



## MECC MEN'S GOLF CAPTAINS REPORT ~ 2017/2018

Welcome to the Men's Golf AGM for 2017.

This past year has been a very busy year on the golfing front, which I will detail through my report.

As a Golf Section we have certainly achieved a lot more than last year. We have new greens on Course One which have come on in leaps and bounds since the opening on 1 May 2017. Many members and visitors have complimented us on the great conditions on Course One and Two.

In the New year, we will be starting the upgrade of the entire surrounds of the Pro-shop. The project will commence on 15 January and should be completed in about 12 weeks. Also, as presented by Dale Tomlinson prior to our AGM, both golf courses will be renamed with Course One, being renamed "The Old Mill" and Course Two renamed 'The Lakes'. In addition, the course layout of The Old Mill, will also be changed and this will all commence in about mid-April.

These are some of the exciting new changes happening in 2018.

### Golf team

Our Golf Committee in 2017 comprising of Slade Mansfield, our Vice Captain, Steve Cottingham, Gerry Nijhuis, Dave Brown, John Herselman, Allan Mellor and Noel Kent (our Men's Senior Captain), have all done a great job and contributed enormously to our golf section. Thank you.

### Our league results for 2017:

**Premier league** – MECC won in the final playoff against Cotswold which was played at the Bluff (the mutual venue decided by KZN Golf).

**The Allerton League** side under Steve Viljoen's Captaincy tied first in the league but lost on match points 28.5 to 28.

**The MECC Senior League** under the captaincy of Tony Carnecky ended second overall behind bluff by only 12 points.

In the **Composite leagues**, we participate in two separate leagues:- against Royal and Kloof in the one and in the other league, against DCC and Kloof. This year we won both leagues and I would like to thank Steve Viljoen and Peter Smith for captaining these sides.

This year we have had a good response from members wanting to play in the Composite sides, and the list we are compiling is getting longer, which is making getting teams together, easier. To those members who have played Composite league this year - thanks very much.

We also participate in the Mixed Dolphin Coast Inter Estate league and this year MECC finished first overall. We went into the final round at Princes Grant trailing

Princes Grant by 8 points, and we ended up winning the league by 4 points overall. The other estates who participate are Princes Grant, Zimbali, Simbithi and Umhlali.

At the recent ***Interclub tournament*** held at Selborne, our 'A' side, lost in the semi finals and the 'B' side and Frog side did not make it past the qualification round.

If anyone is interested in joining any of these league squads next year, please give the respective Captains your name and contact details. We are always looking for new and old talent.

#### Notable results:

Once again, our Members excelled at various tournaments during the year.

1. Cade Cryer and Luke Mayo were selected for the KZN provincial side to play in the 2017 SA Inter provincial golf in East London in December.
2. Siyanda Mwandla won the Ilembe Golf Federation Champs – North Coast Open played in July
3. Siyanda Mwandla ended second with Derek Scullard eighth, Greg Mckay ninth and Luke Mayo twelfth in the David Suddards trophy in June.
4. Derek Scullard also has had a great year, winning KZN mid-am Open, the Western Province mid-am and more recently the Limpopo mid-am Open at Euphoria Golf Club. Derek also won the NCD Championships at San Lameer in March.
5. Dave Brown, Dale Burraston and Derek Scullard also represented KZN in the mid-am IPT and ended fourth and fifth respectively.

#### Special mention

I need to make special mention of the contributions of the following committee Members and employees:-

Slade, our Vice Captain is still running our junior golf section and he is doing a wonderful job, giving up most of his Sunday afternoons to help our aspiring junior golfers.

Also, to Blessing for his tireless effort and hard work and for all the time and dedication he gives to all of us and to the golf section.

Thank you to all our Starters and Marshalls. Michael, Norman and Sipho. You are always willing to help our Members and visitors at the club.

To Melville, Simon, Barbara and Winnie in the Pro-shop, thanks for all your hard work and keep those smiles coming!! Also, welcome to Jono who has taken over the running of the Pro-shop on behalf of Global Golf and who has taken over from Micky, who has now joined Mount Edgecombe full time as our Golf Director.

#### Junior golf

Our junior golf section has moved from the big three to the big five, which now includes Kloof and Umhlali in the schedule.

Slade's juniors played in fifteen events with the big five and a total of 118 different kids entered the events.

This is a big increase in the number of children playing golf in KZN, which has always been our goal.

Next year we are bringing the Junior events back to Mount Edgecombe as the running of the events is more efficient here, and the number of golfers, are much higher at MECC.

We will also be offering golf clinics on the Friday prior to all events to try and improve skills and etiquette.

We thank all the staff and the club for their support and look forward to a successful 2018.

#### [Golf course developments](#)

Our golf courses are still outsourced and maintained by the Matkovich group.

This year we started off the year with the re-laying of the 10 greens on Course 1 and hole 5 was completed. We re-opened Course 1 on 1st May 2017 when we hosted a golf day for all our members.

During winter the Matkovich group over-seeded all the greens with 'winter grass' as I call it, which certainly helped us have decent greens right through winter. This certainly turned out to be a good decision.

Report from Mike Wallington:

*"Both golf courses have seen great improvement to the tee, fairway and rough playing areas. The program to control broad leaf grasses on the tees and fairways of both golf courses has started to pay off. The reduction in the unsightly broad leaf grasses that had infested the finer leaved "cynodon" fairway grass is now obvious. Increased fertilisation coupled with judicious and selective light herbicide applications have helped to increase the desirable fine leaved fairway grass and reduce the coarse and undesirable grasses. This program will continue as it is not a once off and a couple more years will be needed to clean up the fairways and tee tops, and then settle back in to a maintenance regime.*

*The last remaining 10 greens on Course one, that had not been converted to paspalum "sea isle" have been re-grassed this year. This was, by and large, a successful renovation project done in-house using the maintenance team. The method using sprigs, as opposed to sod is the recommended method world-wide for best results both medium and long term. Using high sprig rates and cool season inter-seeding the maintenance team managed to produce acceptable putting surfaces within a very short period. These greens are still growing in and some experts believe that paspalum greens take as long as three years to get to the right density for best putting performance. We are hoping these greens continue to get better and better.*

*The 11th tee on course one was laser levelled this year. Additional tees on both courses will be identified for laser levelling in january 2018. We are aiming to do 4 tee tops every year.*

*The "cynodon greens" on course 2 have also received a lot more attention to try and get them putting consistently well. The paspalum is being sprayed out in those greens and the putting surfaces are showing constant improvement. The new cultural, nutritional and chemical program that is being used is definitely helping to achieve greater consistency. Grooming, brushing, rolling and vertical mowing are some of the cultural practices that are being experimented with, with respect to frequency and timing to achieve better surfaces.*

*The six remaining paspalum greens on course 2 are being inter-planted with cynodon to match the other 13 greens on course 2. This process has already started and will be accomplished during normal maintenance practices so as not to disturb*

*golf or cause any down time on the greens. The conversion process may take a few years.*

*The semi-rough cuts which were only introduced last year are now starting to frame the bunker complexes and greens complexes improving the aesthetics and playability. The control of broad leaf grasses has now been extended in to this mowing area. There are some initial results which are already noticeable, and we look forward to having smooth semi-rough bunker and green surrounds in the not too distant future.”*

Thanks Mike for that report.

Thank you to Gilbert our resident green-keeper for all his hard work and to Mike for all his input, and I am sure we can say that both our golf courses are probably the best we have seen them in for many years.

#### [New events for 2018](#)

I would like to thank Nedbank Private Wealth for their sponsorship of the Drive to the Nedbank Private Wealth Cup this past year and congratulations to Robin Singh who won the overall competition and will now be hosted at the SA Open in Johannesburg next year.

Nedbank Private Wealth has continued their sponsorship and association with Mount Edgecombe and next year we have an exciting new competition, and further details will be given out soon.

The men’s golf section here at MECC, is made up of different golf schools which are run by different school captains. In the New Year, we will be organizing some catch up meetings with the different school Captains to give feedback, updates on future golf events and to hear any concerns and this can then be fed back to your school members.

#### [Future competitions](#)

The golf committee has made a decision that beginning in the New Year all golfer’s handicaps will be reduced by 25% during Better Ball and Alliance Competitions in our member competitions only. The reason for this is to try and even out the competition results.

The golf committee has also decided to reduce the number of positions to be paid out on member days and this will increase the weekly prize payouts.

Going forward all members must tender their apologies should you not be able to attend the member competition prize-giving on Thursdays and Saturdays. Apologies must be entered on the apologies list which can be found in Blessings office or you can apologize to the Captain, Vice Captain or person on duty at prize-giving. Should no apology be received by a member who is in the prizes, then their prize money will be forfeited to junior golf.

#### [Financial report](#)

Golf at the Club has grown this year since the re-opening of Course One, and we are receiving lots of positive feedback on the state of both of our golf courses.

Our rounds played so far in 2017 total 50,117 against a budgeted number of rounds of 42,130.

The finance committee did budget for a loss of revenue from golf due to the greens refurbishment program earlier this year. However, it is noted that for the month of

October 2017, our profit was R156,000 compared to the prior year's profit of R106,000 which is encouraging to see.

I am sure with the current state of both of our golf courses, we should be in for a bumper 2018. Here's holding thumbs!

#### Conclusion

In closing, I would like to confirm that our current golf committee have agreed to continue serving and I would also like to welcome Peter Smith onto the committee this year. He will certainly bring a lot of golfing experience onto the committee.

Finally, thanks to all our Members for their continued support, and thanks to our Chairman, Tony and the Club Board, to Desiree, our GM and her management team and staff, our Golf Director, Micky and his entire team for all their continued support. It has been another great year at Mount Edgecombe.

Thank you.