



MPUMALANGA GOLF UNION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE ZOOM MEETING HELD ON

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY 2021 AT 08h30

Present :

Coenie du Preez	MGU	Acting President
Rob Pryde	Highveld Golf	President
Stephan Potgieter	Lowveld Golf	President
Francis Themane	Senior Golf	President
Jurie Grobler	Junior Golf	President
Johann van Rensburg	Highveld Golf	Vice President
Johann Bezuidenhout	Lowveld Golf	Vice President
Robbie Haward	Delegate	Highveld Golf
Darren Plumb	Delegate	Lowveld Golf
Colin Mulligan	Secretary	in attendance

The Chairman warmly welcomed all the members to this January zoom meeting – the first of 2021 – the Chairman extended good wishes to all for a happy and prosperous 2021.

On a sad note it was not good news on hearing of the recent death of former Mbombela Club Captain well known Peter Charls. The Chairman extended condolences on behalf of the Union to his family.

APOLOGIES : Alida Schoeman, Edwin Compton

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes of the Executive meeting, held on 21 November 2020 which have been circulated, was confirmed by the Executive and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed by Rob Pryde and seconded by Johann van Rensburg.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES :

None

3. TOURNAMENTS AND MATCHES CONCLUDED :

- 3.1 The Covid-19 series of 18 hole golf events introduced by GolfRSA are now a thing of the past – Eddie Daniel was the ultimate winner in Mpumalanga on an average score of 70.67 from Stephan Potgieter on 71.67 and won a voucher from GolfRSA of R5000 which was sent to his club Ermelo to manage. Eddie was not available for the exempt entry into the qualifying round of the South African Amateur Championship. The Chairman congratulated Eddie and Stephan on their excellent performances.
- 3.2 With the fast spreading of the current wave of the corona virus no further decisions have been forthcoming from GolfRSA. During the lockdown the Foursomes and the MGU Open were cancelled while the Country Districts, IPT and Mid Amateur tournaments were also cancelled. It appears however that the Seniors IPT will go ahead but the tournament format might have to be changed.

4. FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

- 4.1 The Executive Golf Day in August 2021 is scheduled for either Kriel or Highland Gate with the Chairman getting a quote from Highland Gate and Executive Members to report back at the next meeting with their thoughts on the matter.
- 4.2 The Adiomart MGU Closed Championship will be played at Mbombela on the 21st February 2021 and caters for the Over and Under 50 golfers – it is a compulsory tournament for all our golfers and even those juniors who aspire to want to make the Country Districts or IPT teams. Closing date is 12 February so players must send in their entry forms asap. The selection for the Country Districts team is just after the Ermelo Open and here players – approved by the Committee – must have played in a minimum of 4 tournaments with the IPT and Mid Am remaining on 6 events.

5. SAGA MATTERS :

- 5.1 GolfRSA have circulated a number of documents amongst others being the Golfers Risk Mitigation Guidelines which has been circulated to all our clubs who must pin these on the Notice Board for the attention of their members. Masks must be worn, players and guests must still be screened at a suggested one access point only, players equipment to be sanitized if using a caddie and physical distancing must still be maintained.
- 5.2 Those clubs that have not filled in the Caddie Relief Fund document from GolfRSA should do so asap – GolfRSA are introducing Playing Handicap Tables – Rule 6.2 – for ease of reference for golfers should the terms of Competition determine that a Handicap Allowance will be applied. Both these documents of information have been sent to all Mpumalanga Clubs. GolfRSA require an answer from all the Union's by 26 January at the latest. The Executive approved going along with GolfRSA and the Chairman has replied to GolfRSA.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Nil

7. SPONSORSHIP :

Sponsorship of Closed Championship was confirmed by Adiomart

8. FINANCE

A loss of R339229 was reflected as at 31 December 2020 this totally due to no tournaments played and no affiliation fees paid in for 2021– total income was R50,520 as opposed to total expenditure of R389,749. Insurance has gone up to R1649. The Union's motor vehicle was paid off in full settlement for an amount of R69,936.20 and will once Absa send the required info to the Secretary be registered in the name of the Union. Final membership numbers are : Highveld have 3228 members and Lowveld 1947 for a total of 5175. GolfRSA have been paid in full and all our clubs have paid off their arrears. 2021 affiliation fees are as follows : GolfRSA R199.34 – MGU R195.00 – Junior/Senior Levy R40.00. Affiliation fees to GolfRSA for juniors under the age of 18 have been reduced to R104.65.

The Budget Statement for the 7 months ending on 31 December was circulated to all executive members. Repairs and Maintenance are overspent due to severe lightning damage which has been sent in to our Brokers for recovery.

9. REPORTS :

9.1 WOMENS GOLF

Alida Schoeman

a. Affiliation Fees

We have a very small amount outstanding from last year. Below R2000. New invoices have been sent out and we have received some payments already.

- b. AGM will beheld via Zoom in February.
- c. All our league games have been postponed until after 15 February 2021 due to new Covid wave.
- d. We will only reassess the upcoming WGSA tournament etc after the 15th February in view of Covid.
- e. I took the liberty to look at the figures from Jan to Dec 2020 and the effect that Covid had on the number of members. See enclosed. The men and women reduced by basically the same percentage and in numbers we reduced by 543 members for the men and woman. We will have to work very hard to get this numbers back. Also bear in mind that most clubs will take off members in January. I will look at the numbers again after month end.

a. The year so far on tournaments

Due to Covid most tournaments were cancelled including all Provincial Tournaments. These should take place next year, should Covid infections allow it.

Financials

Please find enclosed our Financial Statements.

- We are currently in a healthy situations with over R270 000 in the bank. Due to very good sponsors we received for the MPU Women's Open we should not exceed R30 000 this coming weekend.
- All levies to GolfRSA have been paid earlier in the year. Clubs that defaulted for a long time, we have written the debt off by getting sponsors to assist. We have paid R23 000 to the account from one sponsor to assist with this.
- We only have a very small amount outstanding and it should be settled by the end of November.
- This is the first time in many years that we are up to date with GolfRSA with levies and we will continue to strive with this healthy situation.
- Enclosed please find our latest bank statement and age analysis of outstanding levies from the clubs.
- The funding received from MGU, we channeled to the Senior Ladies this year, and if allowed through finances, will continue with this as a large number of ladies from Mpumalanga fall into this category.

b. AGM.

Due to Covid we will only be having our AGM through Zoom in February. The Executive have all agreed to this.

c. Giving back to the Clubs

- We have held a very successful clinic held at Bankenveld the past weekend for all ladies from the highest to the lowest handicap. For FREE.
- The clinic was hosted by Pelop and Juan.
- We had 30 ladies that attended and all were very impressed with the clinic.
- Please find enclosed some photos of the day.
- We will be looking at holding this in the Lowveld and Highveld at least once a year, if allowed, definitely twice.
- The value the ladies received for improving their golf was tremendous.
- In these trying times and to keep golf players in the game, it is important to give back to the clubs and we will continue to look at ways to "GIVE BACK"

d. MPU Women's Open

This is coming up this weekend. We are very fortunate to host this tournament whilst in the pandemic.

- We have already exceeded on entries from the previous year. Our showcase, being the Championship division, are already in excess of 25 ladies of which 9 of the Top 20 in SA will be playing in our tournament. Total entries so far 50.

- This Tournament has qualified for World Ranking Points. We are very proud of this achievement as we started building from last year to get 10 points towards the World Ranking Points System. This is not easily obtained by the smaller Unions and we are very proud to excel in our Open. We will work hard to maintain and increase our footprint in GolfRSA.
- We are fully compliant with Risk Mitigation as required for Covid.

9.2 HIGHVELD GOLF Rob Pryde

The Scratch League Final was played at Walker Park between Witbank and Middelburg with the former winning 7½ to 4½ thus gaining revenge as Middelburg had beaten Witbank in 2019 – the Carolina Open was won by Dean Hall who beat Eddie Daniel in a playoff at the second hole, winning score was 146. The Walker Park Open was won by Andre van Heerden on a score of 143 from Shaun de Bruto on 146 – the field attracted 50 players. The 2020 Highveld Charity Cup was postponed to 2021 for lack of support – R19,567 has been collected so far. Volksrust B handicap league team were stripped of the title they won in 2020 in beating Belfast 6 – 2 in the final of the Covid league. Belfast lodged a complaint against Volksrust and tendered evidence that the majority of the Volksrust players had failed to enter their league match scores. The Executive after a protracted debate unanimously approved the motion and Volksrust would have to give their medals back, they were also banned from playing in any Highveld Handicap league in 2021. The 2021 Handicap League Fixtures and Rules have been circulated to all the Highveld Clubs. All those clubs who were unable to pay their affiliation fees on time in 2020 have paid their outstanding fees. Ermelo and Piet Retief have each paid over R50,000 affiliation fees for the 2021 golf year. It was asked at the last meeting what is happening at Akabeko, they have no members but are affiliated – surely they must have members after 2 years – pay an annual fee to MGU – or face disaffiliation. Ermelo Golf Club have invited the MGU Executive for a round of golf asap at Ermelo with a view of looking at their course and the rating thereof. On a sad note we announce the passing of Monica Kriek of the Golf Shop at Middelburg.

9.3 LOWVELD : Stephan Potgieter

The resignation of Graeme Morrison from both the MGU and GolfRSA at the MGU meeting at Carolina in November 2020 was a big loss to the MGU as he was a man of integrity. The Association regretted his resignation. The Mbombela Race to Highland Gate was won by Eddie Wilken on a countout from Stephan Potgieter and M.J. Mentz all on a score of 73. Overall winner of the Lowveld series was Stephan Potgieter with an average of 71.67 over the 5 tournaments. The withdrawal of Eddie Daniel, overall winner in MGU, from participating in the S.A. Amateur at Royal Joburg did not find favour with the Lowveld Executive and the issue will be raised at the forthcoming meeting at Carolina. A former Mbombela Club Captain Peter Charls passed away this past Sunday and condolences were extended to his family. The White River Open is to be hosted on 7 February and it is expected that the Lowveld/Highveld players would support it. The Handicap League and current events will be run by the Vice President and is currently running smoothly. Clubs have all had a hard time over the last 9 months but will adhere to all the guidelines as set out by GolfRSA, they are struggling to make up lost ground financially. The Lowveld club courses hope to benefit from the rain via cyclone Eloise but are hoping to miss any impact that will cause any damage to the courses. Vice President Johann Bezuidenhout spoke out on the danger of Covid-19 of which he had personal association with the pandemic and warned golfers of the hotspots in the Lowveld and mentioned that the Alfred Dunhill and other tournaments had been affected. Close to the border with Limpopo there were several known hotspots and golfers must take care.

9.4 DEVELOPMENT : Edwin Compton

Most of our SAGDB Programmes are up and running with strict COVID 19 protocols in place. Our programmes will remain focused on working with the more experienced players with a limited number of players per session in order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. SAGDB player

Thami Ngobeni played in the GolfRSA Inland NOOM and managed scores of 79, 81. Congratulations too Behn and Dean with some wonderful golf at the tournament. We look forward to the first Mpumalanga Junior Golf Tournament at Middelburg Country Club at the end of the month. A blessed 2021 to all.

9.5 **MPUMALANGA JUNIOR and SCHOOLS GOLF:** Jurie Grobler

The aim in 2021 will still be to keep the Juniors motivated and to work towards a good end to 2021 despite the difficulties with the pandemic.

The focus and emphasize are on the Road to Highland Gate (RTHG) through the tournaments on the fixture list for 2021. The top 20 players will compete for the prestige event in October 2021 (date still to be announced).

In compliance to Protocols of GolfRSA the first tournament will be held at Middelburg Country Club on 31 January 2021 and the other 13 tournaments as per fixture list (available on MGU website) shall be strictly compliant to the GolfRSA protocols to ensure safety for every player which will also include electronic prize giving afterwards.

The Annual General Meeting of Junior Golf is to be finalized and will be held towards end of February /beginning of March 2021 as per zoom platform.

NOMADS Coastal NOoM took place during 4 – 5 January 2021 at Selborne Country Club. 2 players of Mpumalanga competed, being Behn Heyns and Dean Hall.

Behn Heyns came T4 with score of 146 over 2 days. We would like to congratulate Behn on his top performance.

NOMADS SA U15 Championship took place during 6 – 8 January 2021 at Selborne Country Club. 3 players competed, Henco Coetzee, Antoni Theron and Bea Breedt.

In 2020 we have started planning on many marketing initiatives to increase funding to improve the way forward for Mpumalanga Juniors. Due to the current state and risk to parents and players it was decided to hold onto the fundraiser which were planned for the tournament on 31 January 2021.

It is tabled to request the MGU Executive Committee to consider if we can utilise the R60 000 IPT funds received last year to improve and incentivise players who qualify for Quads etc. Other initiatives to improve on Junior golf will also be tabled.

a) An initial proposal is made to assist with clothing for juniors who make the squad for their relevant age groups, i.e., purchasing of Mpumalanga golf shirts to ease the burden with parents. It is an honour to be elected for relevant age group and this is a form of give back and congratulate a player/s for making the team.

b) Shaun Landsberg, Sport Phycologist working with many Professional Players made a proposal via zoom meeting to Jurie Grobler and Dalton Viviers on assisting with possible group sessions during tournaments or with Mpumalanga juniors making the Quads squad. Feedback received from recent visit by Shaun was extremely positive under juniors in the lowveld. A further proposal will be tabled and it is proposed that some of the funds of IPT can also be utilised towards this.

The financial position of Mpumalanga Junior Golf healthy and unchanged since last year's meeting. Junior Golf is healthy and there are many positive signs with a healthy collective push to get Mpumalanga Junior Golf on the map again.

9.6 **SENIOR AMATEUR GOLF :** Francis Themane

The Seniors team – Eddie Daniel, Brian Naidoo, Jan Jacobs, Sarel van Heerden, Kobus Clarence, Eric du Toit, Theo Bleeker and Steve Smit selected for the cancelled 2020 Senior IPT will do duty at Erinvale in April 2021. Airfares have been paid for as well as a practice round – uniforms are with the Secretary. Seniors are reminded to get in as much practice as they can and the Club Open days are available. Brian Naidoo was runner up in the Senior Ekurhuleni Open and also did well in the Free State Open.

9.7 DISCIPLINARY REPORT :

Nothing of note to report

9.8 SPONSORSHIP :

Hennie Huyser of ADIOMART has again consented to sponsor the Closed Championship and has

deposited R15000.00 into the MGU Account – The Chairman will contact Frans Labuschagne of Platinum Petroleum Supplies to confirm the 2021 sponsorship of The MGU Open scheduled for Witbank. A former sponsor Martin Pretorius is back in Middelburg and has made an offer to sponsor.

10. GENERAL :

- 10.1 The Secretary has circulated the 2021 MGU Fixture List to all clubs and remind the clubs they cannot make a change without permission. Club Championships are over the weekend of 13/14 March and all clubs must play that weekend.
- 10.2 Johann van Rensburg raised the question of why there was no MGU Vice President nominated – a discussion followed and it was decided for all to take back to their Association and then to nominate their candidate. The only candidates who qualified for selection were members of the Executive committee who had 1 year or more experience on the Executive.
- 10.3 The Lowveld President made mention of the financial assistance given to Junior Golf by the Union and at the end of the day was it worth it in light of the fact that the majority of the talented juniors in the platteland made their way to the cities to ply their trade and were lost to the country unions. Very few of these youngsters ever made their way back to the platteland. The Secretary pointed out that this was a common ailment among all the Union's and that the ultimate aim is to foster the game at all levels. The annual grant to Junior Golf should be measured by the achievements of our Junior golfers

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING : SATURDAY 27 MARCH 2021 AT 08h00 AT CAROLINA. G.C

**Coenie du Preez
Acting President**

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

DUTY ROSTER CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP – MBOMBELA 21 FEBRUARY 2021 .

Main Starter	Coenie du Preez
Morning Starters	Rob Pryde – Johann Bezuidenhout
Afternoon Starters	Robbie Haward – Johann van Rensburg
Live Scoring	Rika
Scoring	Coenie & Colin
Morning Course Duty	Johann van Rensburg & Robbie Haward

Afternoon Course Duty
Rules

Rob Pryde & Johann Bezuidenhout
Darren Plumb & Johann Bezuidenhout