

WESTERN CAPE ANNUAL AWARDS

MANAGEMENT

Dominique Jacobs

Rondebosch Golf Club

1. What is your current job title?

Director of Golf.

2. How long have you been in your current position?

1 year 8 months.

3. What have been the key deliverables of your position the past 12 months?

I was hands-on with “all things golf” at Rondebosch. Working with a small team meant that everyone needed to be involved and flexible in order to ensure that all golf-related operations were tended to. I didn't only oversee daily golf operations but was also actively involved in planning and organizing golf/corporate events, in-house club events, junior development, writing and designing monthly newsletters and internal communications, as well as marketing at the club. I'm passionate about people and I lead with care and consideration for everyone performing the daily duties that contribute to creating an unforgettable golfing experience at Rondebosch GC. People should always come first, whether staff members or guests, and I serve with the intention to prioritize interpersonal relationships above all.

4. How do you see the implementation of Safeguarding on your position and the industry?

The completion of the safeguarding process within the PGA means that all professionals now have an additional responsibility to consider as they actively participate within the industry. As representatives of the industry, we should be observant and proactive in all the environments within the industry. I believe that our most important tool in participating in safeguarding is through being fully present and actively involved with those around us. Being available, approachable, involved, kind, and compassionate as we tend to our daily duties is the most responsible way to take accountability for our role in safeguarding within the industry. By ensuring this, open communication channels are established between professionals, children, parents, volunteers, and participants and safety is automatically created for people/children to share concerns and confront sensitive matters.

5. Please give us a brief outline of the path you took to lead you to your current position?

It took me a while to find my niche within the industry. I naturally gravitated towards coaching and fitness within golf due to my competitive golf career as a junior and my passion for fitness. I spent my first few years coaching and dabbling in golf fitness with the mentoring of many highly respected individuals within the industry. I then took a leap of faith in my mid-twenties to pursue playing professionally. The competitive environment got the best of me and I moved back to Cape Town from Johannesburg. Once returning to my home province I received an opportunity that would shift the vision I had for myself within the industry. I got a remarkable opportunity to work for one of the most respectable PGA professionals within the industry, Julian Shaw, as his assistant and shop manager at Erinvale Golf Club. With his guidance, I got to experience the managerial side of golf and soon found myself drawn to the complexities, operations, and structures. After a couple of years at Erinvale Golf Club, I was presented with an opportunity at Rondebosch Golf Club as the Director of Golf. Regardless of how comfortable and supported I was in my job at Erinvale, this was a career-furthering opportunity that I could not pass up.

6. Why do you feel that you would be a good candidate to win this award?

This nomination is a bittersweet moment for me as I sadly say goodbye to Rondebosch Golf Club days after I received this exciting nomination. I feel conflicted in my motivation, not just because I departed from Rondebosch GC, but also because of my relocation to the Gauteng region to fill the position of Director of Golf at Parkview Golf Club. This nomination is heartwarming and deeply satisfying, and I so clearly remember setting the intention this previous year to be more involved within the PGA and its community. Not with the hope of being nominated, but rather to connect with the community and give back to the industry. The PGA has provided such an exceptional platform for all of us to not only launch our careers but do so with support and expert guidance. In the past year, I managed to secure a seat on the regional committee through the support of the “woman in golf” initiative driven by the PGA and its national committee. I also connected with many different professionals within the Western Province region, and I developed new skills and competencies through a fulfilling challenging position at RGC. This nomination is the cherry on the cake as it is received in the middle of my transition period between Rondebosch GC and Parkview GC. A sweet parting gift as I move on, deeply satisfied with my time at RGC and within the WP region.

I extend deep gratitude to Rondebosch Golf Club, its members, management, and EXCO for providing me with a platform to grow and mature into the professional I am today. I would also like to extend gratitude and respect to each PGA member in the Western Cape Region for kindly acknowledging my participation within the industry. I feel extremely proud to be a part of this PGA community, provincially and nationally. This nomination and the possibility of winning is a huge step up for women in golf and especially women in management within the industry. I hope to continue my participation within the industry, growing my network and uncovering new ways to contribute to the growth and success of the PGA.

7. How do you promote a career in golf and the PGA to people who aspire to a career within the industry?

The PGA is more than just an association where one gets a qualification. The PGA is a community of like-minded individuals that all strive to contribute to the growth and success of the golf industry. The PGA works tirelessly to make sure that the industry keeps thriving by making sure all professionals are well looked after, receive a world-class education and ongoing learning, and receive great support and guidance. What makes the PGA worth being a part of is that they don't just stop at getting people qualified, they continue to support each professional in their personal careers and ensure that everyone is not just succeeding within the industry but doing so ethically and professionally. The PGA is always by your side, there to support as well as celebrate the community of professionals. In a world where independence is celebrated and success is known as a solo venture, belonging to a community of professionals who all value and respect the same industry and the growth thereof, is rewarding and priceless.

Would you like the PGA to share your profile via our social media platforms? Yes.

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