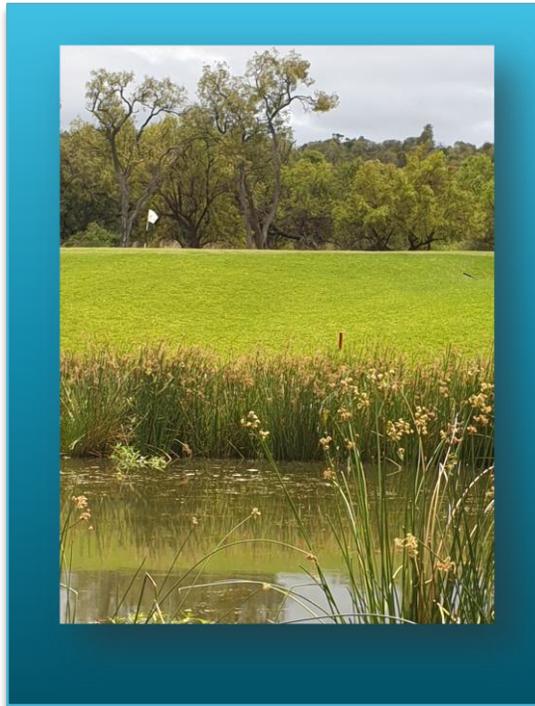


Elements Private Golf Reserve

January 2021

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From the Trustees

It is with sad hearts that we bid farewell to Ian Leach. We have come to know him as one of the doyens of SA golf, extremely knowledgeable, and well liked and admired in the golfing industry. Ian built a fine rapport with staff, owners, managing agents, contractors and other stakeholders of Elements Private Golf Reserve. In addition, his warm and friendly demeanour won him the appreciation of the multitude of visitors, the number of which increased exponentially through his work, dedication and commitment. Above all, Ian will best be remembered as a gentleman whose kindness of heart was an example to all of us during the difficult times rebuilding the course after severe droughts, re-establishing the reserve as a destination of choice and especially in keeping the reserve afloat during Covid's perfect storm.

It is no small measure of his team's achievements that he is able to wish us farewell on the eve of their greatest accomplishment – the elevation of Elements Private Golf Reserve to #17 on the SA Top 100 Golf Course Rankings.



ELEMENTS
PRIVATE GOLF RESERVE



Thank you, Ian, we wish you and Winnie a well-earned rest, which we hope will also include many rounds at Elements in the future.

From the General Manager

Hard to believe but this is our 48th Newsletter since the buyout from Legacy in February 2017. Each month one wonders what the content of the next letter will be but somehow with so much happening at Elements the content has always been there.

Time has also come for me to say goodbye. What an amazing experience it has been. During November 2016 I visited Elements after one of the Trustees and I had a conversation regarding possibly becoming involved in managing the estate. The first thing I did was to take a drive out to the estate to see what the course conditions were like. I took a walk down the 13th fairway and clearly remember reporting back that “nobody can manage a golf club without a golf course”. It was that bad as you will recall. The effects of the 2015/2016 drought on the course were devastating. I was informed of the negotiated water contracts that had been signed between our neighbours and Elements and that the additional water availability would solve the problems.

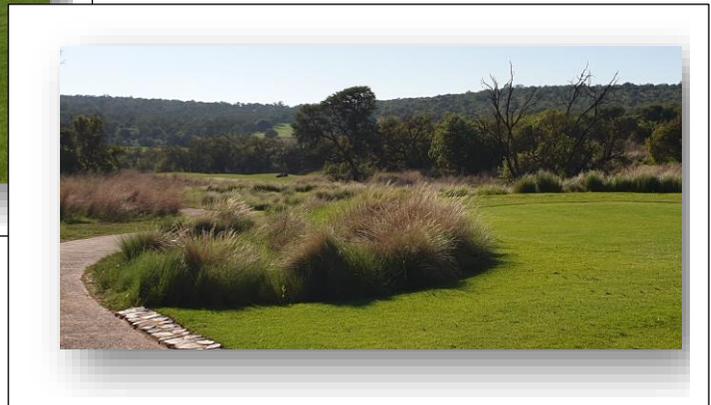
Following an intensive interview process we began managing the “New Elements” on the 1st February 2017. The rest is history and under new leadership of Gerhard Lombard going forward I believe Elements is poised to enter a new phase of growth and success.

I do not have words to express my appreciation for the opportunity given me to play a small role in the recovery of Elements over the past four years. The entire management and staff played an important role in this. The Trustees have given ongoing direction, leadership, support and encouragement as have the home owners. Our Managing Agents, First Resorts, have played a major role in managing and controlling the administration. Thank you to one and all for the role you have played in getting Elements this far.



BREAKING NEWS:

On the 29th January the SA Top 100 Golf Course rankings were announced with Elements climbing 12 places to number 17 in the country. This is a magnificent achievement of which we can all be proud. The design, construction, attention to detail and the general condition of the course justify this elevated rating. Congratulations to our course maintenance contractor, Matkovich Turf Maintenance and to every single person who made this possible. The ranking of Elements in the top 20 courses in the country is exactly where it deserves to be.



Golf

January is always our lowest business month. Rounds were forecast at 820 and even with the last seven days lost to hollow tining we played 780 rounds.

Golf revenue has exceeded budget for the past five months with the result that the Covid revenue loss against budget has been reduced from R1.94 million at the end of August to R1.36 Million at the end of January. Total number of rounds played this year to date is 8,520 compared against the budget forecast of 11,130.



Golf Course

We have not received as much rain this past month as most places surrounding us. The total for the month was only 202mm while golf courses to the North and South of us received up to

300 mm. One downpour of 80mm resulted in some water reaching the 9th/18th dam which currently is under water on the side of the 9th green only. The Hippo dam on Waterberg has also received some water but still has 80mm to go before it will overflow. Only then can we commence pumping the overflow into our dam. Hopefully this year we will be more fortunate than last when the Hippo dam did not come close to overflowing.



For the first time ever, our greens were double hollow tined during the last week of the month. This was done in preference to hollow tining twice during the year. You will recall the traditional autumn hollow tining was skipped last year. This new process has proved to be successful at other golf courses and we look forward to seeing the result in a couple of weeks' time.

Home Owner Matters

Another month has passed without any security violations being experienced on the estate. The area in general was relatively quiet during the holiday period. Sufficient funding for the boom gate project has not yet been raised from our neighbours so that project remains on hold. We have already committed to pay our monthly contribution towards the project once it gets started.

In the December newsletter, we made mention of another possible security project that we are working on with all of the surrounding properties. This is to co-operate together to implement a sophisticated Drone Surveillance Operation. The Mabalingwe Reserve has commissioned a drone company to work with them on improving security and so far, the success rate has been positive. The principle is to establish a base station at Mabalingwe with trained and qualified pilots to fly drones not only over the Mabalingwe farm but also over all the surrounding properties. We support this initiative strongly based on the success rates achieved so far. The drones are fitted with night vision cameras and have the capability of following an intruder from the air while ground forces are alerted and called in to track and arrest the perpetrators. All neighbours have expressed real interest in the opportunity and ongoing meetings are being held to develop a feasible and affordable proposal. The underlying theory behind this initiative is just to make it more and more difficult for intruders to steal in this area.

In the October newsletter we noted the risk and danger of monkeys and baboons entering houses. The problem has definitely lessened over the past three months but we remind all owners and occupants of the risk. Nobody is permitted to feed them and it is strongly advised to keep windows and doors securely closed to prevent unwanted entry.

General

The Predator Park at Mabalingwe has recently been expanded and upgraded. A visit to this park should be a bucket list activity for all visitors to the area. Few Elements owners even know



about it and yet it is right on our doorstep. The Park is securely enclosed within the greater Mabalingwe Reserve and is privately owned by the son of the original developer of Mabalingwe, Hannes Wessels. The enclosures are huge, giving all the animals plenty of room to roam about. The animals are in prime condition and include Bengal Tigers, Siberian Tigers, White Tigers, Spotted Hyena, Jackals, Lions, White Lions, Cheetahs, Wild Dogs and more. The one white Lion is without doubt the most imposing specimen one will ever see. Hannes' knowledge of the predators and their habits is outstanding.



One of our homeowners has set up a game drive/tour operator business and takes guests to the Predator Park as part of his offering departing from the Clubhouse early morning Wednesdays and Sundays to experience feeding of the predators. Gary can be contacted at Weekend at Bernies 083 651 6306

