

# Hermanus Golf Club Members' Newsletter



August 2019

Dear Member

We are in the heart of our Hermanus winter and experiencing some typical and also quite severe winter weather. The winds and rain have meant that golf on some days has not been possible, but there have thankfully been some pleasant sunny days in between.

## Golf Course

While the limited warmth and sunshine has slowed growth, the course continues in very good playable condition and the greens, with regular treatment, are also still rolling nicely.

We do still face the problem of unfilled divots, unrepaired pitchmarks and unraked bunkers, from members and visitors alike. Please do your bit in this regard.

The water project is completed and showing excellent early results, with the dam next to the 27<sup>th</sup> full and the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> fairways growing back. It will take more time and more sun for the fairways to be fully restored. The Wetland committee has also supported the planting of many new trees close to the course waterways.

## Membership

As is normal at this time of year, we have experienced some changes between membership categories and some resignations. We hope that members continue to experience value in the options that they select.

We are delighted to announce that we have resolved to offer Edelweiss du Plessis Honorary Membership of the Club, in recognition of her outstanding service over several decades.

We also welcome the following new members to the Club since the last newsletter:

<i>George Chapman (Junior)</i>	<i>Hermanus Snyman (Full)</i>
<i>Richard John Margetts (Full)</i>	<i>George Botha (Junior)</i>
<i>Ronnie van der Merwe (Full)</i>	<i>Michael Harris (Full)</i>
<i>Carien van der Merwe (Full)</i>	<i>Georg Kobos (Full)</i>
<i>Tania Fourie (5 Day "B")</i>	<i>George King (Junior under 19)</i>
<i>John Chapman (Full)</i>	<i>Luke Pyle (Junior)</i>
<i>Philip Paul Coetzee (Junior)</i>	<i>Mark Pyle (Junior)</i>
<i>Anne Lishman (Full)</i>	<i>Rikus Blomerus (Full)</i>
<i>Karen Newman (Full)</i>	<i>Gert Kruger (Full)</i>
<i>Jake Roos (Member by Invitation)</i>	

Your Committee continues to believe that the Club needs to be active in encouraging younger members and Junior Golf, as an investment in our long-term future. We are running a modest development program and we retain subscription and playing fee concessions for under 19 and under 30 golfers. Members are encouraged to introduce new young golfers who are able to take advantage of these.

## Results

*Ladies League:* The *Shiraz Team* have completed their matches for the season and are currently lying in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The *Merlot Team* are playing their last game shortly and are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The *Chenin Team* also have one game left and are currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Our *Kruger league* team has completed its matches for 2019 and achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the log with 3 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw out of 6 games, just missing out on the semi-finals.

The *Senior League* is scheduled to commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, with 3 games in October and the finals in November.

Dirk van der Merwe is our *2019 Men's Matchplay Champion*, having defeated Francois Theron 3/2 in the final.

### **Subscription and Playing Fee Increases**

Members have all received the letter explaining and annual subscriptions and fees, together with their invoices. The committee appreciates the large number of payments already received from members for Subscriptions and for Discounted Playing Packages. We have received some questions and comments regarding the adjustments that have been made this year, to which we have replied. Although many questions had been anticipated in the letter, it appears from member comments that some additional explanation is required for a better understanding:

*We are experiencing higher inflation in some expense categories – wages and utilities for example. Unlike previous years, we believe it is prudent not to expect further growth in membership and in visitor rounds in the next year, to deliver a boost to Club revenue.*

*The member demographics – particular the age of members – means that the number becoming eligible for Senior Membership is growing rapidly and will continue to do so. This requires some intervention to reduce the need for harsher interventions in future years. As noted in the previous letter, your Committee is investigating what further steps may be necessary to achieve stability in the future. Any such steps will be well explained and taken to a General Meeting of members if so required by our Constitution.*

If members have further questions regarding the 2019/20 subscriptions and playing fees, please convey them via e-mail to the General Manager.

### **Club Professional**

Julian Shaw has decided to leave Hermanus and is moving to Erinvale in the near future. We wish him the best.

We are investigating various different options and will revert to members in due course.

### **Caddies**

Your Committee continues to view caddies as an important part of the Club offering, as well as a means of employment in our community. We will be upgrading the caddy facility and also investing some time and money on training and uniforms.

### **Upcoming events**

9 August 2019	<i>National Women's Day</i>
23 August 2019	Round Table Golf Day
29 August 2019	Birdlife Overberg Golf Day
1 September 2019	Spring Mixed Competition
6 September 2019	Hermanus Primary School Golf Day
8 September 2019	Hermanus Open
13 September 2019	Hot Water for Africa
16 September 2019	Start of course maintenance including, but not limited to, hollow-tining
24 September 2019	<i>Heritage Day</i>
8 October 2019	Ladies Annual General Meeting
18 October 2019	Hermanus Animal Welfare Society Golf Day
25 October 2019	Annual General Meeting
31 October 2019	Izibusiso Golf Day

**From your HGC Committee**