



MPUMALANGA GOLF UNION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD AT MIDDELBURG COUNTRY CLUB

ON SATURDAY 20th JANUARY, 2018 AT 08h00

Present :

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Graeme Morrison | President | in the chair |
| Coenie du Preez | Vice President | |
| Rob Pryde | Highveld Golf | President |
| Johann van Rensburg | Highveld Golf | Vice President |
| Robbie van Zyl | Senior Golf | Delegate |
| Frikkie Fensham | Junior Golf | President |
| Robbie Haward | Highveld Golf | Delegate |
| Adriaan Rabe | Lowveld Golf | Delegate |
| Johann Bezuidenhout | Lowveld Golf | Delegate |
| Edwin Compton | SAGDB | Development |
| Keith Viviers | Webmaster | MGU |
| Colin Mulligan | Secretary | in attendance |

The Chairman warmly welcomed all present to this first meeting of 2018 and extended good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Vice-President Coenie du Preez had tendered his resignation with immediate effect to the President citing manipulating and a monopoly within the MGU Executive – Mr du Preez after consulting with the MGU President withdrew his resignation and will continue as Vice-President of the Union. He was thanked by all for a mature decision.

The status of Stephan Potgieter serving on the MGU Executive was resolved with the Vice President taking the responsibility for his attendance at Executive Meetings – Mr. Potgieter was given a vote of confidence via a majority vote.

Keith Viviers screened the Albatros System showing the committee the power and capability of the System – he then fielded questions from the Executive. As Rinus van Niekerk could not be present it was agreed to extend his timeframe to the 25th March and then if this was met to run the 2 Systems on a parallel over 5 tournaments. Junior Golf have secured a sponsor for the first year and after that negotiations will take place for further sponsorship depending on the success of the Albatros System.

APOLOGIES : Francis Themane, Rinus van Niekerk, Stephan Potgieter, Hanlie Uys

1. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 1.1 The minutes of the Executive meeting, held at Middelburg Country Club on 18 November, 2017 which had been circulated, was confirmed by the Executive and signed as a true record by the Chairman. Proposed by Coenie du Preez and seconded by Johann Bezuidenhout.

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES :**

Nil

3. **TOURNAMENTS AND MATCHES CONCLUDED :**

- 3.1 The Junior IPT was played at East London from 11/15 December 2017 – The MGU Junior team struggled at East London but still managed to finish 4th in the B section having played 6 matches, won 3 lost 3. The team beat Northern Cape, Free State and Limpopo but

lost to North West, Border and Eastern Province – young Darren Neyt of Bankenveld was the 7th MVP winning 4 foursomes and 4 singles matches. Jacques du Preez of Nelspruit won 5 of 6 singles matches.

- 3.2 The S.A Super Seniors IPT was played at Pezula in the Southern Cape from 4 to 8 December 2017 – The A section was narrowly won by Western Province from Central Gauteng by a single point. Gauteng North won the B section from Eastern Province by 2 points, thus gaining promotion to the A section in 2018.
- 3.3 The Scratch League Final was played at Witbank on 26 November with the course in a fine condition – The A section was surprisingly won by a very determined Middelburg team who beat favourites Walker Park and Bankenveld and will now represent MGU in the 2018 Northern Province's League Final. In the B section Kriel beat Bankenveld and Middelburg to gain promotion to the A section later this year.

4. **FORTHCOMING FIXTURES :**

- 4.1 The AdioMart Mpumalanga Closed Championship will be hosted at White River Country Club on 18 February and is a compulsory event for all MGU players. A meeting took place on 16 January when the White River Captain, General Manager and sponsor Hennie Huyser met with the MGU President and Secretary to discuss all aspects of the tournament. This was covered and it would appear that the Closed Championship will be a huge success – the White River course is in a good condition.
- 4.2 MGU Club Championships are scheduled for the weekend 10/11 March and clubs are reminded to stay with this date – should a club not be able to host on the given date it must apply in writing to the Secretary for another date and cannot clash with any Open Day.

5. **SAGA MATTERS :** Graeme Morrison reported –

- 5.1 MGU are concerned with the Virtual Club situation as it is affecting the survival of golf clubs particularly in the platteland – most clubs under the MGU jurisdiction are struggling to stay afloat and clubs will have to find ways to reduce annual fees as well as green fees if they want to survive. It is time the SAGA take a stance against these Virtual Clubs. Clubs need to monitor their visitors to ensure that Virtual Club Members are not affecting their bottom line.
- 5.2 The President has received a fantastic suggestion in the form of an incentive to grow the club Open Days by attaching this incentive to the winner of the Ranking Points System/Stroke Averages – revenue would come from charging an extra R30.00 a player in each Club Open Day thereby raising an amount in the vicinity of R30000.00 to be distributed to the winners. This would guarantee a full field at each Open Day with the clubs also benefitting from this. Monetary values will be coupled to the Gross and Nett winners for that year. The President would run this by the SAGA at the February meeting for guidance.
- 5.3 The SAGA are dragging their feet on the course rating project which was completed by September 2017 – the final ratings should have been out by now – MGU President would follow this up at the February meeting.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE :**

All correspondence, in and out, was tabled. They were made available to the Members of the Executive to peruse at their leisure after the meeting.

7. **SPONSORSHIP :**

AdioMart of Mbombela are sponsoring the Closed Championship at White River.

8. FINANCE :

- 8.1 The Budget Statement is running according to schedule – the Statement as at 31 December was circulated and approved after a short discussion. – there are no anomalies at this stage.
- 8.2 Affiliation fees for 2018 were set at – 1. GolfRSA R171.00 including VAT – 2. MGU R202.00 excluding VAT as the Union is currently deregistered – the MGU figure included affiliation fees of Junior, Senior and Disabled golfers.
- 8.3 The 287 new/defaulting members picked up by the Highveld Golf Association Secretary has brought in a total R111611.43 which will be added to the affiliation fees account.

9. REPORTS :

9.1 HIGHVELD : Rob Pryde

The Bankenveld Open was won by Alex Pieterse on 147 from young Jarryd Elliott on 151 in a field of 43 – the Carolina Open was won by Peetie van der Merwe on 139 from Jan Jacobs and Divan de Villiers on 144 in a field 62. The scoring systems of Albatros and that of Rinus van Niekerk was discussed at length and all finally agreed that Highveld Golf will stay with Rinus van Niekerk who will be given until the 25th March to have his system fully operational. Currently 4 clubs, the Association and the women use this system. It is user friendly and simple to operate and goes at a good price. The Handicap League gets underway on this Saturday with 56 teams taking part – the Super Senior League has fallen away as not enough teams had entered. Bank Golf Club closed on 31 December as Mine Management cited the cost of the upkeep. The number of new members and defaulters picked up by the Secretary amounted to 287 which will help reduce the forecasted deficit budgeted for at the end of the 2018 financial year. Highveld Executive requested that the MGU Secretary be co-opted/nominated to serve on the MGU Executive – this to give the Secretary a voice as most info comes to the Office.

9.2 LOWVELD : Coenie du Preez

The year started off with controversy in the league relating to a rule agreed on but not listed in the Rules circulated to the clubs – the matter will be resolved at the next Lowveld Executive Meeting. The White River Open is scheduled for 4 February, the MGU Closed for 18 February and the Lydenburg Open for the 4 March. Lowveld will play gross league this coming season in a 3 way tie with the clubs divided into pools – this in a new format. It is also hoped to arrange a match against Highveld in the early or late part of the year as the Lowveld players would like to measure themselves against the Highveld team. Lowveld courses are taking strain as a result of the severe heat and Malelane, Barberton and Pilgrims Rest are struggling financially, clubs in the Lowveld should rally to assist these struggling clubs. Lowveld assisted Pilgrims Rest with the subs of 5 development players and also assisted the Lowveld players in the Junior IPT team with R2000 each. The R5.00 SAGDB levy was agreed upon by clubs to reintroduce and who will start collecting the fees in January 2018. A meeting with Highland Gate regarding the caddies for the MGU Open there in September will be discussed and hopefully resolved. The MGU, Highveld and Lowveld clubs and players were wished a fruitful and prosperous 2018.

9.3 DEVELOPMENT : Edwin Compton

The SAGDB have transferred Edwin Compton to Malelane with the aim to grow development in that area but he will continue in his capacity as Mpumalanga Golf Union Development Manager.

Development programs will only start this coming week as the schools are due to open then. The SAGDB are interviewing prospective development coaches to take over the Middelburg program on

24 January. It was suggested that Eddie Daniel be encouraged to take his PGA Level 3 exam to fill in the gap left with Edwin going to the Lowveld.

9.4 MPUMALANGA JUNIOR and SCHOOLS GOLF: Frikkie Fensham

The selling off of golf bags privately, donated to Junior Golf by the MGU was discussed and pointed out that this was not how things were done. It was also pointed out that 2 managers were not necessary to take the junior team away. Some parents were unhappy to pay in R1500 while some refused to pay up. Junior Golf President Frikkie Fensham would discuss these matters with his committee at the Witbank Junior Open. It is also understood that the junior players were unhappy with the team manager at the IPT telling them what club to use on numerous occasions. A video of Gerrit Buurman was recorded while speaking to the team where some comments he made were not appreciated – these were then posted to the Junior Golf Committee members putting Gerrit in a very bad light. Frikkie Fensham would investigate but was very disappointed at people going over his head.

9.5 SENIOR AMATEUR GOLF : Robbie van Zyl

Robbie van Zyl has been co-opted onto the Senior committee. A “whats up” group has been formed encouraging all aspiring Seniors to play tournaments in order to qualify for selection. Clubs are requested to accommodate the Seniors in their Open Days and offer one prize for the winners. Seniors should be allowed to use carts without a doctors note. SAGA has now separated the Seniors IPT into two different venues. Mpumalanga will be playing in the B section scheduled for Pecanwood in April. The Lowveld President stated that no communication whatsoever had been made with any Lowveld Senior golfer and that they were in the dark as to what was happening. Francis Themane needs to establish a Senior link in the Lowveld so that all Senior Golfers in Mpumalanga are up to date with tournaments and developments.

9.6 WOMENS GOLF : Hanlie Uys

The 2018 Fixture List with all the different regions and groups was sent in – Affiliation fees are in line with the mens. A meeting of the Executive was scheduled for 24 January to finalise all outstanding issues. The new members on the committee would be introduced and allocated duties in the various committees. The current Womens Golf financial year would run from 1 November to 31 October.

9.7 DISCIPLINARY REPORT :

Nil

10. GENERAL :

10.1 The 2018 Elpress MGU Fixture List has been circulated to all concerned and posted on the MGU Web Site. Note the change in the Bankenveld Open Day.

10.2 The Players representative will serve as the 5th selector on the MGU selection panel – the President would have his duties set out in writing by the time he is elected at the Closed Championship. The Executive have requested the 2 Associations to guide their players on who to nominate for this post.

10.3 The Selection Criteria document was circulated for perusal – the committee was requested to study

the document and if any changes were to be made to discuss the matter with the President. It was further agreed upon that any golfer using a motorized golf cart in any Mpumalanga Club Open Day or a Highveld/Lowveld/Mpumalanga tournament cannot win a gross prize, he can however win a net prize. The Union cannot prescribe to a club but if the club fails to support this change in policy that club will not appear on the MGU Fixture List the following year.

- 10.4 The Secretary is currently finalizing the Constitution as approved at the AGM and Bosberaad – clauses to bring about the incorporation of Mpumalanga Womens Golf are being finalized.
- 10.5 Rinus van Niekerk has requested that he be granted an extension of time to the 25th March for him to finalise his system and bring it up to a fully operational ranking system as required by the Union. The cost to the Union would be zero as sponsorship has successfully been acquired.
- 10.6 Clubs who host Open Days and charge the entry fee of R275.00 must directly after the end of the tournament send the complete prize list and the values to the Secretary.
- 10.7 At Club Open Days or Club Championships all competitors – except those players appearing on the latest Stroke Average/Ranking List – may use a motorised golf cart. Any player on the list who is injured or suffers from some or other ailment may use a cart but must produce a current doctors' note.
- 10.8 As from the March meeting the venue of the Executive meetings would revert back to Belfast Golf Club.
- 10.9 At a request from Highveld Golf Association to co-opt the Secretary onto the Executive Committee a unanimous vote of approval was passed. The Secretary will enjoy the same rights and privileges as his colleagues.

NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY 17th MARCH, 2018 AT BELFAST GOLF CLUB AT 08h00

Graeme Morrison
Chairman

Please post these minutes on the club notice board for the members to read once the Club Committee has discussed them.----- Visit a very active MGU website at : www.mgu.co.za