

Dear fellow PGA Members

I am honoured to be nominated as one of the candidates in the "Grow Golf" category for this year's annual awards, thank you! I would also like to thank De Zalze Golf Club, The Swingfit Golf Academy and the PGA of SA for providing me with a platform to make a positive impact on our game. How lucky am I to be recognised for simply doing my job, a job I truly love.

I'll be honest, it feels quite weird to sit here and write a "motivation" as to why I deserve such an accolade. Instead I thought I'll share a summary of some of the work I have done over the last few months in aid of growing the game.

De Zalze Junior Academy

Since February 2018 I had 47 kids who completed the junior "Get into Golf" program. Currently I have 21 juniors actively in an individual improvement program. Over the last year the De Zalze junior membership has increased by 16 new memberships. On top of the junior program we also host weekly group sessions for the Paul Roos Gim grade 8 & 9's, introducing between 9 to 15 newbies to the game each year.

Ladies "into Golf" Program

Over the same period, I was able to have 19 ladies come through my Ladies "into golf" program. This is a 6-week program aimed at the complete beginner. Of those, 10 has taken up a form of membership at either De Zalze or neighbouring clubs and partake in the lady's events.

De Zalze & Swingfit Foundation

The Foundation is an initiative very close to my heart. I initially started last year by visiting the Weber Gedenk Primary School, providing big group sessions for the grade 7's at the school. Seeing the huge success of the initiative we were able to get more funding and by doing so be able to touch even more lives through the game. At the end of 2018 I managed to sign up AITSA Aftercare an NPO located in Kylemore as another beneficiary of the foundation. Coach Adrian Buchner providing additional game improvement for 8 of their kids at Pearl Valley.

The start of 2019 was a big one for the foundation, we managed to increase our coaching times which enabled us to incorporate another grade's pupils at the school. Currently over 50 kids receiving weekly coaching at the school. Of those kids 8 was selected to receive additional coaching using the facilities at De Zalze. Thank you to coach JP Viviers for assisting in the coaching of these kids.

Earlier this month we got the "go ahead" to incorporate a High School program through the foundation. Enabling another 4 teenagers to receive game improvement at De Zalze. On top of that these boys will also join the Jamestown Golf Club as official junior members and partake in their events.

PGA Diploma Program

Part of my role within the Swingfit Academy is the recruitment, lecturing & management of the PGA program. I believe that growing the game is not just about getting new people to take up the game but also to educate the future professionals to keep the trend going. We currently have 6 students in the program with recruitment for 2020 program currently under way. I do lecture some of the required subjects to these students, allowing me an opportunity not only to educate them but also to guide and mentor them into our industry. Creating a positive influence on the PGA Professionals of tomorrow.

Regards

Abrie Swanepoel

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