

July 2018

Elements Private Golf Reserve Newsletter

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Chairman's Report

Hi All

This is a fairly slow time of year as we consolidate all our decisions made over the previous months and take time getting the course ready for the explosion of spring.

Thanks to the hard work of Ian and the Trustees, all our projects are on track; there is not much to mention that is not already contained in the rest of this report.

I was gratified to see a full course during the Friday and Saturday of the August Women's Day long weekend so, just because it is getting to the end of winter, don't assume the course is empty. In other words, book to avoid disappointment.

Please continue promoting our Reserve wherever you can, because only with a collective effort will we ensure that Elements becomes a desired destination.



ELEMENTS
PRIVATE GOLF RESERVE



From the General Manager

July was, as normal, a relatively quiet month and the number of rounds played fell short of forecast by 142. The colder than normal weather contributed to this, but it warmed up towards the end of the month and golf bookings are looking positive.

Both the bush and the golf course have stood up well to the winter weather and with spring just around the corner, we look forward to the transformation back to green trees and grasses. The August winds have already begun and with the dry veldt we are constantly on the lookout for fires. We all need to be vigilant during this season and to do all we can to avoid fires at all costs.

The organised fire protection groups in the area are all on high alert and are in regular contact with each other during this period.

We look forward to an upturn in business during the coming months and also to seeing many more Members returning to enjoy more relaxation and golf.



Juandré Marais, Shaun Brits (Head Greenkeeper RJ&KGC) Alan Field, (Chairman RJ&KGC) and Ian Leach acknowledging the donation of Aloe Arborecence by Royal to Elements.



Golf Course Report

As we have said previously, the course has remained in very good condition throughout the winter and is ready to transform back to its summer state as soon as the rain returns.

The new rule changes come into effect on 1st January 2019 and are specifically aimed at speeding up play and making the game more fun. The new rules are included in this newsletter for your information and Golf RSA have ruled that they may be played from now on and that players are permitted to enter scores when playing under these new rules.

We have taken this new approach to make the game more fun and to speed up play into account and have opened up a number of approaches from the tee box complexes a little further. This has not changed the look or feel of the course but just assists in not losing so many balls from the tee shot.

Another main focus of attention has been the treatment of Poa Annu grass in the greens. This winter grass strain has been in the greens for many years but has become more prolific and more visible this year for some unknown reason.

This is not only true at Elements but at all courses on the Highveld. All the greens have been sprayed with a product named Cultar which places the plant under stress and retards the seed growth. This will be repeated twice again in August and over time the Poa will reduce and, hopefully, be totally eradicated in a couple of years' time.

Please note the hollow tining dates for the spring treatment: The course will be closed from midday on Sunday, 14th October until Thursday, 18th October.





Golf Operations

July was not a great month from a business volume point of view. The number of rounds played fell short of plan by as much as 18%. The year to date rounds played are only 4% below target and are likely to be caught up in August.

Total golf revenue is currently 6% behind forecast and this, too, should be caught up within a month or two. The feedback from all golfers remains positive and we know that word of mouth communication is helping to grow the business slowly but surely.

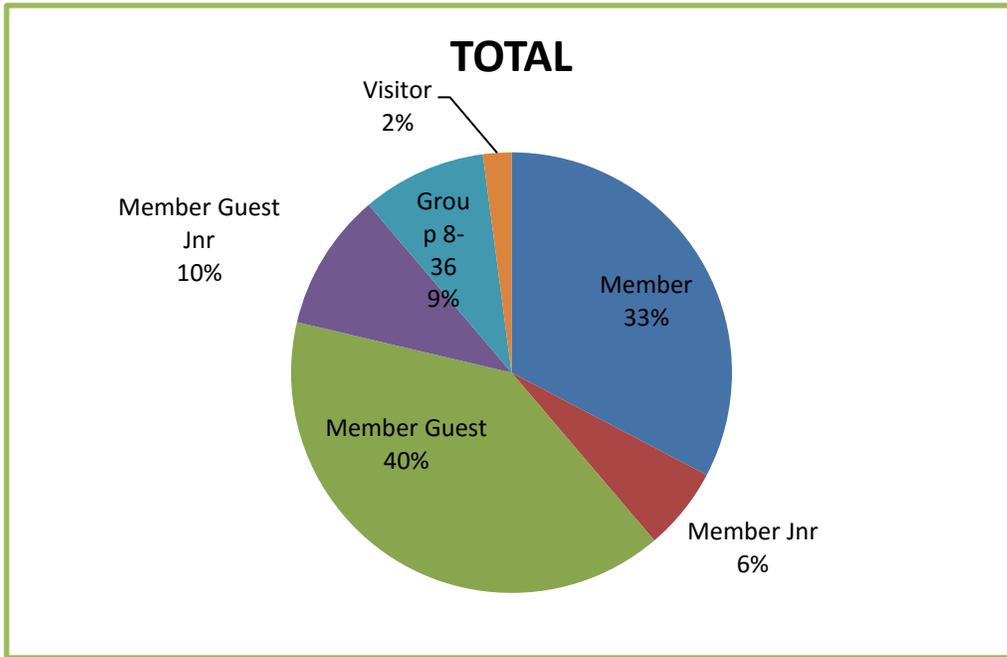
We continue to focus on customer

service and would welcome your input if you feel there is anything more you would like us to offer or if your experience fell short of expectation in any way.

We entered Elements into the Club Managers Association annual awards in the Environmental category, hoping to win the Green Award. While our entry was impressive with all that is being done to promote and comply with high environmental standards we unfortunately were not successful in reaching the finals. Our water management, power consumption, waste disposal, golf course cultural

practices, alien plant eradication and game management practices are all managed to high standards. We look forward to engaging with the eventual winner to learn from them what practices they have in place that we could consider to implement.





Fauna and Flora

We have recently added wildlife posters in our game viewing hide to use for reference when the animals come down for a drink at the dam.

The Aloe Marlothii on the 11th hole is in absolutely beautiful full bloom. The Bulbine at the Clubhouse have also started to flower.

We look forward to seeing all the trees and plants that will be in blossom very soon.

The bush is not as dense this time of the year, which ensures great opportunities to see some of our resident game when taking a walk or a drive around the estate.

Kudu, Nyala, Waterbuck and Impala were regular sightings during the month.

There is also an abundance of birdlife around the estate, with Crested Francolin, Natal Spurfowl, Helmeted Guinea Fowl and Cape Turtle-Doves often found on the golf course.

Other bird sighting during the month included: Little Grebe, White-fronted Bee-eater, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Lilac-breasted Roller and Marico Flycatcher.



Water Project Status

The water project remains on target both from a time and cost point of view.

The Newburg borehole is almost completed. All the equipment is on site, the trench has been dug and the holding reservoir is in place. The target is now to have this borehole pumping by the end of the first week in August.

The Waterberg borehole is complete and ready to make the changeover as soon as Eskom deliver the upgraded 100 KVA transformer. Delivery of this equipment is scheduled for September.

Some breakdowns were experienced with existing boreholes but all have now either been repaired or replaced. Water is still being pumped into the 9th/18th dam and the level is slowly rising. As the surface area spreads so the rate of rising is less. The water now covers the 9th green and is almost up to the middle of the 18th green. One good rain event will make all the difference, and hopefully that will occur soon.

A circulating pump has been installed in the dam next to the 7th green which is pumping water from the dam up to the cart path bridge from where it is free flowing back into the dam. This has created a whole new look to the hole and certainly changes the playing strategy for many golfers. Be sure to take a good look next time you play the course.



New Rules Effective January 2019

The Royal and Ancient have released a set of new rules to take effect on January 1st 2019.

These are very interesting changes and have been introduced with the express purpose of making the game more fun to play and to increase speed of play.

Golf RSA have allowed players to play by the new rules with immediate effect and to enter scores when playing the new rules. We encourage you to use these rules whenever playing at Elements.

The rules are summarized below:



1) On the Putting Green:

The flagstick may be left unattended when putting on the green.

Any damage on the green, including spike marks, may be repaired without penalty.

There is no penalty for merely touching the line of a putt provided that the line of the putt has not been improved in any way beyond the repair that is allowed as above.

If a ball or ball marker is accidentally moved on the green it may be replaced without penalty.

If a ball on the green is moved by anyone or anything it must be replaced back on the original spot without penalty.

2) In a Bunker:

Any loose impediments such as stones, leaves, twigs and insects may be removed from a bunker without penalty.

The club may not be grounded in a bunker but the sand may be touched by hand or with a club provided that the condition of the bunker is not being tested.

An unplayable ball in a bunker may be dropped outside the bunker under a penalty of two shots.

3) Water and Lateral Hazards:

The club may be grounded in a water or lateral hazard.

Practice swings may be taken in a water or lateral hazard.

Loose impediments such as stones and twigs may be removed from a water or lateral hazard.

Relief from a lateral hazard may only be taken from the line of entry side of the hazard.

4) Out Of Bounds:

A ball may be dropped at point of entry where it crossed any out of bounds line under penalty of one shot.

5) Ball in Motion:

There is no penalty when a ball in motion is accidentally deflected by the club, the player, the caddie or the player's equipment.

6) Lost Ball:

Only three minutes is allowed to search for a lost ball from the time the search began.

If the ball is accidentally moved by anybody during the search it must be replaced in the original position without penalty.

If a ball is played into the long veldt grass beyond the line of the semi-rough cut and cannot be found, a ball may be dropped on line of entry into the long grass under penalty of one shot.

7) Taking Relief:

When taking a drop the ball must be dropped from knee height and fall through the air without touching any part of the player or equipment.

The ball must be dropped and played from within the designated relief area.

If a dropped ball comes to rest outside a designated relief area it must be dropped a second time. If it comes to rest outside the designated relief area after being dropped a second time, it must be placed on the spot where it first touched the ground within the designated area.

If the placed ball as described above cannot come to rest after two attempts then the ball must be placed on the nearest spot where it will come to rest.

The longest club in the bag, except for a putter, may be used to measure distance when taking relief.

When taking relief, a ball may always be lifted and cleaned and may always be substituted.

8) Embedded Ball:

Relief is allowed without penalty for an embedded ball anywhere in the general area which excludes penalty areas, bunkers, teeing ground and putting greens.



General

The new golf course handicap and slope rating systems become effective on Monday morning, 3rd September. Elements is completely ready for the change-over and will have new score cards that are fully compliant released that day.

SAGA have issued new Affiliation cards to all registered golfers. Your card will be available at your home club or, if you are handicapped at Elements, your card is here in the Golf Shop. Please be sure to collect it next time you visit.

We are in negotiation with the Senior Sunshine Tour to host their Players Championships at Elements during November. We will keep you posted on progress and will advise all owners as soon as the event is finalised.

We are intending to introduce some golf memorabilia into the Clubhouse. If you have anything that you believe would be suitable and that you are willing to donate to the club, we would love to hear from you. We will be sure to recognize the donor with every item displayed. Thank you.

Please make a note of the Club Championships weekend next year in order to plan your visits accordingly. We do hope to make the 2019 Championships the very best ever with a full entry list. Thank you.

Important Dates

15-18 October 2018 Course closed for spring hollow-tining

01 November 2018 SAGES Cansa Day

27 & 28 April 2019 Club Championships 2019

