President`s Report: 2015-2016.

It gives me great pleasure to report on the activities of the union of the past year.

The Executive met on a monthly basis and these meetings were well attended. Chantelle Hefer resigned from the executive last week, while Pat Roets is no longer available to serve on the executive. Thank you very much to every member of the executive for their contributions and willingness to assist.

The GNGU office functioned well. Annelise Barnes resigned to move back to her family in Bloemfontein, but we were fortunate enough to be able to employ Magdel Krancj again. My gratitude must also go Rowan de Beer, who does not know the meaning of the word `no` and Mellette Hendrikse in the office. Mellette is well informed as far as the rules, tournaments and SAGA are involved and is always able to advise the executive on golf matters. The office has assisted the different team managers with all logistics, assisted at tournaments and attended all meetings. My sincere thanks to them!

SAGA and WGSA. Mellette Hendrikse serves as our representative on SAGA and attends their meeting, serving on various sub committees, while Thea Nel is the WGSA representative, attending tournaments and IPT`s as their rep. Both serve on tournament committees at the two bodies. These two bodies as well as SADGA now fall under the umbrella of Golf SA, headed by Grant Hepburn.

The Grow Golf subcommittee is headed by Willem Roberts. It is one of the most important sub committees as we all need to see that the sport grows. There are some initiatives at clubs but not enough information in this regard is shared. The union is not only looking at talented players that will one day become provincial or national players, but also at those players that need to form the core of the unions` affiliated members playing weekend golf at your club! We urge clubs to get involved in the grow golf subcommittee.

Rohan de Beer is a man that proves that men can multi task! Not only does he work for GNGU half the time, he is also the person, with Willie van Zyl, doing the very important work of developing the game in our union for the SAGDB. There are 222 players on their books, serviced by two coaches. They enter about 15 players per junior tournament in our union, 6 of them already part of the DOOM. 3 players have already been awarded GN colours for golf. They enter as an independent team in our junior league. The operating cost of our chapter amounts to R67500 pm, R25000 from GNGU, a further R12500 from the Sunshine tour while the SAGDB cover the rest. Our sincere gratitude must be expressed to these two gentlemen and their coaches!

The caddie league of past year was escalated to a development league that can also include staff working at clubs, the number of players are now 8 per team. The final on Monday was won by The Els Club.

Alhoewel sy dit gaan ontken, dink ek dat die GNJG kommittee uit een person bestaan, Susan Deyzel! Hulle doen fantastiese werk en junior gholf in ons provinsie is in goeie hande. GNGUJ has 356 registered players on the book, the youngest 8 years old. Only 33 players have played the required 16 rounds required to be selected for our provincial sides. We had 27 local and 3 Glaciers tournaments the past year! GN hosted a very successful Heptangular at Bronkhorstspruit from 29 April to 1 May this year. The 5 competing provinces were: GN, Central Gauteng, Ekurhuleni, Mpumalanga and North West. CG won both the u15 and u17 events and GN won the girls event.

Four juniors have a stroke average of below par at the moment: Clifford Thompson from Centurion 69.88, Otto van Buynder from Blue Valley 70.5, Werner Deyzel from Woodhill 70.75 and Keegan Mclachlan, Silver Lakes 71.88.

School`s golf is still going from strength to strength in GN, with HS Waterkloof winning every tournament they entered in: 7 out of 7 in 2015! This included the prestigious SA High Schools championships that was hosted by us at Irene in August. This year so far, only the Chairman`s trophy, a team knockout tournament was completed, won by Affies who beat PBHS in the final.

Accountants drink Hansa, they are therefore a different species than the rest of us! I had an easy task as far as the finances are concerned because I had an accountant doing all the hard work in ensuring that the books balanced. Thank you very much Gerhard, you did a sterling job. Gerhard assisted and guided Magdel throughout and our finances were run in an effective way. My sincere thanks also to Paul Laesecke and his staff for their assistance and support of the union. We had no option this year but to have a substantial increase in affiliation fees as it is becoming more and more difficult to run the union with all costs escalating as they are. We will try to keep increases in affiliation fees as low as possible but GNGU is still the union with the lowest affiliation fees in the country, substantially lower than Central Gauteng and Ekurhuleni, our neighbours. Thank you to all clubs for understanding and your assistance. We were very fortunate to obtain a substantial sponsorship from Liberty Life for all our tournaments this year, an amount ploughed back into tournaments. We have also been fortunate enough to have a sponsor for our flagship event, the Silver Salver, in PWC.

Our IPT teams performed as follows:

The two ladies teams both qualified for the A Flight, finishing 3rd and 4th respectively. The A Team was managed by Pat Roets and the B team by Alet Crous.

The Premier side managed by Gerry Few won the B Division and will once again participate in the A Division this year.

The Mid-Amateur side finished last in the A Division, they were managed by Denis Dreyer.

The u19 team, managed by Rohan de Beer finished 4th in the A Division.

Gerhard Lombard managed the Senior Team that finished 3rd in the A Division while Denis Dreyer`s Super Senior side ended 6th.

We hosted a team from Reunion at Woodhill last year and we were invited to send four players to the World Amateur Reunion Championship in March. This was a fantastic experience and we will again host the Reunion players in October. Our men took the first three places while Danielle du Toit won the ladies` section. In the match against Reunion we won 2.5 points out of 4. I was fortunate enough to accompany the players. Thank you very much for the wonderful opportunity.

Tournament winners since May 2015: Andrew vd Knaap won The Princes Grant Invitational, Louis Jonck was a winner at the North West Mid-Amateur. Teaghan Gauche tied with James du Preez at the KZN qualifier. Phillip Kruse won the Oppenheimer Trophy. Dylan Kok won the Northern Amateur Stroke play while Danie Viljoen was a popular winner in the GN Mid-Amateur Open. Rosswel Sinclair successfully defended his title at the SA boy’s match play. James du Preez won the NW Open. Keegan McLachlan won the Reunion World Amateur.

Multiple winners were: William Skinner (Lowveld Senior, Ekurhuleni Senior and GN Senior open), Albert Venter (EP, Africa Amateur and WP Stroke play).

Mellette Hendrikse also won… four times (KZN Senior Spring Open, NW Seniors, CG Senior Open as well as the Vaal senior Open).

Lady winners were Carrie Park, the GN Stroke and match play and Danielle du Toit , the World Amateur in Reunion as well as the Ackerman Trophy. Catherine Lau won the Rose Bowl.

National colours were awarded to James Du Preez (full), Rosswell Sinclair (Junior) and Danielle du Toit (Junior).

Currently we have 2 players in the top 10 in the country, 2 juniors in the top ten, 1 lady and 3 seniors in the top ten with Mellette Hendrikse still number 1!

I have already mentioned Liberty Life, our main sponsor and PWC. We are also grateful towards Achusnet, Cutter and Buck, Nike and The Pro Shop for preferential rates for kit.

Rohan de Beer looks after all website matters, while Lalie Stander also makes sure that we have a flow of information on our website and our Facebook page. The website is our daily window to the world and we want clubs to also post relevant information.

In closing I would like to thank our member clubs for the use of their facilities for tournaments and leagues. In this regard a special thanks need to go to the three clubs that hosted national tournaments the past year, Centurion the ladies IPT, Blue Valley the SA Amateur Strokeplay and Silver Lakes the SA Mid Amateur Strokeplay. Hosting a national tournament is a way to really showcase your club and facilities. Thanks to the delegates who attend our monthly meetings, the office staff, the Executive and our spouses and loved ones for allowing us the time to serve the union and the game we love!

Thank you.