



March 2018

GOLFWISE – A PGA of SA Initiative presented by PWC – A Quarterly Report from the KZN PGA Division

As you may or may not be aware, the Golfwise Program was put on hold in May 2015 due to a fire in the prison. 2015 was also the year that we celebrated 10 years since its inception.

Then in October last year, the KZN region received an email from DCS Glencoe Management informing us that the Glencoe Prison had re-opened and to ask if it would be possible to restart the Golfwise program again in January 2018.

We contacted Graham Tregear (PGA Professional), Martin van Niekerk, Piet Nel and Kriben Gounder, all greenkeepers and past lecturers and without hesitation they all agreed to continue with their good work. Joining this group for the first time is PGA Professional, Brad Ross from Bosch Hoek Golf Club and a fourth greenkeeper from Howick Golf Club, Mark Ward-Able, who is the current regional chairman of the Turf Manager's Association. Without their commitment to giving the Golf 101 and Greenkeeping 101 lessons at the Glencoe Golf Club, which is situated on the prison property, every last Monday & Tuesday of the month for 10 months of the year, there would not be a program and we are very grateful to them for giving up their time and expertise in their specialised fields.

The lessons got off to a good start in January. There are ten inmates in the program whose families live within the KZN region. They have been attentive and appear keen to learn. The first few Golf 101 lessons covered the History and beginnings of Golf and Golf equipment and the Greenkeeping 101 lessons have been on mowing basics and specific area maintenance e.g. greens tees, fairway, rough and semi rough.



The PGA want to share this initiative with the PGA membership, particularly in the KZN regions, to raise awareness. Ultimately, they hope to be given a second chance at changing their ways, by helping them find meaningful employment when they are released from prison, so that they can look after their families without having to again commit to petty crime that can then lead to a more serious crime.

To that end we are appealing to you for help. Please feel free to contact Loraine by email loraine@pga.co.za if you can assist us in any way, otherwise we hope you will just enjoy reading the quarterly newsletters.

