



28 June 2019

Dear Fellow Golfer

Last week South African golf achieved another significant milestone when our team of four Junior Protea boys won the Toyota Junior Golf World Cup by eleven strokes (and a record score) in Toyota-shi, Japan. In doing so, they defeated the world's best junior golfers, repeating the success of the 2001 team, which featured, among others, future major winners Charl Schwartzel and Louis Oosthuizen.

On top of the team's success, Sam Simpson and Martin Vorster finished first and second in the individual event. The girls team also did our country proud, finishing in 6th position after shooting the low score of the final round.

While GolfRSA is grateful to be recognised for its role in the success of these players, the reality is that many, many people and organisations within our golfing landscape play a part in the development of the players that represent us on the world stage. Parents of the players are often responsible for introducing young golfers to the game and supporting them, both financially and emotionally, throughout their amateur days.

Golf clubs are fertile breeding grounds for our youngsters to find their feet in the game, encouraging them to get out on the course and enjoy themselves. Club competitions lay the groundwork for competitive development, while organisations such as SA Kids Golf and the SAGDB provide a fun learning environment from a young age.

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At SAGA and WGSA Union level, promising talent is identified and nurtured, and players are able to compete in professionally run tournaments across the country in all 14 unions. In many cases, these tournaments are run by volunteers and the infrastructure is managed by people who sacrifice their time without remuneration.

The PGA of South Africa has a massive influence on the development of our top players, with high quality coaches and fitness experts providing structured advice and lessons to our golfers. We are also fortunate to have world-class academies run by our PGA professionals as well as universities. Some, such as the Louis Oosthuizen Academy and the Ernie Els and Fancourt Foundation, are funded by our iconic South African players and provide a valuable platform for players to further their golf careers.

The South African Golf Development Board and the South African Disabled Golf Association provide opportunities for youngsters from diverse backgrounds and abilities to get into the game of golf, ensuring that the sport is open and within reach to all who wish to participate in the sport. The Sunshine Tour and Sunshine Ladies Tour run a number of development programmes, and fund various junior tournaments. They also invite our budding professionals to play in some of their high-profile championships.

At a junior level, Nomads is a vital partner of GolfRSA, providing much-needed financial support to run the highly competitive junior boys and girls tournaments. Every South African professional golfer will have benefitted from the generosity of the Nomads.

The GolfRSA National Squad was launched only four years ago, thanks to the generosity of businessman and South African golf benefactor Johann Rupert, and has gone from strength to strength as our players and administrators have been exposed to international competition. The goal of the Squad system is to contribute towards specialised training and coaching for promising amateur golfers who we believe have the potential to represent South Africa and/or launch successful professional careers. By providing international playing opportunities, our top boys and girls are able to experience foreign conditions and measure themselves against the world's best players.

Over the past three years, players from the National Squad, which include the women's Elite Squad, have achieved unprecedented international successes, with titles won in England, Scotland, Ireland, Argentina, India and Japan, as well as numerous wins across Africa.

The squad system has numerous benefits, with players learning from and supporting one another – driving each other on to success. It is not uncommon for those players who have missed the cut in an event to volunteer to caddie for fellow squad members who have progressed. Results on the course are an important yardstick for GolfRSA, but it is equally satisfying that we continue to receive positive feedback from hotels, individuals and tournament administrators, congratulating us on the behaviour and team spirit within the Squad.

GolfRSA would like to thank all of these role players and acknowledge the contribution of everyone mentioned above for their important role in South African Golf. Thanks to the rich tapestry of volunteers, clubs, union structures and professional expertise, the GolfRSA Squad is able to draw from a deep pool of talent created by these combined efforts. This makes it much easier for the squad system to add some final touches and provide opportunities to our players who will go on to represent South Africa as Proteas in international tournaments.

The achievement of the girls as well as the win of the boys in Japan is a victory for all of South African golf and we salute everyone involved, thank you.

Yours Sincerely,



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Grant Hepburn

Chief Executive Officer