

Hermanus Golf Club Members' Newsletter



April 2019

Golf Course

The substantial rains during March have been a late summer bonus for the course. Thanks to that rain, and to the efforts of our greenkeeping staff, we have had several comments that the course is in exceptionally good condition.

We acknowledge that this has also meant more severe rough than normal for this time of year!!

We have noticed that some drivers of golf carts are not sticking to our rules for no-go areas on the course. These rules, for clarity, are as follows:

1. The use of golf carts on the course is the responsibility of cart drivers, who must ensure that they are driven in an intelligent and responsible manner. This must obviously apply also to drivers other than cart owners. **Under no circumstances may carts be driven by minors (under 18). For safety reasons, no person may stand on the back of a golf cart.**
2. The course has been provided with what are described as green to tee cart paths and carts must access and **remain on** the cart paths wherever available.
3. Under normal conditions golf carts do not cause damage to fairways, but driving over the same area in the semi-rough may cause road like conditions, which are undesirable, and as such should be avoided.
4. In **wet conditions**, particular care must be taken that damage does not occur to fairways and, at times, it may be necessary to introduce restrictions as to how carts may be used and driven. Wet areas must be avoided.
5. Carts may not be driven **between green side bunkers and greens**. It is essential that at a point, (approximately 20 meters from the greens or as indicated by ropes placed across the approach to the green or by brown stakes indicating no go areas for carts), carts should deviate to the paved cart path to either the left or the right of the green and remain on the cart path until at least past the following tee. Carts may not be driven around greens other than on the cart path provided. On short holes (Par 3's) that are provided with continuous cart paths (4 of our 6) from tee to green, carts must remain on the cart path for the duration of play of the hole.
6. Carts may not be driven **over mounds** or through wet patches.
7. Carts **may not be parked nearer than 10 meters from any green**.
8. No more than 2 (two) persons will be allowed on a golf car on the golf course at any time irrespective of the carrying capacity of the golf car.

The committee has requested the Club President, Roydon Pybus, who feels very strongly about this issue, personally to communicate with golf players who do not abide by the rules regarding cart no-go areas.

We are finalizing planning for some important modifications to our system to channel and collect water on the course, particularly to offer some buffer for our drier months. There will be an **information session** to brief members to be held at the Clubhouse on **Thursday, 18 April at 18h00**.

Hollow tining of the greens will commence immediately after the Easter weekend, on Monday the 22nd of April.

Rounds

With some deliberate steps to offer capacity to members over the summer season, rounds played by members over the period August to March inclusive were up 5.5% over the prior year. Correspondingly, visitor rounds are down by 15.5%.

There is still opportunity to optimize the course utilization, offering more tee times to members and visitors, starting from booking protocols and rapid check-in at the Pro Shop to well-paced play on the golf course. Your committee remains encouraged at the response to its speed-of-play initiatives and will continue to reinforce those.

In this regard, our marshals have the full support of the committee in the execution of their duties, from briefing golfers on the first tee, to monitoring and managing play on the course.

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Club over the past two months:

<i>Billy Theron</i> (Full)	<i>Stoffel Fourie</i> (5 Day "B")
<i>Jacques Basson</i> (Full)	<i>Pierre de Kock</i> (Full)
<i>Dylan Lane</i> (Full under 30)	<i>Ron Steel</i> (Full)
<i>Pierre van Vollenhoven</i> (Full)	<i>Ingo Klapper</i> (Full)

We are pleased to inform members that we have agreed to offer to local SA PGA Tour Pro, Jake Roos, the use of our practice facilities, and also access to the course to play golf. Jake has agreed to assist us with golf development initiatives for Hermanus youngsters. Jake placed second in the final Sunshine Tour Championship at Serengeti three weeks ago.

Our membership has been stable over the past year to March 2019, with the total number reducing from 1,476 to 1,465. Within categories, there has been an increase in the number of over 65's who have been granted Senior Membership, with a corresponding reduction of Full Members and, independent of that, fewer Junior Members.

Finances

The Club's finances remain stable, although we have now banked much of the summer revenue and now enter quieter autumn and winter months.

We continue to spend judiciously on the course, both on equipment and on the planned water project referred to above.

At this time, we are commencing with our budgets, with the clear objective of balancing costs of running an efficient club with revenues from members and guests, while seeking to offer excellent value for money to all golfers.

Clubhouse staff

We have already said farewell to Pearl Agus and will bid farewell to Tarryn-Lee Pnematicatos at the end of April. Tarryn has served the Club with distinction for 10 years and we wish her and Mark well at Highland Gate. Pearl has similarly served us very well and she leaves with our good wishes too.

We have recruited replacements for Pearl and Tarryn. Shanon Isaac has already joined us in the position of Reception and Claudia Schindler will be starting in the position of Office Manager on the 15th of April. We welcome them to our team.

Club Championships

We hosted our Men's and Ladies' Club Championships in early March. These well-attended in excellent weather and produced worthy champions as follows:

Liam Cloete won the title of Club Champion for 2019, with a total of 140.

André Gouws won the B Division by four strokes, with a total of 160 and Nobby Clark won the 36-hole Stableford C Division with 68 points.

In the Ladies Silver division our Lady Captain, Lynne Behagg, won the title for the 10th time, with a total of 149!

Niamh Casey won the Ladies Bronze Division, with a total of 190 and Wina Loubser won the Ladies Copper Division, with a total of 208.

Congratulations to all our winners!

Code of Conduct

A recommendation has been issued by GolfRSA for clubs to set their own standards of player conduct in a Code of Conduct, adopted as a Local Rule (see Rule 1.2b). If the committee does not set a Code of Conduct, it is restricted in penalizing players for inappropriate conduct to using Rule 1.2a. The Hermanus Golf Club Committee will be implementing a Code of Conduct and adopting it as a Local Rule.

Foreign Handicaps

Please note that in future the validity of a foreign handicap for Club competitions will only be 1(one) month. Members are urged to ensure that their guests, with foreign handicaps, submit a valid and up to date handicap certificate upon registering for a Club competition.

Other News

From 1 April, the first morning and afternoon tee times have changed to 07h30 and 11h30 respectively. With effect from 1 May, the first morning and afternoon tee times will change to 08h00 and 11h00 respectively. From 1 May, online booking will revert to the winter booking time of 07h30.

Other upcoming events

12 April 2019	Hermanus High School Golf Day
19 April 2019	<i>Good Friday (Public Holiday)</i>
22 April 2019	<i>Family Day (Public Holiday)</i>
22 April 2019	Start of course maintenance including, but not limited to, hollow-tining
27 April 2019	<i>Freedom Day (Public Holiday)</i>
1 May 2019	<i>Workers Day (Public Holiday)</i>
10 - 12 May 2019	Ladies Inter-Club Championship hosted by WPWG at Hermanus
16 June 2019	<i>Youth Day (Public Holiday)</i>
17 June 2019	<i>Youth Day Observed (Public Holiday)</i>
22 June 2019	ICM Cup – re-scheduled (Bredasdorp vs. Hermanus) at Hermanus

Our committee member Michel Frost, who looks after our league golf, has been elected to the Boland Golf Union committee. Congratulations to him.

From your HGC Committee