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From the General Manager

As was the case last year, January slowed down noticeably following the busy holiday season. It was a good time to increase attention on course maintenance and especially following the wonderful rain over the new year period. Fairways have made a remarkable recovery with the combination of rain water and timely fertilizer applications.

The entire base of the 9th/18th dam is still under water and the dam itself is without doubt the most talked about feature of Elements at present. We are able to supplement the daily loss of water level for now and if rains continue we expect to be able to hold the present level at least through the remainder of summer.

We are exploring an opportunity to channel natural mountain streams flowing between Newburg and Waterberg directly into the 18th dam. These streams flow freely during the rainy season and if we are successful in channeling this water by gravity onto Elements it could prove to be the biggest windfall ever !!!!

A couple of months ago we reported on the possible establishment of a Golf Development Academy in partnership with the Warmbaths High School. This has become a reality and the Academy already has twelve students enrolled with a potential of more from the Primary School.

Working with the school and Matkovich Turf Maintenance we are in process of building a target green and a number of tee boxes on the school grounds for the students to use as a practice facility. The students have the opportunity to play nine holes at Elements every Thursday afternoon at which time they are given lessons in golf tradition and etiquette. During the week they will be given golf lessons by a well known and successful golf coach. We have a vision to develop this Academy into a High Performance Centre that becomes widely recognized as one of the best in the country.





Golf Course Report

A total of 140 mm rain fell during the month and this together with two fertilizer applications had recovered the fairways and semi rough back almost to its best ever condition. All other components of the course also remain in tip top condition. Almost no player leaves the course without passing complimentary comment on the condition of the course.

The treatment of Poa Annua, winter grass, is continuing aggressively by spraying regularly with the product Cultar.

This has the effect of retarding the growth and seed head formation in the Poa and will eventually kill it off totally. The greens however are putting perfectly as usual at Elements.

Hollow tining of the greens has been set to commence at 12h00 on Sunday 24th February and the course will reopen on Friday 1st March. This treatment is necessary for the long term health of the bent grass greens. The greens will be back in their best condition by the Club Championships which will be played on the 27th and 28th April.

A strategic tree in front of the 5th green has been lost in a wind storm and will be replaced with a mature 8 meter Paperbark "Vachella Sieberiana". This will replace the integrity and challenge of the hole over night.

The new rules of golf that became effective in the 1st January were designed to help speed up play. With this in mind we have changed the penalty area on the 9th hole from yellow to red stakes. In the event that a ball actually crossed the penalty line the player may now take a penalty drop where the ball last crossed the penalty line and no longer needs to keep the penalty area between himself and the green.



Golf Operations

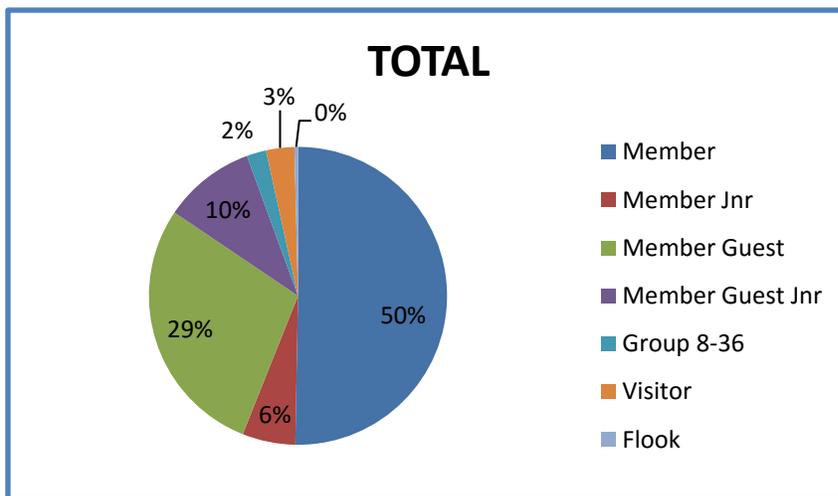
Golf rounds played were 10% below forecast and year to date rounds of 8,848 are just 1% above business plan forecast. The month started off slowly following the holiday season but picked up a little towards the end of the month. Conditions for playing golf were outstanding and even though it was slow those who did play thoroughly enjoyed them.

With only one month to go in the financial year the results from golf operations are encouraging and total revenue from golf is in line with forecast.

Member and Member Guest rounds were once again dominant with group rounds dropping back which is understandable over the holiday period.

Forward bookings for groups are growing and there is no doubt that the condition of the golf course, the value for money on offer and the level of customer service are all contributing to this.

Merchandise sales were again strong in January but are likely to slow down a little now after the holiday season. Good news is that the shop remains well stocked with a good variety of quality merchandise on offer. Please look around on your next visit and you will surely find something made just for you.





Fauna and Flora

Cool and chilly mornings are taken advantage of by the wildlife as a lot of game can be seen moving around the estate. Early morning sightings included Brown-snake Eagle, Guinea Fowl, Jackal, Banded Mongoose Waterbuck, Kudu, Impala and Red Hartebeest.

During mid-day the animals tend to move further into the bush, hiding from the heat under the trees. Calls from the European Bee-eaters, Woodland Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Hornbill, Magpie Shrike, Black-headed Oriole and Grey-headed Bush-Shrike fill the air.

Late afternoon is a good time to go game viewing as most of the animals begin to move around again. The newborn babies have now grown into beautiful young calves. Afternoon sightings included Blesbuck, Blue Wildebeest, Nyala, Impala, White-crested Helmet-Shrike, Groundscraper Trush, Grey Go-Away Bird and African Hoopoe.



Water Status

140 mm of rain was recorded in January compared with 172 mm in January last year. We are applying an average of 500 mm to the course daily and this is enough to keep the grass growing well in between rain events. With the volume of underground water available to us the irrigation dam is also being kept full for now.

It is estimated that this could deliver up to 100,000 liters per hour into the dam. The stream only flows following large rain events but by example 140mm fell over New Year and the stream continued to flow for the next 20 days. While we do not yet have too many facts this could become the biggest windfall ever to improve the sustainability of Elements.

As mentioned earlier we have an exciting opportunity to divert natural mountain stream water flowing between Newburg and Waterberg onto Elements during the rainy season.

This will entail building a large funnel to catch the flowing water, a weir and a silt trap to settle the silt before free flowing the water (gravity) in a 175 mm pipe into the 9th dam.



Property Marketing

Interest in property on Elements is definitely gaining momentum. We are in the final stages of preparing a property marketing proposal to the Trustees for their consideration before implementation.

One of the considerations of this proposal is to hold a property marketing golf day and all owners will be invited to submit names of potential future investors in Elements.

You might have noticed that good progress has been made on completing construction of the unfinished house near the entrance gate.

This property has been bought by an existing owner who will complete construction and use the house for their own purposes.

Five other lodges are currently under construction. One of these is being built by a recognised property developer in the area who has syndicated the unit into 10 shares, some of which have already been sold.

The other four lodges are under construction on one of the corporate stands. Each of these consists of four en suite bedrooms and a central lodge area.

The intention of the developer is to target golf groups and to rent these lodges out through Elements. When completed, these lodges will offer added value to the accommodation currently available on the estate.



General

The invitation confirming the dates of the 2019 Club Championship has been sent to all Home Owners and Members. These dates have been published in our newsletters over the past three months. We hope to make this the best ever Championships and encourage everyone to plan to support your club and to enter.

Last year was a great success and we hope that this year it will be even more so.

The dry winter months will be upon us before we realize it. We draw your attention the responsibility of every owner to maintain adequate fire breaks around your house.

It is also the responsibility of every owner to take necessary precautions to avoid making fires that can get out of control.

The responsibility of all owners to protect against fires is spelled out in Section 8 of the Conduct Rules of the Sectional Title Scheme of Elements Private Golf Reserve.

We encourage you to refer to this document on the Elements website and to ensure that you comply fully with all the requirements.

Thank you.

The Liberty Waterberg MTB Encounter will again be staged at Elements from 7th to 9th June. If you are an off-road cycle fanatic be sure to enter into this exciting event.

Important Dates

24 - 28 February 2019

Hollow Tining

27 & 28 April 2019

Club Championships 2019

07 - 09 June 2019

Waterberg MTB Encounter

