

## Report on my GLG visit to Gauteng North.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2010:

- 8.15 – Willie van Zyl fetched me, I stayed with Dot, she lives on the Centurion CC Estate. We travelled North to Hillside GC – Rodger Manning is the owner of this 9 hole golf course, and he took us to the new driving range, that was built by the Tswane Municipality, in Soshanguve. (Money for the building of this driving range came from a development group in Waterkloof. The mayor of Pretoria said that they may carry on with the development on condition that they donate 10% of sales for sport development – it was then decided to build the driving range) Hillside offers 2 teaching pros, R100 per ½ hour lesson. Full membership R750 pa, Full membership which includes free daytime use of driving range and free golf Mondays – Fridays R1950. Pensioner membership R990.



Distance markers

Club house

There are 12 schools in the neighbourhood – players from this driving range go to Hillside GC to play and for coaching. Andre de Klerk helps Willie van Zyl with coaching. This facility is not in use at the moment, because the Municipality wants to put it out on tender, and they said they are TOO busy with soccer at the moment. It will have to wait till after the Soccer World Cup

- Silver Lakes Golf Academy:

Our next stop was the Motion Golf Centre at Silver Lakes Golf Academy. Sjac Weideman, the teaching Pro showed and explained the swing analysis, full-body 3-D technology, the ability to see your swing from 360 degrees and how they overlay your swing onto a Tour player's swing.

- Schools Academy – Wingate GC: Here I met with Christine Hare from Waterkloof High School and Louis Coetzee teaching Pro at Wingate Golf Academy. There are several high schools that have golf as a school subject for grade 8 and 9 learners.

Waterkloof High have a 7 day cycle on their time table with 4 periods for golf – 2 practical periods, early in the morning where the players go straight to the golf course to play 9 holes. They are divided into groups of 4 -5 players, each with their own coach, PGA apprentice coaches. The other 2 periods are spent on theory rules, green keeping and etiquette. They have an outing to Sun City, to play and to learn about the green keeping etc. These learners write exams, I have two copies of their exam papers.

These learners pay R3000 per year for taking golf as a subject. This includes everything, playing fees, transport, coaching etc.

They have a high schools league:

A – league: 27 teams – calculated h/c not more than 36 – all of these players are affiliated members at a club. Will get the names of the girls after the school holiday.

B – league: 44 teams – calculated h/c 37-72. 80% are affiliated

C – league: 32 teams – 20% are affiliated – mostly girls and some are beginners.

There are 34 schools taking part in the league.

Primary schools league play in the 4<sup>th</sup> league

Louis goes to a few Pre-Primary schools: uses hoops, tennis balls etc, to teach the correct technique.

There are 26 GC's and 20 of them have lady sections. Most of the clubs like Woodhill, Wingate, Centurion, Acasia, Silver Lakes, and others have academies.

Centurion Academy:

Coach: Llewellyn van Leeuwen

Aspects covered:

Chipping, Pitching, Putting, Driving range and Mashie. On one of the afternoons the players get taken out to play 4 holes on CCC.

Times: 9am – to 4pm every day.

Last day prize giving at 15.30

6:1 Child to coach ratio, only 24 children can be accommodated

Cost: R750 per child

Dates: 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of June or 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of July

- Next stop was at Pretoria CC where we had a Gauteng North Grow Golf meeting, with the Grow golf committee.

The team to drive this Project is GNGU Executives: Johan Struwig, Dot van Ryneveld and Olga Zorgman

Captains (men and ladies) from all the clubs and

Mareli Joubert organizing, coaching development and planning. She is a student busy with her degree: B Sport Science (golf) She is Dot's right hand in many ways. Johan is a vice principal at Waterkloof High and he is dynamic and he and Dot are driving this project.

Dot divided the lady sections into groups of 3 and Olga is in charge of these sections:

Centurion, Irene, Wingate

PCC, Waterkloof, Services

Gardener Ross, Blue Valley, Zwartkops

Woodhill, Silver Lakes, Bronkhorstpruit

Pretoria GC, Akasia, Hillside

Cullinan, Pebble Rock, Sandonia

These groups will work together to improve development in their areas, to support each other and to take turns to organise competitions etc. **I think this is a GREAT idea.**

We went through the GNGU Grow Golf Business Plan, which will be called "GNGU Grow Golf Project", from now on. We made a few small changes. Dot will let me have the final project plan, which I will then send to you.

I met Rob Hargroves from Foundation. He is organising a number of tournaments during the coming holidays.

Willie from GDB and Rob from the Foundation are working very well with the rest of the committee. They share everything.

It was very important to me that they must start the project during this school holiday. Although it was late and everybody was tired, we made a few plans to get the info to the schools before they closed the next day. Fortunately most of the schools have sms systems in place, Johan took charge of that. Dot and Mareli discussed what to put on a flyer, and the next morning Mareli e-mailed it to Dot at 4.50, Dot made a few changes and Mareli went to some primary schools to hand these out. Rob from Foundation was going to mail the flyer to all his players and invite them to bring a friend to these venues to start playing golf.

I stressed the idea, that Cynthia gave me: first 2 months free, there after the pro's must be prepared to give a very special quote of which the parents must contribute

something. This idea was welcomed by all, everybody agreed that the parents and players are more committed if they pay something towards coaching.

- Last on my Agenda was the GNGU Delegates meeting at Pretoria CC.

It was interesting to meet with the men. It was good to see how well the men and ladies work together. The whole committee seemed to be very excited about the new development plan. We all had supper together after the meeting.

My comments:If they are successful in implementing this new project they will bring hundreds of girls and boys into golf. I think the best short term result of this project is that for the first time the schools, the pro's, the clubs, GDB, the Foundation and the executive will work together, and they will know how many girls and boys they have in GN learning to play and playing golf. There are so many girls playing and the lady captains and executive don't know about them.

This province has something that the rest of our country lacks – they are FANATIC.

We can see it in their rugby, in everything they do. They think different. They are prepared to go to the next level.

This was a very inspiring experience for me. I have learned so much.

I would like to discuss a few ideas with you, to change the way I am working at the moment.

My suggestions:I think I must only go to one national tournament, the SAAM, to meet with the presidents so that I can meet the new one's coming in.

Thereafter I must visit 2 - 3 provinces during a year. But before I visit them I will send them a list of things that I want to see and do, when I go to them. I would also like to meet with the lady captains, the pro's, GDB and foundation, all in one meeting. To visit clubs that have academies, HPC. **Will not always be as easy as in GN because of distances, but we would, in any event, encourage our Unions to focus on the bigger centres.**

We must get all provinces to start school leagues for girls and boys. Bigger schools should be encouraged to have Golf as a subject in grade 8 and 9. Pro's must go to primary schools. **You need to ask our Presidents to find out about schools league in their Union – you might be surprised to discover that it is already being done a lot more than you think.**

Thank you for the opportunity it was worth every minute I spent in GN. I made contact with a number of people, I will follow up and I really think they can make a success of this new project.

Thanks

Ria