

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

TO ALL DELEGATES

Year fourteen of administration of Men's Amateur Golf in South Africa has been successfully concluded.

The 2011 S.A. Open Championship was played at Durban Country Club where the main sponsor was the Province of KwaZulu Natal. The championship which was the 100th playing of the championship, wasn't without its problems as the weather didn't play its part and the final days play ended up being a 34 hole affair as two rounds still needed to be completed and the 4th hole was taken out of play as the green was unplayable. The championship was nonetheless a huge success as we saw Ernie Els and Retief Goosen going head to head the entire day. Ernie Els was eventually crowned the champion with notable finishes from the 2010 Open Champion (Louis Oosthuizen) and Charl Schwartzel, who three months later went on to win the US Masters.

For the fourth time the S.A. Stroke Play and the S.A. Amateur Championship were held at different venues and on different dates with a positive feedback coming from all quarters.

The Sanlam S.A. Amateur was held at Vaal de Grâce in Parys while there was no sponsorship for the S.A. Stroke Play.

The Association has continued its agreement with Acushnet regarding the supply of golf balls, shoes, gloves, caps, and practice balls for our National and International events. This was extended to all representative teams and caps have been supplied to the SAGA Executive.

The Premier Inter-Provincial was again sponsored by Tempest and it was held at Pretoria Country Club, one of South Africa's top golf courses.

The Association carried the costs of hosting the Challenge Inter-Provincial, South African Country Districts and U23 Team's tournament and the SA Mid-Amateur Stroke Play Championship. We hope to attract sponsors for these Tournaments in the coming years.

In January SAGA took on the Junior Golf portfolio. Johan Scholtz was appointed as Junior Golf Coordinator. In May SA Senior Amateur Golf Association also merged with SAGA and Johan Scholtz role at SAGA was extended to include this portfolio, together with the role as the Development Golf Officer.

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors and trust that the mutually beneficial relationships in existence will continue to grow.

Amongst many other engagements met by the SAGA saw Bruce Younge, once again, referee at The Open Championship at St. Andrew's. Neil Homann and Andre Pieterse helped with rules at the International Final Qualifying at Royal Johannesburg.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2010/11

It is a privilege to present my report after my first year as President of the SAGA. Tribute must be paid to the hundreds of administrators who have served golf so selflessly over the last twelve months. The entire golf industry has evolved and transformed itself. Today golf is a multi-billion rand industry contributing to the SA economy, providing jobs and unearthing amazing talent to grace the stages of the world. Now that golf has been accepted as an Olympic sport, all administrators have an increased responsibility to ensure the growth of the game and to ensure high level of corporate governance. The SAGA was nominated by Sport and Recreation South Africa for the "2011 Federation of the Year Award" and is indicative of the manner in which the Association is being managed, a proud achievement indeed.

The SAGA has accomplished much in the way of exercising the Department of Sport and SASCOC mandate to unify the “loose” structures in Amateur golf. The Junior Foundation and the Senior Amateurs have been incorporated into the SAGA with a full time staff member to oversee the administration of both of the aforementioned bodies. Mr Johan Scholtz has been appointed as the Junior Golf Co-Ordinator and the SAGA Development Officer and has also been tasked with the administration of SA Senior Golf.

I must point out that the SAGA is committed to strengthening Junior Golf and I would like to thank the Unions for having incorporated both Junior and Senior Amateur representatives into their ranks and in so doing taken responsibility for organising and funding their activities. This can only strengthen our structures. The fact that we have had two recent Major winners in Louis Oosthuizen at the 2010 Open and Charl Schwartzel at the 2011 Masters has proved that SA Golf continues to produce young golfers of world class. Our young golfers are fortunate in that they are blessed with good weather, excellent golf courses and well organised tournaments at all levels from Junior to Senior level. We must realise that our role in managing talent is to produce future stars on the world stage. My sincere thanks go to all the club committees, managers, administrators and volunteers for their role in making this possible.

Golf Development and Transformation

Golf Development and Transformation has been prioritised and a Transformation Charter and Balance Scorecard has been produced and adopted by the SAGA. The SAGA has a solid relationship with the SAGDB who are ever present and assisting us with the development of both the game and our young golfers. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the contributions of Mr Johann Rupert over the past ten years. The recent application to the Lottery Board for financial assistance and funding of our development programmes is still under consideration and we trust that the monies applied for will be forthcoming in the New Year.

Handicapping

I am confident that the SAGA Central Server that is now in place has eradicated many of the past problems we had. Together with our joint venture partner Superbrands the handicapping system has proved to be very successful and the current system is under continuous scrutiny in order to improve and enhance the system as and when required. Handicap research and improvements to the system are worked on continuously to ensure that we have a world class system in place.

I wish to express my thanks to Mike McGrath and Superbrands for all their hard work and commitment over the past year in ensuring that the SAGA is able to maintain our handicapping system to international standards.

Business Plan

The SAGA business plan is being implemented as and when we are able to meet the financial commitment that comes with such. We have already appointed a Junior Golf Co-Ordinator and a Golf Development Officer in Mr Johan Scholtz and we are still pursuing the appointment of a CEO.

International Relations

Our relationships in international golf are well cemented in that we have an annual reciprocal arrangement with France and we now have planned for a similar arrangement with Scotland whom we played a Test match against at Leopard Creek in March this year. A new “Six Nations” tournament will replace the Southern Cross in future, the first of which will take place in New Zealand in October 2011. Unfortunately, two of the original entrants, Japan and Canada will not be able to participate in the inaugural tournament which will now be contested between New Zealand, Australia, Argentina and South Africa. We have firm relationships with the amateur bodies in Argentina and India as well. The R&A returned this year to run the Africa International Final Qualifying School for the British Open and we have a sound relationship with them. Bruce Younge attended this year’s Open to once again officiate as a Rule’s Official and his continued presence on the R&A Rules Committee maintains our strong relationship with this body.

Stakeholder Relationships

Our relationship with WGSA has strengthened I and am confident that SAGA and WGSA can work collaboratively in exercising SA's golf mandates.

The SAGA has renewed and strengthened our relationship with the SAGDB and we believe it is vitally important that we work hand in glove with them to ensure success in the development of the game in our country.

I wish to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their support over the past year. Without their commitment and work ethic my tasks and responsibilities would have been that more difficult. I thank my two Vice-Presidents for their support and valuable input and advice that has assisted me in making decisions for and on behalf of the SAGA.

COLIN BURGER