



MPUMALANGA GOLF UNION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD AT CAROLINA GOLF CLUB

ON SATURDAY 05 OCTOBER 2019 AT 08h30

Present :

Graeme Morrison	President	in the chair
Coenie du Preez	Mpumalanga	Vice President
Rob Pryde	Highveld Golf	President
Johann van Rensburg	Highveld Golf	Vice President
Johann Bezuidenhout	Lowveld Golf	Vice President
Robbie Haward	Highveld Golf	Delegate
Colin Mulligan	Secretary	in attendance

The Chairman warmly welcomed all the members to this First meeting of the golfing year.

APOLOGIES : Stephan Potgieter, Edwin Compton, Hanlie Uys,

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes of the Executive meeting, held at Middelburg Country Club on 20 July 2019 which had been circulated, was confirmed by the Executive and signed by the Chairman as a true record – proposed by Johann Bezuidenhout and seconded by Coenie du Preez.
- 1.2 The amended minutes of the AGM held at Middelburg Country Club on 20 July which had been circulated, was – subject to the inclusion of Hanlie Uys, Francis Themane and Edwin Compton as being present at the 2019 AGM – confirmed by the Executive to submit to the 2020 AGM for approval. Proposed by Rob Pryde and seconded by Robbie Haward.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES :

No matters were raised.

3. TOURNAMENTS AND MATCHES CONCLUDED :

- 3.1 The Handicap League Playoff between Mbombela and Volksrust played at Lydenburg on 27 July produced an upset with Volksrust winning 5 – 3 to give Highveld an overall lead of 10 – 7. The match was played in a good spirit on a course in good condition. Thanks to Lydenburg and Lowveld for excellent arrangements.
- 3.2 The Northern Province Scratch League Final hosted by Gauteng North at Silver Lakes on 27/28 clearly shows that Mpumalanga are not good enough to compete at that level as the MGU team of Walker Park never won a match and ended the tournament at the bottom of the log. They lost 7.5 – 0.5 to Silver Lakes– winners of the tournament – lost 8 – 0 to Royal Joburg; lost 6 – 2 to Polokwane; lost 5 – 3 to Benoni; lost 6.5 – 1.5 to Potchefstroom. In the Highveld Scratch League of 2019 Walker Park are not fielding a team. Thanks to Silver Lakes and Gauteng North for excellent arrangements.
- 3.3 The MGU Executive played in the annual Northern Province Golf Day this year at Magalies Park on 9 August and Graeme Morrison and Partner won the two ball competition with the MGU team coming third in the team event – the day was enjoyed and played on a very good golf course. NWGU were excellent hosts.

- 3.4 The Mpumalanga Open hosted at Mbombela on 30 August to 1 September attracted 87 entries on a course in good nick and was played in very warm weather. Arrangements by the club and Lowveld were as usual very good. Rigardt Albertse from Potefstroom ran out as overall winner on a score of -4 from Liam van Deventer of Magalies Park on -1 and Vaughn van Deventer of State Mines in 3rd spot on level par. Bankenveld's Drikus Joubert and Jacques van Tonder of Waterkloof were joint 4th on +2. Not many of the Province's top players made an effort to play. The sponsor has agreed to playing the tournament at Witbank in 2020.
- 3.5 **Coenie du Preez – IPT Manager – tabled his report** The South African Premier IPT was hosted at Mbombela from 16/20 September – the course had a good shower of rain prior to the tournament and the greens were at their best. Ekurhuleni surprised all by winning the A section comfortably not losing a single match. The B section was won by North West who also never lost a match. The MGU team finished down the ladder but it is felt they were far better than the result shows. The first morning put them on the back foot losing the foursomes to Boland 4-0. They halved the singles to lose overall by 8 - 4 - in their next match they lost 6.5 to 5.5 in a close match to Eastern Province after leading in the foursomes - in their next match against Free State the team were level at 2-2 in the foursomes but in the run in the singles they let it slide to lose overall 7.5 to 4.5 - in their next match against Border they were never in trouble and won 8 - 4 in a canter - the final match on the Friday against log leaders North West was a nerve wracking one, North West had a narrow lead in the foursomes and were struggling in the singles, they however hung on for dear life and squeezed a 4 - 4 half in the singles to win 6.5 - 5.5 overall to win the section and get promotion to the A Section next year - well done to North West. Ru-Juan Lessingh never lost a singles match and was our best player. Drikus Joubert and Stephen Morrison had good tournaments. Mbombela Golf Club arrangements were outstanding with solid backing from Lowveld. Team Manager Coenie du Preez was thanked by the Chairman for looking after the team as well as he did. Mbombela and Lowveld Golf were lauded by GOLFRSA for excellent arrangements, the catering exceeded expectations and the course turned out in good condition. Stephen Morrison had proved to be a very good captain of the team - uniforms were good but arrived late. The temperatures were something else.

4. FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

- 4.1 The Mid Am team flies out to Cape Town this Saturday and the Chairman wished the team on behalf of the Executive the best of luck. Uniform problems have bugged both the IPT and Mid Am teams and the Executive will have to come up with a solution - stay with the current firm or shop around. This will be discussed at the Bosberaad on 30 November.
- 4.2 The MGU Charity Cup final is at Middelburg on 9 November and so far the Highveld Clubs have heeded the call and close on R40000 has been collected - Lowveld clubs are in the process of still playing their club days and the proceeds will be sent asap.

5. SAGA MATTERS : Graeme Morrison reported -

The GOLFRSA Exec meetings at Mbombela during the IPT were successful - The Roll Out of the WHS which was hosted at Middelburg on the 18th and at Ermelo on the 19th September were both successful with 19 turning up at each venue. Wimpie du Plessis of GOLFRSA conducted both classes and really knows her subject. At the closing Executive Meeting a number of decisions were approved - Four Ball Alliance is not an authorized format of play - players are required to pre - register their intent to submit a recreational score for handicap purposes - 9 holes must be played for the score to be acceptable - Cost of Exec clothing to be split between SAGA and Union - a checklist prior to a tournament to be circulated as a standard guideline for Unions to use - Country Districts meals to be shared by Unions who will be billed for the costs - preferred lies will be scrapped at all courses as from 1 January 2020. Teams may now travel on aircraft in casual wear to the satisfaction of the team manager.

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 :

Both Platinum Petroleum and Adiomart have committed to sponsorship of the Open and Closed Championships of 2020.

8. FINANCE

The Secretary tabled the Budget Statement as at 30 September which reflects a loss at present but with still the total affiliation fee to come things will get better. Total Income at this stage is 128054 as opposed to the total expenditure of 603822. The MGU Open at Mbombela was an expensive exercise with 8 not paying – 5 have been tracked down so far – we were however grateful for the R25000 sponsorship from Platinum Petroleum Supplies. Highveld Golf must still pay over what they collected on behalf of the MGU towards the Charity Cup which will be hosted at Middelburg on 9 November. Lowveld clubs that played their club Day must also pay up. The MGU will increase their affiliation fees by 10% to cover costs incurred at the Premier IPT . The Treasurer requested that the MGU Bookkeeper be paid R500.00 per month – approved.

9. REPORTS :

9.1 WOMENS GOLF :

Congratulations to the MGU Ladies team on winning the Lower Half of the A division of the Womens IPT played at Vaal Country Club from 24/27 September – in the qualifying strokeplay the team finished 7th and had to play in the A2 Division of the A Pool. The team was Patrizio Lombard, Nicola Schoeman, Chante Boonstra, Danielle Bekker, Petrone Rudolph and Emily Jones. Manager was Alida Schoeman. On day 1 they beat KwaZulu-Natal 7.5– 1.5; this was a good start. On day 2 they beat Gauteng North 5– 4 and on the last day beat Southern Cape 7 – 2 and in doing so won the A2 Division in the A Pool. Well done Ladies. The President of MGU, Graeme Morrison would contact the Womens President, Hanlie Uys, to discuss the integration of Womens Golf within the MGU so as to strengthen the current relationship.

9.2 HIGHVELD : Rob Pryde

The two WHS Roll Outs, one at Middelburg and the other at Ermelo attracted a combined attendance of 38 persons and in Wimpie du Plessis GOLFRSA have a very capable person. The Roll Outs were in plain simple English, a number of questions were asked and all were answered. Clubs should all be ready by October 1. The Tweefontein Open was won by Darren Neyt on 142 in a field of 53 – the 2019 MGU Open at Mbombela in early September was a very well organized tournament and things went off smoothly, there was a lack of Highveld golfers who took part, something that should be looked at – Congrats to Volksrust on winning the playoff against Mbombela at Lydenburg, it is always difficult to win in the Lowveld – Walker Park were a disappointment in the Northern Province Scratch League final played at Silver Lakes losing all their matches – In the run in at the MGU Open young Drikus Joubert had a great chance to win there and only experience kept him from it. Well done to the MGU Ladies at the Womens IPT played at Vereeniging this past week, they won the lower half of the A division, a really good effort. Affiliation fees for 2020 have been circulated to all Highveld Clubs – Highveld R47.50 – Junior/Senior R43.20 – MGU R192.50 and GOLFRSA R199.34 a total of R482.54.

9.3 LOWVELD : Johann Bezuidenhout

In a 55-strong field at the Mbombela Open on the 4th of August, Brandon Geere shot a level-par 142 to win by 1 shot from Neville Meyer. Four weeks later, during the weekend of 30 August to 1 September, Mbombela hosted a strong field of 87 players for the Platinum Petroleum Supplies Mpumalanga Open, which was won by Rigardt Albertse of NWGU on a 4-under total of 280. Drikus Joubert finished in a commendable T-4th on a score of 286. The 2019 IPT was undoubtedly the crowning moment of the year, and we are extremely proud of the hard work that was put in by Darren and the team of Mbombela, not only on the course, but off it as well. 37 players participated in the Barberton Open on the 28th of September, with Jaco van der Watt of White River winning on a score of 149 from Rodney Mokoena of Polokwane on 153. The MGU Charity Cup is up and running in the Lowveld, and have thus far been hosted by Lydenburg, White River, Sabie, Sabi River Sun, and Mbombela. We also had two HNA workshops that were held at Leopard Creek and Mbombela, which was attended well. The new handicap league starts on the 26th of October, with Highland Gate a welcome addition to the league family. Sadly, Pilgrims Rest is unable to field a side. Under course development, we note that Pilgrims Rest will be reverting to a par of 72 in the near future, and have advised the club to make sure that the course rating is done as soon as the course is set up. We are also delighted to see Kambaku back on the Open roster. We would like to wish our Mid-Am IPT team under the captaincy of Stephan Potgieter the best of luck, and are proud of all the players representing our province. Finally, we are honored to welcome Darren Plumb of Mbombela onto the Lowveld Executive Committee. His knowledge, enthusiasm and work-rate are all admirable assets, and we know he will be of great value to the LGU team.

9.4 DEVELOPMENT : Edwin Compton

In tournaments concluded 3 of the 5 SAGDB players who entered the MGU Open at Mbombela Golf Club made the cut with 15 year old TJ Sandys scoring a 77 in the third round and 16 year old Thami Ngobeni shooting a 74 in round 2. Dino Thobela was 2nd in the Kambaku Junior Open and SAGDB featured well in the Barberton Open – Dino Thobela led after round one but fell away to finish 3rd and in the rankings TJ Sandys is No2 and Thabo Dube No 4 in the U.15 – in the boys U.17 TJ Sandys is ranked 2nd with Thami Ngobeni at No 3. In the U.19 TJ Sandys is ranked 7th and Thami Ngobeni is 9th. In the girls Tamara Sandys in ranked 2nd and Dimpho Mhlongo 3rd. Expenses have shot up in the last few months due to participation of the SAGDB players in many national and provincial tournaments. Two Provincial Training Camps were held in the School holidays but expenditure is still 7% under budget for the year to date. Costs in November and December are generally low as coaches break for exams and holidays.

Programs : **Witbank** Greenside G.M Vijay Kumar has offered to pay for all transport from surrounding schools to Greenside to grow the game in Witbank. **Secunda** Isaac Mahlangu is coaching at TP Stratten during school time – this has grown his numbers to over 90 players. **Malelane and Komatipoort** The players here are performing very well and a number of good young players are coming through these two programs. **Pilgrims Rest** Even though Austin Mashego's program is struggling to grow numbers he has 4 players younger than 13 that will be playing in the MGU Junior events in 2020.

MGU's Golf Development is in good hands, most of the programs are growing in numbers. The players between the ages of 14 & 18 are performing well in tournaments and more than 20 players with talent have been identified in the U,13 age group.

9.5 MPUMALANGA JUNIOR and SCHOOLS GOLF:

Under new management the Foundation is once again operating as it used to. The Quads at Middelburg was a huge success and subsequent tournaments have all been well organized. It is however time to release the annual Junior grant and the Chairman would pursue the matter.

9.6 SENIOR AMATEUR GOLF : Francis Themane

The Mpumalanga Senior Open was hosted at Middelburg on 17/18 August on a course in fine shape. The Championship attracted 93 players from far and wide and was won by Potchefstroom's Johan Krugel on a score of 141 from Schalk Naude on 145 and Gerhard Strydom on 146 – Sarel van Heerden and Jan Jacobs were the best MGU players both on 151. The club's arrangements were excellent. The Lowveld Senior Classic played at White River Country Club on 14/15 September was won by old stalwart Jock Wellington on a score of 145 from Gordon Wessels and Richard Brooker both on 147 – best MGU player was Gavin Brough on 150.

9.7 DISCIPLINARY REPORT :

Nothing to report

10. GENERAL :

- 10.1 The 2020 provisional Fixture List was tabled by the Secretary and after perusal by the committee it was approved – Open Day results and scoring must be recorded in a proper format otherwise they would not be listed on the 2021 Fixture List and the players scores would not be recognized on the Ranking List.
- 10.2 The Chairman called for a Bosberaad to be held in late November to discuss all thorny issues and for the committee to also come up with new ideas for the Union to implement. Uniforms – championship courses to be utilized – selection panel to follow strict guidelines are a few. It was set for 30 November at Carolina.
- 10.5 The MGU Charity Cup final date is drawing closer – 9 November and to date the Union cannot offer what was promised initially to the club winners. Lowveld have not indicated what their state of affairs are at this stage. Currently with what has come in and info from some clubs the Union will have something like R40000 in the kitty.

NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER AT 08h30 AT CAROLINA

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