

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013/14

It is a privilege to present my report after my second 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. 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 has accomplished much in the way of exercising the Department of Sport and SASCOC mandate to unify the "loose" structures in Amateur golf. Junior golf and the Senior Amateurs have now been incorporated in the SAGA with a full time staff member to oversee the administration of both of the aforementioned bodies. Eden Thompson 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.

The SAGA is committed to strengthening Junior Golf as well as schools golf and huge strides have been made in this respect over the past twelve months. 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. Our young amateur golfers are fortunate in that they are blessed with good weather, excellent golf courses and well organized tournaments at all levels from Junior to Senior level. We must realize 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. A special word of thanks must go to Mr Selwyn Nathan and the Sunshine Tour for allowing our top amateurs to participate in their Big Easy Tournaments. This goes a long way in preparing them for the professional tour.

Golf Development and Transformation

Golf development and transformation remains a priority for the SAGA and a transformation charter and balance scorecard has been adopted by the SAGA which is accessible on our website. The SAGA continues to work 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.

Handicapping

I am confident that the SAGA handicapping system that is now in place is truly world class. Together with our joint venture partner Superbrands, the system has proved to be very successful and 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.

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 Eden Thomson, who will also see to the needs of the senior's, and we are still pursuing the appointment of a CEO. Right now we are in the process of appointing a golf manager to further assist with the busy programme of the office staff.

We also moved into our own premises on the 1st of July and after moving to various rental premises through the years SAGA is now settled in offices of our own.

International Relations

Our relationships in international golf are well cemented. South Africa played in a test match against Scotland at Leopard Creek. South Africa hosted and won the Zone VI Tournament played at Devonvale, Stellenbosch. Our Junior Team also held their own in the Toyota World Junior Championship in Japan and finished in the top 10. In February our top 4 juniors played against a French junior team at Serengeti and beat them convincingly. Our juniors also won gold at the African Youth Games held in Botswana. We also sent a team of six players to play in various tournaments in the U.K. Thriston Lawrence won the Lytham Trophy and Zander Lombard lost in the final of the British Amateur. Outstanding performances indeed!

In addition we will be sending a four man mid amateur team for a short tour of France in July , which includes a Test against the French Mid Amateur team.

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 and I am confident that SAGA and WGSA can work collaboratively in exercising SA's golf mandates.

The SAGA has strengthened our relationship with 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.

Last but not least, my sincere thanks to Bruce, Neil, Hilary and Eden for their hard work and efforts.

ANDRE PIETERSE