



# Hermanus Golf Club Members' Newsletter

## Mid-Year 2009

The year has done a summersault; the shortest day (and longest night) has come and gone. The swallows have left and the Southern right whales are arriving. We seek and find warmth in front of cosy fires and the companionship of friends. In no time at all, spring will be upon us with the promise of summer to follow. Our swallows will start arriving, the whales will leave and the cycle of life will continue. And what a privilege it is to be party to it all, here in Hermanus, surely one of the most beautiful places on earth.

*Die Burger se Weerhaan praat van "n Jakkalsdraai voor winter waa". Die walvisse, vir hul jaarlikse kuier, het reeds hier aangekom. Wanneer dit koud is maak ons vuur, kuier en koester die warmte wat vuur en vriendskap bring. Die seisoene sal hul oeroue orde volg; winter, lente, somer en dan herfs voor die kringloop weer begin. En ons sê dankie vir die voorreg om hieraan deel te hê, hier op die verruklik mooie Hermanus.*

On a crystal clear, windless day in May, our Club Manager Sharon married James, her partner whom she has loved for many years. Creation Wines was chosen as the perfect setting for this very special day in their lives, a day shared with family and friends. We wish them a future filled with happiness and good health.



### Captain Wendell Meiring's Corner

The following is a summary of the main topics covered at the recent Report-Back Evening. An important point raised was the need to consider reducing the existing range of Member categories; including the question of allowing all classes of Members the right to vote and hold office. Your comments will be helpful.

#### Finances:

We are down on budget, but the good news is that we have sufficient cash in the bank to meet our anticipated expenses for the balance of the financial year. Expect a Break-Even result. What with the global economic meltdown and local golf clubs closing down at an alarming rate, it is very satisfying to be able to report that our ship is in relatively calm waters. But the Bridge remains alert for icebergs!

Our budget variance for the current year is mainly an overstatement of anticipated Visitor rounds. This forms a critical element in the annual budget exercise and especially the calculation of playing fees, our major revenue source. Every Rand that our Visitors spend is one Rand less for our Members to fund. Our forecast for next year reflects the current climate, but the essential adjustments already in place and ongoing tight cost controls have enabled us to hold Members' fees at realistic levels.

A major change is the introduction of a mandatory minimum pre-paid (but still discounted-) package. As explained at our recent meeting, the Committee considered this route preferable to an additional hike in the base rate of the annual subscription and particularly less punitive for those playing members who are on fixed pensions. This change was generally well received. Our overall rates remain comparatively competitive, particularly when one considers the quality of the product we offer. Once again, members electing to buy the top-of-the-range unlimited-rounds playing option (R5400) will be able to spread the cost over several months.

#### House & Bar:

Bi-weekly stocktaking, a drastic reduction of labels carried and a general revision of pricing has resulted in turning the Bar into a profit for the year. Much credit goes to Grant McLachlan, who has kindly lent his considerable experience as a hotelier to assist Club Manager, Sharon, to introduce practical management systems.

#### Course:

We continue to receive enthusiastic reports from both Members and Visitors. Every day sees new improvements. Chairman of Greens and Vice-Captain, Roydon Pybus, has done an excellent job on what is, after all, the life blood of our Club. We will delay obtaining a formal rating of the course until

next year, when the “old” nine (19-27) has had an opportunity to mature to the same high standard as holes 1-18. We are already confirming major bookings as far ahead as 2011.

#### Best Practices:

Previous Committees, as with this one, had very little history to draw on when budgeting to operate a 27-hole golf course. This has led to a major innovation in the introduction of a “Best-Practices” sub-committee under the professional guidance of Eddie Theron, who has volunteered his vast corporate experience to research and establish world-standard benchmarks for every cost centre of the Club. This is a huge project. Once up and running, Members will be able to compare the efficiency of every element of the Club structure with the best in the country, indeed the world. Most important, future committees will be able to prepare meaningful budgets without the guesswork that so often marks the running of most golf clubs.

#### Miscellaneous:

- o Expect that construction of some 50 new golf car garages will commence as soon as further tenders have been considered. Current estimates run at R20 000.00 per garage.
- o Plans are going ahead to construct two field toilets on the course.
- o Expect the current Preferred Lie/Placing rule to be dropped by October.
- o The next Walker Bay Classic will be played over all 3 courses. More players. More Fun. More revenue!
- o A breeding pair of Blue Cranes has been regular visitors to our course.
- o The Wetlands along the 15th hole have received great praise from the Botanical Society.
- o What a great blessing it is to be a member of this beautiful Club.

There were many memorable moments in our Club this year. We really don't have the space to mention each one, but some highlights are:

- o Our Club Champion, Desmond Sauls, has been invited to participate in the Champion of Champions Tournament. The regional final will be played at Stellenbosch Golf Club in August.
- o Caddies, Stanley May and Anthony Brown, 2nd year in a row selected on merit to represent the Boland team in the Caddies Interprovincial Tournament this year held at Kimberley Golf Club in May 2009.
- o Sandile Booie recently won the Ismail Okkers Memorial Tournament held at Rondebosch Golf Club.
- o Billy Boshoff holds Boland Senior Colours and has more than once represented Boland – most recently at the Senior Inter Provincials held at Pretoria Country Club.
- o Visiting past captains of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews plus the reigning captain gathered at the Hermanus Golf Club. The current captain is Hamish Ritchie and the past captains, Harvey Douglas, Colin McClean and Sir Michael Bonallack, the record holding five times winner of the British Amateur Championship.
- o Harvey Douglas arranged a historic match of the Hittites against a HGC team of players. The result, a friendly draw. The Hittites come mainly from the Liverpool and Manchester area and it is the second oldest Golfing Society in the world. The Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society is the oldest.
- o Consummate Angler, Brian McFarlane, has earned his Boland Colours and is now working toward the ultimate award, to be a member of the Protea Angling Team.
- o John & Pat Van Schoor celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year – Congratulations!

Greetings to all members from the Captain and the Committee. Enjoy your golf!

#### **Ladies' Captain, Wanda Venter, chats:**

During the past few months the Ladies' Section of our Club was indeed very active, with interesting competitions and exciting festive days.

After our Club Championship – which was won by Lynne Behagg – we had our Autumn Festival which, as usual, drew players from all over the Western Province and the Boland. An extremely successful day, which sported a full field, was enjoyed by every body. The main sponsor of the event, Pam Golding, excelled themselves in arranging an unforgettable day! The winners, who now proceed to the next round in the Pam Golding Series, were Gilly Tebbitt and Jacquie Rathfelder. Closely second were Miriam Squires and Maureen Clinton.

The league matches are now in full swing. This year we entered three teams: two in the Country League and one in Sandhills. Great enthusiasm prevails and our first team is doing exceptionally well. The Single's Competition has now been finalised and during the next few months the Country League will be contested with a Foursome competition and Sandhills will be playing Greensomes.

Good luck to all the players!

In lighter vein we took leave of our overseas players (i.e. the “Swallows”), who went back home to enjoy the European summer. The “Potjie Cup” competition between South Africa and “The Rest of the

World" – won by South Africa, of course!! – was played and the event was concluded with a typical South African lunch, with "melktert" and "koeksisters" from Quintin's kitchen as dessert. The day proved to be a most exciting and enjoyable one and hopefully this can be an annual event in the future.

The Sanlam Cansa Challenge was very well supported and 54 players participated. The winners in the different categories were as follows:

A(0-16): Lynne Behagg, 39 Stableford points. B(17-24): Wanda Venter, 41 points, and C(25-36): Therese Rabé, with 39 points. The Boland final of this Challenge takes place on 17 August at the Robertson Golf Course.

And then came Rooibos! This year the WGWP chose our Club to host the 16<sup>th</sup> Inter-Club Team's Championship. And what a splendid week-end it was!

Perfect weather; an impeccable course, and 262 players from the Boland and the Western Province slugged it out over three days of Foursomes!

A very special "Thank you!" to all our members who had unconditionally helped to make this event an exceedingly pleasant, enjoyable and successful one! Our best local participating pair was Lynne Behagg and Sue Garlick, who ended fifth in the A-division.

### **Staff Report by Club Manager, Sharon Sleigh**

During the past year, we have lost some and gained some. Although difficult to accept the loss of a member of our close team, one has to understand that people grow and move on in life.

In April, Ronel Botha, in our front office, left the Club to further her career in the medical industry. She was very popular amongst the members and her colleagues. Cor Timmerman, 'die Nederlandse' who was a popular barman for the past three years, resigned in May to manage the Marimba Café.

Tarryn-Lee Schwulst joined our admin team in May taking on the role of receptionist with enthusiasm, friendliness and efficiency. She is studying Public Relations through Unisa so she is in the ideal spot to apply her newly learnt skills. Yes, she also happens to be my very special daughter!

We have had quite a few new faces in the bar during the past year. When Thys van Tonder left us to work on an oil rig we did not replace him, instead we offered Blessing Mhlongo (bar steward) the opportunity to act as barman on competition days in the lounge bar. He grabbed this opportunity with both hands and has proven to be extremely accurate and reliable. Asher Simpson, replaced Ian Burger who left to further his studies in hotel management. Asher, in joint partnership with Romano Leicher, a past barman, has a roll-on lawn business on the side. Roger Hutton, resident body boarder, joined us at the beginning of June and has proven to be very popular amongst his peers. He is studying Landscaping via correspondence.

MZ, one of the house team, showed initiative by willingly and enthusiastically helping the bar stewards during the busy periods in season and when the opportunity arose he transferred to the bar leaving a gap for Nicholas Arosi to fill as part of our house team. Edwin Mpharu helped out as a bar steward during the Inter-Provincial Tournament and so enjoyed it that when a permanent position became available, Edwin applied and his application was successful.

We, the staff at Hermanus Golf Club, aim to please and make your experience at the Club enjoyable. Please don't hesitate to pop in and see me if you feel that we are not measuring up.

Thank you again for your support and friendship.

### **Course Report by Vice Captain Roydon Pybus**

The autumn maintenance program has been completed.

Fairways aerated, greens hollow-tined, semi rough scarified and bare areas re-sodded. The beneficial effects should be clearly visible by the end of July. Greens are targeted to be running at  $\pm 9$  on the stimp meter.

Winter is course landscaping and beautifying time and programs are in place to eliminate alien vegetation, replant certain areas with fynbos and proteas. We are once again indebted to the Gibsons for offering to donate proteas for the tee complexes around the clubhouse and the area behind the 25<sup>th</sup> green. Fynbos, aloes, restios amongst others have been harvested and moved to various more visible locations on the course as part of the ongoing beautification process.

Many projects to improve playability have been in progress.

#### **Drainage**

All main drains were cleared and improved and in excess of 3km of additional sub-surface drainage has been installed on holes 1-18. The results are there for all to see on particularly the following holes 2, 5, 7, 11, 14 & 17. Other drainage problems on holes 19-27 will be tackled during winter on an on going basis.

#### **Distance Markers**

Fixed distance markers measured to the centre of the greens have been installed at 100, 150 & 200m in all appropriate holes and should help all players to assess the correct club selection.

## Bunkers

This huge project commenced some two months back. Firstly 2 practice bunkers were constructed on the driving range complex and are now available for use. A green was graded and seeded adjacent to the practice bunkers and should be open for play by spring.

All greenside bunkers on 1-18 have been completed and rebuilt and the fairway bunkers will be completed in another 4-5 weeks. The cost by outside contractors was in excess of R500,000 for this project. We have been extremely fortunate in that RABCAV donated and delivered to the club sand to the value of at least R150,000 from their reservoir construction project. Floors Venter loaned us a sand sifting plant, STM provided expertise and supervision and suppliers of Bidum and liner material gave substantial discounts. At this stage it appears that the cost to the club is well within budget and will be limited to = -R120,000 for holes 1-18.

Work will continue and certain bunkers will be revamped on holes 19-27 as we progress.

The course will still receive its usual spring maintenance program and we look forward to removing the placing concession and revert to play the ball as it lies in October.

## Juniors

*Ons ploeg nie met geleende kalwers wanneer ons met ons kinders spog nie. Dis ons kalwers. En ons is met reg op hul trots. Ons het die voorreg om hul te sien ontwikkel. Nie almal is op dieselfde vlak van golfvernuf nie, maar deur die bank word goeie gholfetiket en sommer net doodgewone goeie maniere betoon. Party blink uit op die gholfbane, ander behaal die akademiese merietelyste op skool. Maar elkeen van hul sal as volwassenes n aanwins wees vir die klub waaraan hul behoort.*

Richard Porter has sold Steers and Debonairs and is pursuing new opportunities at Sun City. He was a most generous sponsor of our weekly and monthly events and will be sorely missed by us all and particularly the juniors who looked forward to winning a voucher to be redeemed at one of the venues.

The Driving Range vouchers recently donated by our Pro Julian Shaw are appropriate prizes and were well received. Thank you, Julian.

We pursue a policy of many smaller rather than few bigger prizes and always provide snacks after the Sunday competitions. Suggestions as to where we can source possible sponsorships will be much appreciated.

*Ons Sondag kompetisies sluit kinders vanuit die Mt Pleasant ontwikkelingsprogram in. Dankie aan ons gholfspelende joggies wat hand bysit en altyd bereid is om te help.*

Congratulations to:

- o Brothers Ayrton & Tyrone Davidowitz who have both earned Boland Colours for Angling (Juniors section).
- o Andrew Robey who was chosen for the Boland U18 Craven Week Rugby Team and who competed in the Craven Week Tournament in East London during the June/July holidays.
- o Michael Steyn (h/cap 5), the official no. 1 U14 Boland Player, participated in the SA U14 championships held in July at Kloof Country Club in Kwazulu Natal.
- o Gregor Phaff from Hermanus Golf Club was a member of the Boland U12 team at the Inter Prov Junior Golf Tournament at the Fish River Sun in April 2009.
- o Rudo Erasmus (h/cap 3) and Juri-Jan Swart (h/cap 5) both recently turned 15 years of age, but have already on a number of occasions been chosen to represent Boland in the U16 division, most recently in the Inter Regional Tournament held at Aliwal North and the Triangular held at Riversdal.
- o Jason la Cock, Andrew Napier and Gysbert Oberholzer, all pupils at Hermanus High School, are on the June 2009 academic Merit List.

**The SAGA continuously reviews its handicapping and course rating system.** At the National Executive meeting held at Benoni Country Club, detailed discussions took place led by the Handicap and Course Rating Sub Committee. In this discussion stakeholders' recent comments about the system were taken into account. Some salient points and decisions arising out of the meeting follow. Please read them with care as it has become clear that many members are not yet applying the system, particularly in regard to the "trimming" of scores, correctly.

The handicap system will be retained in its current form with some minor enhancements recorded below.

### **Control of the maximum number of strokes taken per hole:**

As from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, the method of determining the number of strokes per hole for handicapping purposes **will revert back to the method used prior to 2003, i.e. 2 overs and 3 overs may only be taken where the player strokes.**

- i. Where a player receives no stroke on a hole - maximum of 1 over par
- ii. Where a player receives one stroke on a hole - maximum of 2 over par
- iii. Where a player receives two strokes on a hole - maximum of 3 over par

In addition, the **handicap used to determine where a player strokes will be the relevant handicap in play, whether handicap or handicap allowance**, e.g. a 24-handicapper playing Singles is allowed 3-overs on holes stroked 1 through 6, the same 24-handicapper playing Better-ball has an allowance of 18 and is therefore limited to 2-overs on any hole.

The rules of golf require a player to record his full handicap on a competition scorecard. Therefore, it is a breach of the rules of golf to record only a player's handicap allowance on the scorecard. **The SAGA requires all players in Better-ball competitions to record both their handicap and handicap allowance, e.g. 14/11 or 18/14.**

### **Scores acceptable for handicapping purposes**

Scores must be made for 18-hole rounds under the Rules of Golf as approved and published by R&A Rules Limited for stroke play. Any local rules must conform to the Rules of Golf.

Rule 1 of the rules of Golf specifies "The Game of Golf consists of playing a ball from the teeing ground into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the Rules". No score can be unless this Rule is followed.

In forms of play in which completion of every hole is not essential, it is sometimes helpful and speeds up play for a player to discontinue play on a hole perhaps because of a lost ball or for some other valid reason. When play at a hole is not completed for any valid reason, the player shall, for handicap purposes only, return a score for the hole in accordance with the set formula.

When a putt is conceded in an event in which completion of every hole is not essential, the actual score for the hole shall be entered, counting the conceded putt as one stroke.

Stroke Play Scores on all courses, at home and away, should be reported by the player, together with the Standard Rating. Scores submitted through the internet are acceptable for handicapping purposes.

### **Scores not acceptable for handicapping purposes**

Scores made under the following conditions are not acceptable for handicap purposes and should not be entered in any form in the player's scoring record:

- a) When less than an 18-hole round is played.
- b) When the types of clubs are limited (as in a competition in which only iron clubs are allowed).
- c) When the round played includes the use of "Mulligans".
- d) Match play rounds

If a competitor is disqualified on his net score for playing with a handicap higher than his actual handicap, his gross score shall nevertheless be recorded for handicap purposes.

**In the July edition of the Compleat Golfer**, Peter Johnson (a member of Bellville Golf Club) writes that at his club, as is the case here, a local ruling allowing one club length placing on all fairways was in force. This led to a dispute as to whether or not this allowed for the ball to be placed from the fairway to the semi-rough. The dispute turned into a heated debate and the member decided to contact the R and A for a ruling. This was their reply:

"Thank you for your reply and for the clarification. While sometimes it can be a perceived advantage to drop or place from the fairway to the rough, it is not always the case. The key to the preferred lie local rule is that the ball must be on a closely mown area to be entitled to relief. However in taking relief, there is no requirement under the local rule to place it on a closely mown area. It just must be placed within the distance prescribed, e.g. one club length. If the player sees it as an advantage to place it in the rough, then he is entitled to do so.

"Appendix 1, Part B of the Rules of Golf (pages 132-133) provides the recommended wording for such a rule and you will see from this that the ball must be placed on a spot within the prescribed distance of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on the putting green. Decision 24-2b/8 also clarifies this in relation to an obstruction, but the same principle applies to the preferred lie."

**Here at Hermanus the question of whether or not a free drop off pine needles is permitted** has caused uncertainty and debate. Please note that the pine needles wherever they are on the course are not regarded as artificial and therefore do not entitle the player to take relief with a free drop.

**Vanuit Australië** ontvang ons n welkom e-pos. Dr Len Henson, n Hermanus lid, reageer goedgegunstig op n versoek om te vertel hoe hy sy golf daar ervaar. Die kersie op die koek – n uitnodiging om 'n rondte op die baan waar hy 'n lid is, te speel. Hy skryf soos volg:

Tydens ons Februarie ontvlugting na Hermanus, het ek gesien daar is woelinge oor die voorgee-syfers in Suid Afrika. Die voorgee is natuurlik die ding wat die speelveld in golf gelykmaak, net jammer meer gelyk vir sommige "ringers" as die eerlike opregte sukkelaar! Vreemd dat daar altyd 'n ou met 'n ruim voorgee is wat die pryse wen met 'n feitlik ongelooflike Stableford telling.

Hier by ons. In Australië, was daar ook 'n verandering van die voorgee-stelsel. Die mans voorgee was voorheen beperk tot 27, maar het verander na 'n voorgee tot 36. Die ander verandering wat eersdaags gaan plaasvind is die sg "course rating" sisteem. Huidig word die baansyfer (par) bepaal deur die lengte van die baan en daar is geen inagneming van moeilikheidsgraad nie. Sommige bane is redelik maklik om te speel omdat die ruveld baie skoon is en daar min beskerming van die setperke is deur sandputte of water, of selfs net elevasie veranderinge.



**Kangaroos op Joondalup**

Ons baan, die Joondalup Country Club het 'n ACR (Australian Course Rating) van syfer 71 teenoor die klub se syfer 72, maar soos jy van die fotos kan aflei, is daar reuse sandputjies, digte bos en ruveld, nou skoonvelde met groot rollende setperke waar daar soms tot vier elevasie vlakke op 'n enkele setperk is. Die baan speel BAIE moeiliker as 71,

maar omdat die baan relatief kort is, word ons gepenaliseer.

Kyk na die baan hier: <http://www.joondalupresort.com.au/guests/golf/golf.mhtml> en hier <http://www.joondalupresort.com.au/guests/golf/tour.mhtml>. Die AGU gaan die Amerikaanse "slope rating" stelsel invoer, sodat jou voorgee makliker oorgedra kan word van een baan na 'n ander. Soos met enige verandering is daar intense debat en spelers vir en teen die voorgename veranderinge.

Ons speel baie lekker hier en daar is 'n groot klomp Suid Afrikaners wat weekliks saam speel. Ons het op Woensdae die "Aspersie Skild" trofee oor 9 gaatjies. Ons speel 'n soort hibriede spel tussen wedstrydspel en "skins". Wie ookal wil speel, kan die trofee wen en dan doen ons dit weer die volgende Woensdag. Ons slaan af op eerste lig en is betyds vir werk daarna! Op Vrydae speel ons weer 9 gaatjies vir die "Koppie Koffie". Eenmaal per jaar speel ons vir die "Kerrie Koppie". Dit is groot pret en vind plaas die eerste week na die Currie Beker finaal.



**Van L na R: Nic en Len met die Kerrie Koppie**

Almal wat hier wil besoek aple is baie welkom om saam te kom speel. Joondalup is gereeld die beste baan in Australië as 'n sg "resort course" en onder die top 10 volgens Golf Australia.

Groetnis  
Len Henson

**One of our beautiful old trophies**, long since retired to the trophy cupboard, has been resurrected. Willie Vanderhoeven, vice chairman of the Grysbokke, tells us more.

The Billy Millen Shield, a beautiful wooden shield, goes back to Billy Millen's golfing days in Kimberley where he was working for De Beers and started a local golf competition in his name.

Billy retired to Hermanus, joined the Grysbokke and donated this trophy, which came down with him, as the inset of a yearly competition between the Grysbokke and the Wha Wha's

That competition has disappeared over the years and the trophy ended up somewhere in a cupboard until Billy decided this year to reinstate the trophy for a yearly competitive event among the Grysbokke members.



So on May 15, 2009 the first Grysbokke Billy Millen Shield Trophy was to become the winner's prize in an individual Stableford format competition.

As so often with competitions, after weeks of exceptionally good autumn weather and virtually no wind, we did not hit the best weather day in May. The South Easter was blowing at gail force (when did we get that in autumn?) and the occasional shower made it all that much more difficult for the participants to come up with good scores. But there was fun and laughter and after a fierce competition the winner of the first Grysbokke Billy Millen shield in 2009 was Alan Butler with 38 points.

The picture shows Billy and the Grysbokke Vice Chairman handing the trophy to Alan during a lively lunch following the prize giving.

Interesting to note that there was even more fun during the lunch than during the game - maybe the warm conditions inside after the chilly 4 hours on the course had something to do with this. Or... was it the wine..!

Doesn't matter, it was fun.

The trophy with the winners' name engraved is kept in a cupboard and will be competed for again in the autumn next year.

If there are HGC players looking for a regular friendly game on Mondays and Fridays with tee off around midday, please come and join us. We don't play championship competitions and we're not looking for low handicappers. Camaraderie and fun is more important than low handicaps and winning.

Of the small contribution half is paid out as price money and the other half goes into our kitty to pay for the quarterly lunches.

Our contact details are available from the HGC office.

**Some Great Birdies;** Harvey Tyson, former editor of The Star, greatly contributed in the writing of the Hermanus Golf Club Centenary Album. His most recent book, Blood on the Path, a novel around the saga of the founding of South Africa 100 years ago, was recently launched and well received. Responding to a plea for a contribution to the newsletter he literally made time to record the following sightings.

At mid-morning on April 13, Ian Nixon, Keith Brooke-Sumner and I watched a magnificent **Black Eagle** - one of the biggest of its species on the planet - patrolling the 27<sup>th</sup> fairway of Hermanus Golf Club as it glided not much higher than the trees in the background.

It was an interesting reminder that the reconstructed local golf course already has the rare privilege of hosting more than a dozen of the world's largest bird species measuring more than half a metre in length.

A week before the **Black Eagle** arrived; I saw no less than eight species of big birds simultaneously on the same 27<sup>th</sup> fairway. Standing on the fairway were:

Two **Blue Cranes** (100+ cm)

A **Grey Heron** (90-100cm)

A flock of **Cattle Egrets** (54cm)

Lots of **Guinea Fowl** (55cm)

Several **Hadedahs** (76cm)

Ubiquitous **Egyptian Geese** (71cm)

Two **Yellow-billed Duck** (51-58).

A **Kelp Gull** (60cm) flew by.

**Sacred Ibis** (60-80cm), often seen, were absent. So were the **Dikkops** (Thick Knees) that breed here and several species of **Owl** occasionally spotted.

Two **African Goshawks** were hunting in the trees behind, but didn't count as they weren't seen at that moment - and measure only 38cms.

Plump **Cape Francolins** (42 cm) on the course failed to make the grade. Other local waterfowl also failed to stretch to half a meter in length.

Nor did I bother to look for, or count a **Pied Crow**, a **White-necked Raven** nor **Black Crow** which each measure over 50cms and frequent these parts.

But the biggest bird of all that has been seen flying over the 27<sup>th</sup> fairway from the water between the eighth and the 22<sup>nd</sup> greens was not making its rare appearance.

The **White Pelican** "whose beak holds more than his belly can... though no-one knows how the hell he can" measures up to 180cms.

Also absent were **Denham's** (or Stanley's) **Bustard** measuring up to 110cm, and the **Southern Black Korhaan** (53) which is endemic to this area. Has any golfer ever seen either on the course? Even if they haven't, HCG is a world-class venue for great birds as well as neat birdies.

### **Meer Frans as 'n Franse Madame en Afrikaanser as n Boervrou**

*Agter elke plant, so lees die hoofopskrif van Anna Celliers se Tuinlewe in die Leefstyl byvoegsel tot die Burger van Woensdag 15 April 2009. Daar is 'n foto van een van ons lede, Annette de Villiers, en die koerant word nadergetrek. Die foto se onderskrif lees as volg: " Sy is meer Frans as 'n Franse Madame, bly elke jaar ses maande in haar woonstel in Parys, en Afrikaanser as 'n Boervrou met die ander ses maande van die jaar in haar woonstel in Onrustrivier – 'n kampioen gholfspeler en 'n kunshandelaar vq n formaat op die koop toe."*

*Die artikel prikkel en 'n later, terloopse ontmoeting met Annette in die klubhuis, bied die geleentheid om 'n geselsie aan te knoop en toestemming te kry om so 'n ietsie van haar lewensverhaal met ons klublede te deel.*

*Die bladsye van die oudste van die plakboeke is geel maar die boodskap duidelik: - . Gryp elke geleentheid aan, maak die beste van wat jy het, jou toekoms is in jou hande. Annette het instinktief en vanaf 'n baie jong ouderdom, keer op keer keuses moes maak, keuses wat haar op die wenpad geplaas en meer belangrik nog, daar gehou het.*

*Die plakboeke vertel die verhaal van 'n dogter gebore in Bloemfontein, een van twee dogters.. Haar vader sterf toe sy pas tweejaar oud is en by tye het haar moeder as enkelouer noustrop getrek. Van vroeg af, so sê haar moeder, was Annette 'n dogter vol durf en ondernemingsgees. Eienskappe wat haar goed te pas sou kom.*

*Sy beplan om haar na skool as onderwyseres te bekwaam maar wen 'n skoonheidskompetisie en een van die pryse is 'n mannekynkursus. Die geleentheid gryp sy met albei hande aan en word onmiddellik plaaslik gesog.*

*In 1963 word sy die vroulike hoofrol in die film weergawe van die treffer prentjieboek verhaal, Ruiters in die Nag, aangebied. Nog voor die film uitgereik word, word sy deur Balmain, die Franse mode – ghoeroe, tydens sy besoek aan Suid Afrika, 'n kontrak aangebied. Parys, die mode hoofstad van die wêreld, is nou haar nuwe tuiste.*

*Honderde artikels en foto's op die buiteblaaie van glanstydskrifte, plaaslik sowel as oorsee, vertel die verhaal van hierdie bloedjong vrou wat met grasia die modewereld oorrompel, die heel eerste Suid Afrikaanse meisie wat oorsee naam gemaak het op hierdie gebied.*



*Gou besef sy dat sy in Parys minder as in Johannesburg sou verdien. Haar loon, 'n R100 per maand vir 'n anderhalfuur se werk per dag. Maar in Parys is daar volop geleenthede om as fotomodel te poseer – en die betaling is R12 vir elke foto.*

*As model op die loopplank en ook voor die kameras, is sy gesog. Haar werketiek is onberispelik en nuwe werksgeleenthede word haar aangebied. So is sy dan ook vier jaar lank model in en mede-aanbieder van Magazin Femine, 'n Franse TV-tydskrif vir vroue.*

*Sy trou met 'n Fransman, Michel Neuman. Hul seun, Eric word gebore en die Neumans verhuis na 'n gholflandgoed. Hier byt die gholfgogga behoorlik. Annette geniet die spel, bereik 'n hoë spelvlak. en sien ook die beroepsmoontlikhede wat die spel aanbied. Spoedig is sy besig met die reël van Pro Ams , doen verslag oor toernooie vir die tydskrif 'Golf European' en bou 'n unieke versameling gholff memorabilia op.*

*Annette se verbintenis met die Hermanus Gholffklub strek oor baie jare. Van die prente en tekeninge in haar versameling is reeds in 1999 op bruikleen aan die Hermanus Gholffklub beskikbaar gestel. Ook was Annette op 'n stadium n eienaar van Hamewith, gesinswoning van Alex Grant, vermaarde kaptein en president van die Hermanus Gholffklub en het sy dit as 'n gastehuis bedryf.*

*Shakespeare sê "All the world's a stage and each man in his life plays many parts" en dit geld vir elkeen van ons, maar dan is daar ook **die** waar daar n toevoeging hoort – "They did it their way" en hetsy as model, vrou, moeder, geliefde of besigheidsvrou is Annette een van die, "She did it her way". Terloops, as jul probleme met jul pers rankmalva (Pelargonium peltatum) ervaar, kontak haar gerus, hare blom baldadig!*

## **A Child of the Sea**

When next you find yourself in the lounge of the Hermanus Golf Club, approach the fireplace. Above the fireplace you will find a framed copy of the document which recorded the birth of our Club. Seven Founder Members were signatories. One was Walter McFarlane, grandfather of member Brian McFarlane. Home to Brian and Sandy, his wife, is the Nineteenth Hole. Do you know the history of the Nineteenth Hole? For many years it was known as the Dormie House and served our club as its Clubhouse.

Brian was born and bred in Hermanus – a child of the sea which laps our shore and the son of the man who pioneered the local perlemoen industry. As a youngster he probably earned more money diving and selling perlemoen than the headmaster who actively encouraged him to leave school prematurely. It was the beginning of a lifelong sea based career which has turned and twisted but never deviated too far from the oceans, what they hide and will yield only to the most persistent of seekers.

A Gansbaai connection introduced Brian to Walvis Bay and the lucrative Pilchard Industry. Soon he became engineer on one of the pilchard boats. Noting the demand for copper and brass and not one to ever be idle, he turned to diving shipwrecks in his free time.

In 1978 marine diamonds became the buzzword. Brian was recommended to the manager of the company which had been granted mining concessions. He was appointed skipper/engineer of a boat and led a team pioneering diver based marine diamond mining in South Africa

Success carries its own reward and Brian was able to purchase his first aeroplane. Those were the days when Hermanus still had its own airfield, now part of Zweihle.

All along he continued with his lifelong recreational passion - fishing! On the fishing calendar, tuna in summer, snoek in winter and geelbek in May and June. In October, November and December when the summer Southeaster blows and the water becomes cold, the local fishermen turned out in hordes. At the Kraal, die Gang and Kwaiwater, 3, 4, 5 and even 6 kabeljou per angler per day were caught. As a change of fare, Brian visited Dyer Island to catch Great White sharks and supplement his income.

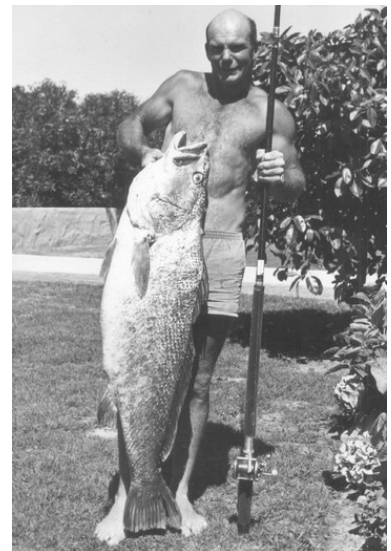
After nineteen years Brian sensed that there was a cooling down in the marine diamond industry. Together Sandy and Brian looked for new opportunities. Tourism offered the gap they were looking for. The Dormie House was purchased, renovated and became the Nineteenth Hole Guest Lodge we now know.

With tourists staying at their lodge, it made sense to offer Shark Viewing visits to Dyer Island. The first of the shark viewing boats was purchased and the new venture launched.

Brian admits that golf for him is a social activity. To satisfy his competitive urge he turns to fishing. Many decades ago, during a fish run, my husband André and I were privileged to watch him fish from the rocks at the Gang.

Cassius Clay, later known as Mohammed Ali coined the phrase "Dance like a butterfly, sting like a bee". On this day Brian made it his own. He fleet footedly darted from rock to rock hauling out one fish after the other, catching more kabeljou than all the other put together. In a class of his own, he gave us a memory to last.

The Hermanus Times of Friday 15 May 2009 reported that Brian McFarlane had been awarded his Boland Angling Colours in the Masters Division. Brian has already set his new goal, Rock and Surf Angling Protea Colours. It's written, he will succeed!



*... another great Kabeljou catch!*

**Something in the air?** There must be judging by the number of octogenarian members we have. The current count is an astounding forty – three of which seventeen are recorded on the handicap lists, fourteen men and three of the fairer gender.

The most recent addition to the venerable group of elders is past lady captain, Pat Etsebeth. Pat's ties with Hermanus go back to early days when as a toddler her family would holiday in Hermanus. The family home was a cottage near the lagoon which her grandfather had built in 1916. When Pat's father retired her parents settled in Hermanus. Pat's mother, Enid Metcalf, is one of the greats in the club's history. The records testify to a much loved captain who not only served her section well but one who ensured that the Hermanus Golf Club was held in high regard by the golfing fraternity at large.

Pat joined the Hermanus Golf Club in 1972 and settled here permanently in 1984. She has in many

capacities served this club well. For approximately a decade she was employed by the club and is well remembered for the competence, problem solving and peoples skill she brought to the task.

A quick look at the honours hole in one boards in the passage will show that smooth swinging octogenarian Faye Croxton's three hole in ones on the Hermanus Golf Course is a record. The most recent of the three achieved in 2008!

We salute all our octogenarians and wish them good health and enjoyable golf for many more years to come.

### **Laughter – the best medicine**

An elderly Overstrander called 211 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the operator: 'They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!' she cried. The operator said, 'Stay calm. An officer is on the way.' A few minutes later, the officer radios in. 'Disregard.' He says. She got in the back-seat by mistake.'

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, 'Windy, isn't it?' 'No,' the second man replied, 'it's Thursday.' And the third man chimed in, 'So am I. Let's have a beer.'

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, 'Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is.' Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her.

Finally she said, 'How soon do you need to know?'

### **The HGC Centenary Album**

Only 400 copies of the HGC Centenary Album, a coffee book publication, were printed. It tells the story of the growth from our humble beginnings to what has been achieved by our hundredth year. There are beautiful and interesting photographs depicting the past as well as the present and at R250 per copy is an excellent purchase. Purchase your copy from the administrative office.



### ***Edelweiss du Plessis***

We invite members to contribute to this newsletter in the language of their choice.

If any of our members experience difficulty in reading or understanding portions of this newsletter, due to not being familiar with the language used and there is no friend available to assist, please contact me.

Please e-mail your suggestions and comments regarding this newsletter to Edelweiss du Plessis at [duplessisa@intekom.co.za](mailto:duplessisa@intekom.co.za) or phone Edelweiss at 0283122358 or 082 873 2426.