



## Gauteng's Captain's Report. AGM.

As the year draws to a close, so does my term as Captain of Gauteng Nomads. It has been a very busy but exciting 3 years leading up to and heading the Gauteng Nomads Golf Club.

### MEMBERSHIP & GAMES

Membership numbers remain relatively static with the following breakdown

Full Members	161
Honorary	9
Honorary Life	5
Sponsor	7
Associate	14
Non-Active	5
Non-Playing	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>

I have tried to encourage the committee to canvass for new members, feeling that we should set a good example. We had very limited success, but I had the privilege of inducting a total of 8 new members through the year. We currently only have 6 prospective members on our waiting list.

Year to date we have averaged 127 players per monthly game, which although fewer than the past, I feel that these figures may very well pick up with the weather improving and I therefore do not see any reason for concern.

A special note of thanks must go to Noreen and Brian Cusins for maintaining our SOP systems, albeit quietly in the background. Brian and Noreen have been running the old manual system side by side with our newly developed computerised system. Final testing of the computerised system will be done at

our Gold Cup game. The output of both systems will be compared and any problems will be sorted out there and then. Hopefully the computerised system will be ready to go solo from next year. We are grateful to Bruce Richards for all his hard work, and wish Brian and Noreen a well deserved retirement from the system administration.

### **LADIES**

Bev Du Toit, Ros Lewis-Williams and Isla Bolton and not forgetting Noreen, remain the backbone of our club. With guys pulling out of our games or only entering at the last moment, it is truly amazing what they accomplish. To our special ladies - we cannot thank you enough.

### **ANDREW MENTIS ENDOWEMENT FUND**

Our Andrew Mentis Endowment Fund chose Living Link as this year's beneficiary. Living Link is an educational facility and Pat chose to renovate an existing dilapidated hall on their premises. The renovations have been completed and there has been a marvellous response from our members with donations of computers, air-conditioners, roofing and more, all adding to a very successful project. Well done to Pat and his committee.

### **HANDICAPPING**

We look forward to implementing the swipe card system Over the past few months Bruce Richards has run checks on all our players on the SAGA website. Unfortunately, we usually have about 10 golfers each month who have not captured their scores. Thank goodness we don't have repeat offenders - mainly members with Alzheimer's. I personally try contact the individuals, but this is a very time consuming exercise.

### **FINANCES**

Financially we are within our budget and should end the year in a similar favourable position to last year. Even unforeseen expenses such as Bev's laptop and a new equipment trailer – which was procured through our wonderful sponsors at Imperial at half the normal price – have not impacted negatively on our financials.

### **NATIONALS & AWAY TOURS**

With the average age of our club constantly increasing, we have lost a lot of our 'travellers' who used to participate in National and Away Tours, due to age and financial reasons. Also, many of our members with their own businesses have

struggled in the current economic climate. This is a major area of concern. We were short of players to go to our annual Natal Durban July weekend, and were only able to send 10 players, instead of 20, to the Lowveld Quadrangular; this is really not good enough. Although we recognise that the Nomads calendar is now over-crowded with commitments, the Gauteng support is genuinely lacking. We need to improve our commitment drastically.

### **GOLFORAMA**

Glen Dalton continues to drive our Golforama events and with the support of both Northerns and Easterns, we manage to meet all our obligations, albeit sometimes with a lot of coaxing and pleading. We do try encouraging our newer members to participate, as it is a great way to experience what Nomads do for others.

### **JUNIOR GOLF**

Paul has done a fantastic job. The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior Interclub Championships were played at, and won by Modderfontein Golf Club. Golforama pledged R25 680 to this event. I attended the Junior Foundation Awards Dinner, held at Bryanston Country Club on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Nomads sponsored R15000 and at the Dinner, I handed over the proceeds from our Volvo Masters Tournament. We are also involved with another Junior Interclub at Glendower – R10 000 - and The Festive Golf Tour in December- R5000.00. All in all a very constructive year in promoting golf at junior level.

### **NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

The following Nomads reached significant achievements in the past year:

Game Badges:

400 John Warwick

300 BJ van der Sandt, and John van der Spuy

200 Spero Marinaki, Doug Lynch and Malcolm Sheppard

Ties:

35 years Jerome Davis and Frank O'Neill

30 years Trevor Baillie

### **COMMITTEE**

To my entire committee, I cannot thank each of you enough. At the beginning of my term as Captain I said that it is not about me, but about the whole committee. I sincerely appreciate all your hard work, extra time and dedication you have put in to ensure the successful running of our club. There is no way I could have managed without every single one of you.

To my Vice Captain, Pat Frampton, although you may appear controversial, I have all the faith that you have Nomads at heart and your dedication and loyalty will be shown throughout your term. I wish you all the best and please remember that I will be right next to you, whenever needed.

Spero Marinaki, it has been wonderful working with you this past year. Nothing is ever too much of a problem, and your commitment to Gauteng Nomads is exemplary. I wish you every success with next year's Andrew Mentis Fund, and I can assure you of a very rewarding, but also extremely humbling experience.

### CLOSING

Three odd years ago Brian Cusins asked me to stand for Captain of Gauteng. As a complete outsider to any of the Nomads committees, I was not prepared for how much effort it takes from so few Nomads to make this club run.

For me personally, I have met some wonderful people and made a lot of life time friends. The greatest opportunity for me has been to work and socialise with a remarkable group of Captains and Members of the Executives, over the past three years.

I have been truly humbled by the experience of being Captain, and I would like to thank every one of you for giving me the opportunity to represent the Gauteng Nomads Golf Club at the highest level. My Captaincy finishes now, but the memories will last me a life time.

Thank You

Gavin Ditchfield.  
2011 Gauteng Nomads Captain.  
October 2011.