotcard any club that has not paid up by 25 May, d-day was 20 April.

- 8.2 The Finance Minister has increased the VAT by 1% to make up for the deficit in tax income this past year. Clubs are reminded of this fact as it comes into effect as from 1 April 2018.
- 8.3 Total expenses of the motor vehicle to date are R116118 – Highveld Golf is due to make the agreed upon contribution before the 25th May.
- 8.4 The Affiliation fees for the 2019 year would be increased by 10% – approved by the committee.

9. REPORTS :

9.1 HIGHVELD : Rob Pryde

The handicap leagues are at the semi final stage with the usual problems that go with all leagues. The Greenside Open was won by Ivan Mare on 142 in a field of 39 players – The Witbank Open has been postponed to 1st July as a result of the heavy rains the course experienced – A successful Highveld Mid Amateur was hosted at Middelburg with Enest Botha of Kempton Park posting an excellent winning score of 133 – Gary Daniel won the Volksrust Open on a score of 147 – The Highveld Open was a successful tournament played at Walker Park with Andre van Heerden winning on a score of 137 – No results of the Bethal Open have reached the Secretary as yet – The Champ of Champs hosted at Ermelo with the ladies proved a success and play finished at 17:20 with 69 players in the field – The Bankenveld Open is scheduled for this weekend followed by the Highveld Matchplay at Kriel on 26/27 May. The MGU Foursomes is scheduled for Witbank on 17 June. The Highveld AGM is due on 14 July at Middelburg and the playoff against the Lowveld league winner is scheduled for Middelburg on 28 July. Tweefontein Golf Club will close temporarily on 26 May for approx. 21 months when the new course will open. They will in all likelihood form a Virtual Club at Witbank.

9.2 LOWVELD : Johann Bezuidenhout

The Sabie Open was played on the 6th May with 30 players taking part and local golfer Sonnyboy Sehlabela with Michael Nkosi of Barberton the runner-up. During the next Lowveld AGM the possibility of playing the smaller 9 hole Opens on a Saturday will be discussed in order to attract a bigger field. The next scheduled Open in the Lowveld will be the Malelane Open on 23 June. The Lowveld Open and Mid Amateur will run over 2 days at Mbombela Golf Club on 7/8 July which will allow players to leave earlier on the Sunday as the roads in Mpumalanga are extremely busy at night. A preliminary discussion regarding the future Lowveld committee has begun as Coenie du Preez has indicated that he will be standing down as Lowveld President at the end of his term. It is likely that Stephan Potgieter will take over as the next President with Adriaan Rabe of Whire River taking over the role as of Lowveld Vice President. The handicap league concludes the round-robin stage on 18 May, with the playoffs commencing on the first Saturday in June. The teams have enjoyed the season, and a tightly contested playoff section is expected. On a disappointing note Ronald Ncube of Barberton is currently under investigation for playing off two handicaps. He is registered as a full member at both Kruger Park Lodge and Barberton, and has different handicaps at both venues. He has used his higher handicap to play at sponsored days whilst using a lower handicap when playing league matches. As soon as Barberton Golf Club have concluded their investigation, further feedback will be given.

9.3 DEVELOPMENT : Edwin Compton

The Development Manager was moving to Malelane and will direct affairs from there – things are going well with our development programme and several youngsters are showing talent. Graceland had offered to host a SAGDB tournament consisting of SAGDB players which would be a good practice match for the SAGDB IPT.

9.4 **MPUMALANGA JUNIOR and SCHOOLS GOLF:**

Arrangements for the S.A U/17 strokeplay are in hand under the capable wing of Secretary Petricia Buurman – The Chairman had informed Junior Golf he required an action plan from them asap whereby the direction of Junior Golf was outlined for a number of years ahead. Numbers at tournaments are falling away and finances need urgent attention, an action plan is of prime importance for the benefit of the committee's that follow the current one.

9.5 **SENIOR AMATEUR GOLF :**

The Seniors finished 3rd at the Senior IPT played at Pecanwood on 23/27 April. The team started well and won their first 3 matches against Limpopo, Northern Cape and Free State comfortably – on the final day they played against Boland and Border and simply did not get going losing to both, this after arriving late on the tee and suffering the standard penalty.

9.6 **WOMENS GOLF :**

No Report

9.7 **DISCIPLINARY REPORT :**

Nothing to report

10. **GENERAL :**

- 10.1 All aspects of the forthcoming MGU Open scheduled for Highland Gate in early September were discussed, the final costing and arrangements sent from the club were also too hand. Several concerns were discussed and after a lengthy debate it was decided not to take up the offer from Highland Gate – a letter would be sent to the club thanking them for their patients with the Union pointing out why the Union withdrew from hosting there.
- 10.2 The 2019 Premier IPT scheduled for Mbombela in 2019 was debated – it was decided that Mpumalanga Golf Union would initially request SAGA to send all relevant info to the Union and from there on the Union would make all the arrangements for the tournament subject to the approval of SAGA.
- 10.3 Tweefontein Golf Club would close temporarily as from 27 May for 21 months when the new course would be opened for play – they would however operate as a Virtual Club out of Witbank G.C.
- 10.4 The admin of SAGA would be requested to send all SAGA meeting minutes to the MGU office as well as there is a problem in downloading from the Presidents copy.
- 10.5 As most MGU teams struggled with foursomes play the Chairman requested that all players who feature on the MGU Stroke Averages list should make an effort to participate in the forthcoming foursomes tournament to be hosted at Witbank in June.
- 10.6 It was decided by the committee that the Player of the Year was Andre van Heerden and Junior Player of the Year is Ian Jacobs.

- 10.7 The Executive agreed that the team to represent Mpumalanga at the National Tournament of Champions at Glendower in November would be : A Division Ru-Juan Lessingh of Graceland Country Club - B Division Chrisjan Basson of Kranspoort Golf Club - C Division Herman Bosman of Ermelo Country Club.
- 10.8 The Ranking System has not been decided on as yet and the Chairman was requested to sound out several Unions as to what they do and what System they use.
- 10.9 It was approved that in future all Managers' Reports must be sent in to the President within one week of the end of any IPT Tournament.

NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY 21 July, 2018 AT MIDDELBURG COUNTRY CLUB AT 08h00

Graeme Morrison
Chairman

Please post these minutes on the club notice board for the members to read once the Club Committee has discussed them.----- Visit a very active MGU website at : www.mgu.co.za