

NEWSLETTER
01 of 02 of 2021



▶ *In the last Newsletter of 2020 we were getting ready for the buzz of season; and boy, did our Club experience a BUZZ*

▶ *To you and yours, we wish you a healthy, safe and life of appreciation and love.*

▶ *We think of those who lost their lives, their business or suffered any financial loss.*

A Note from our Chairman

Having just returned from my first swim in the sea for 2021, life is slowly returning to some form of the new “normality”. Additionally, from today, members and visitors will be able to enjoy a drink of their choice after golf.

Members are very aware that the health and safety of our staff, members and visitors is probably one of our major concerns and occupies our minds 24/7. Despite the Garden Route being declared a “Covid hot-spot”, at the club we have been very fortunate with the number of cases. As far as we are aware, none of these originated at the club. We are of the opinion that the RMP’s (risk mitigation protocols) implemented by our Club Manager have been very effective and go beyond the protocols recommended by the Government and GolfRSA.

We requested the Health and Safety Dept of the Eden District Municipality to carry out an inspection. We are proud to confirm that the Health and Safety Inspectors were satisfied with the Covid protocols implemented by the club.

Members who spent the Festive Season in Plett will have realised that the golf course was extremely busy during this period and it was difficult to make a booking to play. We certainly had record numbers of rounds during December and early January which have been a great boost for the finances of the club. Unfortunately the prohibition of selling alcohol during the busiest time of the year has affected our profitability. Members will have also noticed the lack of foreign accents in the club house and on the course. Only a very few of our Swallow members have come to Plett - we are really going to miss them this year.

Members will be pleased to note that despite everything that has happened in the past 12 months, our finances are reasonably healthy.

As Chairman of your club, I would like to thank all of our members and visitors for your support and wish that you stay well and healthy.

Regards

Howard Garmany

Covid 19

Protocols and News

PBCC Covid protocols

- ▶ Our full adjusted level 3 COVID protocols and risk mitigations are available on the club web site, please read them to ensure you are familiar with the rules.

In Brief

- ▶ Masks are still compulsory at all times in and around the club house, on the course masks may be removed but please keep a social distance of at least 2 metres from your playing partners and caddies.
- ▶ The club still recommends 1 player per golf car but this is players own choice and own risk if they want to share
- ▶ Caddies are screened every morning by the caddie master when they register and temperatures recorded, if any symptoms are shown the caddies would be asked to leave and report for a COVID test and to isolate while waiting for the result, the club has guaranteed a financial grant to any caddie that has to isolate due to a positive test
- ▶ Caddies are instructed to not handle the players clubs and to sanitise before and after play, caddies are also not permitted to drive golf cars unless owner indemnity has been signed and again this is at owners risk
- ▶ Entrance to the club remains via the pro shop and we ask that all players please to follow the protocols, signs have been placed for the entrance and exit points, the front door of the club will be opened from 16h00 onwards for players leaving the club only
- ▶ We did invite the inspectors from the garden route COVID response team to inspect our protocols and although there is no certificate available to certify compliance they did report that our protocols are more than adequate
- ▶ Staff are still on a one on one off basis for the foreseeable future so we ask that members continue collecting their drinks from the bar
- ▶ Locker rooms and showers are still closed but the toilets in the locker rooms are available for use if bar toilets are occupied.
- ▶ Please keep yourself safe and by doing so keep us safe as well

Bridge

Despite the pandemic and lockdown the bridge club is still operating. We are very fortunate with having online bridge. A new bridge platform, Realbridge, has been developed. This program allows you to see and hear other players if you wish to do so. Port Alfred bridge club runs a Realbridge teams competition on Saturdays and has invited any Plett players who wish to play to make up a team - contact Rod Pienaar on 0796735077.

Our club runs a teams competition on Monday afternoons. These competitions run for a 5-6 week period. The next one begins on February 15th. Our pairs competitions are now held on Wednesday afternoons. Contact details for these competitions can be found on www.bridgewebs.com/plettenbergbay.

League:

Plett bridge club A and B teams won the Southern Cape 2020 league. Congratulations to all the players. League will begin again next month.

Tennis News

- ▶ What a year to remember. 2020 turned our lives upside down but what it did do was make us extremely grateful for the sports we play.
- ▶ Our tennis section has appreciated being back on the court and we enjoyed a busy December season with both locals and holiday makers.
- ▶ We have had an increase in membership over the last few months and our calendar for national and regional events is full.
- ▶ The year always starts with mixed league and we have entered first and second league teams with matches starting starting on the 6th February - teams travel as far as Oudtshoorn and Rietbron in our region.
- ▶ The development tennis facilitated by Dave Olsen our resident coach will start once schools open and there are a number of talented players coming through from Formosa Primary.
- ▶ I am sure all members will be pleased to know that we will be resurfacing the courts within the next few months - great news.
- ▶ Looking forward to a busy 2021- see you on the court

Carrie Maclean

Tennis Captain

Ladies Golf news

- ▶ What a strange time this has been, but somehow the Ladies Section has managed to plough on through and keep smiling and golfing! How wonderful that we've managed to keep the club going and the course to such a high standard and in such magnificent shape, thank you to all concerned!
- ▶ The ladies had their delayed annual Club Champs in late November and Sarah Parvin is the 2020 Club Champ. Brenda Smith was the runner-up in the Silver Division. Jeannine Rynners won the B division with Jenny Tipping the runner up. Estelle Zoutendyk won the C Division Stableford with Bets Flood the runner up. Well done to everyone for their effort and hard work out there!
- ▶ Club Champs was followed shortly after in the same week by the end of year Christmas Comp. Everyone looked very glamorous all in white and the pretty little goodie boxes at halfway containing a cupcake and a mini Amarula shot did the trick at halfway!
- ▶ The new year has had an active start with lots of ladies enjoying both morning and afternoon fields. The experimental Ryder Cup format team event Sugarbirds Vs Sunbirds was a great success with a turnout of 60 ladies - fantastic considering we are sadly missing so many of our popular and much loved 'Swallow' members. We are very sad for our club and for Plett that our regular visitors are not with us this year and we really look forward to welcoming them back in 2022!



Mens Golf

- ▶ Club Champs were held rather late, but rather late than never and again a huge thank you to Wynand Retief of Van Loveren Family wines for his continued sponsorship of the club championships
- ▶ Congratulations to our winners:
- ▶ Overall Cub Champ Lucas Steyn 146 Gross
- ▶ A Division Lucas Steyn 144 Nett
- ▶ B Division Dave McNally 168 Nett
- ▶ C Division Mike Egan 70 points
- ▶ Super Sixes happened later in the year and was a great success again - thanks to Daron and Team from The Worx.

Thanks to our Sponsors - great to have you on board:

- ▶ Kwikspar/ Tops - Duncan Brown
- ▶ Seeff Properties - Kevin Engelsman
- ▶ Helen Melon - Helen Ward
- ▶ Gimme Golf - Cliffie Barnard
- ▶ Van Loveren Family wines for Club Champs - Wynand Retief

Course News

▶ Tees.

- ▶ *We have started a project to give our tees some TLC and to level where needed.*
- ▶ *Some tees will be sodded, this is done to restore the state in the shortest time. Some temporary tees will come into use.*
- ▶ *Refer to News on Projects on the 11th Tee.*
- ▶ *The project plan will be shared with the members on the Notice board and on the website.*

▶ From the Fairways

- ▶ *We experience thatching on our fairways every year around January February.*
- ▶ *The mowers are still set the same and that will cause some scalping. This will rectify itself. For the time being we will stick with the ONE CARD placing on all closely mown areas.*
- ▶ *We've had good rains and have water available, so while we wait for more rain we will continue our irrigation plans as far as possible.*

▶ Bunkers

- ▶ *Bunkers edges will be cut back to alleviate the overhang.*
- ▶ *The Rule agreed to by Committee is as follows:*
 - ▶ *Should a ball come to rest in a FOOT PRINT, or DIVOT in a bunker, the player may take relief by placing the ball by hand, no nearer the hole, in the same bunker.*

/ course news continued

▶ **Young Trees.**

- ▶ *During the discussion of the Oak trees we gained some advice on our smaller struggling trees.*
- ▶ *Starting this week; 1m bowls will be made around the trees without damaging the roots. Trees will be given some compost, mulch and water to stimulate their growth, and will be marked with BLUE stakes.*

▶ **“Dam News and Waterways**

- ▶ *The dam on 17 was been sprayed with an Eco-friendly application. This seems NOT to have worked as planned.*
- ▶ *The matter will be dealt with soonest.*
- ▶ *Waterways have also been sprayed to ensure that they stay clear for any excess water that might flow through the club. Again, the matter is being dealt with.*

▶ **Pathways**

- ▶ *We have noted the loose and missing bricks on some walkways. These will be rectified*

▶ **TeeSheet**

- ▶ *As per the past few years the tee sheet was opened for 90 days advance booking from 1st December to end February*
- ▶ *We will now leave the tee-sheets at 30 days advance booking until the end of March when we will revert to the 14-day advance booking period. The few bookings that slipped through to April will remain as is.*

Course developments.

- ▶ New Projects

- ▶ ***Oak Trees***

- ▶ *We had a visit from a specialist who has a very professional approach to a possible problem.*
- ▶ *He will be climbing the trees to assess and define the outline of the project.*
- ▶ *If appropriate, the trees will receive some recently approved treatment by Dept of Parks and Forestry*
- ▶ *The treatment consists of a process that will bring some changes to the fairway surrounding. We already explored professional course design options advice to ensure that aesthetics and playability of the hole are maintained at the highest level.*
- ▶ *Either way we will share all information with the members as we uncover possible solutions.*

- ▶ **11th TEE**

- ▶ We believe we can add an extra 60sqm of surface in the sun.
- ▶ This project was initially aimed for early 2020, but was put on hold due to COVID effects on the budget.
- ▶ We have recently received an updated quote
- ▶ We intend to get this project sketched and outlined to the members soonest with suggested project plan and time frame for members info.

Our Pro Shop - Gimme Golf.

- Always a warm welcome, always a smile
- Cliffie and Liesel wish to thank ALL members of Plett Country Club for their continued support- they strive to deliver.
-Whether it is a product, or a swing change - Cliffie and Team GimmeGolf are available for a chat at any time.

22:12 18%

Vorster wins SA Stroke Play in

www.golfrsa.com



2021 South African Stroke Play Championship winner Martin Voster won on 23-under at Randpark Golf Club; credit Ernest Blignault

"I am really, really pleased that I pulled it off. This is an unbelievable win and I owe it to my team who got me here... my coach **Cliff Barnard**, **Garth Milne** – my **biokineticist**, my **physiotherapist Elsa van Heerden**, who did all my rehabilitation, and of course, my parents."

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Members

We remember members who have sadly left us since the last AGM

David Betton - December 2020
Fiona Woods - January 2021
Maureen Rennie - January 2021

▶ *We welcome as new Members:*

- ▶ *Warwick Morley-Jepson*
- ▶ *Adrian Smith*
- ▶ *Theo & Louise Henning*
- ▶ *Andrew & Deborah Bradley*
- ▶ *Diego Casilli*
- ▶ *Rob & Joshua Lopez*
- ▶ *Stephen Fish*
- ▶ *James, Robert and John de Villiers*
- ▶ *Peter Martin*
- ▶ *Susan Swart*
- ▶ *Harry Middleton*
- ▶ *Phillip Calothi*
- ▶ *Steve Jagga*
- ▶ *John Scruby*
- ▶ *Hazel Hairs*

- ▶ *Brett Whitehouse*
- ▶ *Barnaby Pyper*
- ▶ *Charles Niehaus*
- ▶ *Janus Roux*
- ▶ *Patrick Moroney*
- ▶ *Gert van Rooyen*
- ▶ *Riaan Smith*
- ▶ *Kevin Williams*
- ▶ *Camryn Williams*
- ▶ *Andrew Weinberg*
- ▶ *Clinton Ephron*
- ▶ *Dylon Ephron*
- ▶ *Charles Lilford*
- ▶ *Patty Killian*
- ▶ *Chris Cronje*
- ▶ *Johannes Blom*
- ▶ *Noah, Gabriel & Mitchell Theron*
- ▶ *Hope you going to enjoy it here with us as much as we do*

Nature and the lighter side

- ▶ We are excited to Welcome Radical Raptors in a project where they will install some owl boxes around the course - most definitely out of play.
- ▶ Mark Robson released a Spotted Eagle Owl on the course late January - sadly the bird was re-collected and is being rehabilitated and will be released again when they are happy that it will fend for itself.

- ▶ Parting Thought - adopted from a Ben Hogan saying:

The most important thing you do, might be the next thing you do

See you out there