

**MINUTES OF THE GAUTENG NORTH REGIONAL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PGA OF SOUTH AFRICA
HELD ON 1 JULY 2019**

Venue: Blair Atholl Golf & Equestrian Estate 09h00.

1. WELCOME:

David Riddle welcomed all the members to the meeting. David Riddle welcomed the past PGA Chairman Paul Marks and the PGA Chief Executive Ivano Ficalbi.

2. READING OF THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING:

David Riddle read the notice governing the meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND READING OF APOLOGIES:

Byron Nel read the names of members attending and those that apologised.

Attended: Morne Botha, Hanco Bothma, Dwayne Coetzee, Marna Coetzee, Alet De Langen, Morne Engelbrecht, Jaun Geysers, Pat Lowth, Andre Mans, Paul Marks, Byron Nel, Kyle Phelan, David Riddle, Rosh Schoeman, Jannes Sik, Dietrich Uys (16 Members).

Apologies: Pieter Schutte, Emile Steinman, Sunelle Von Molendorff, Darren Plumb, Pieter Kruger, Frans Strydom, Werner Ferreira, Rohan Marais, Jean Sadie, Adriaan Nell, Edwin Compton, Troye Hanna, Brendon Van Niewenhuizen, Kevin Wylie, Jacques Venter (15 Members).

4. READING AND MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON: 23 JULY 2018.

David Riddle asked if there were any matters arising out of the previous minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

As there were no matters arising Pat Lowth proposed that the minutes be accepted, Dietrich Uys seconded. The minutes were duly accepted.

6. REGIONAL CHAIRMANS REPORT:

David Riddle delivered the chairman's report:

Well it has happened; Tiger Woods won another major and the possibility of him beating the great Jack Nicklaus's record is once again a major talking point in the golfing world. Maybe the focus is in the incorrect area and really, we should all be focusing on Brooks Koepka's amazing major form. Only the truly greats have been able to consistently perform at the level required to dominate majors and the Koepka's outlook is truly amazing, witting the major fields down to only ten or twelve guys that he feels he must beat to win the event. I see we have a field of 20 odd players today. So, I will be doing a bit of witting down myself before we take to the links, good luck to all of you competing today.

Closer to home we have had a bit of a lean spell since a South African Golfer won a major, we have had many young players bolt out the starting gate, on various tours, only to see them stagnate in the middle of the field for the majority of the year and excel once or twice a season to cash in a big cheque. One can only wonder is the money they earn just too much and that grit and determination synonymous with the Great Gary Player missing in the makeup of our players. We as a country long for a new sporting hero as our National Teams continue to struggle. Would it not be great to have another multiple major winners on the Worlds Stage, flying our flag high and with pride. Come on Louis this Open has your name on it.

When we look at our own players it seems like our tournament fields are getting stronger every week or is it, I am getting older and need to accept that my days of competing are over. Not a chance, we as golfers and professionals, work in this industry because we love the game and we will, every time we push that peg in the ground on the first tee feel we can win, that's what makes golf the greatest sport there is, we do it for life. Well done to those of you who have had success on the fairways of Northern Gauteng in our regional events.

- Centurion Pro-am 12th November 2018 (Winner: Dean Kupferman 38pts)
- Bankenveld Pro-am 19th November 2018 (Winner: Juan Van Greunen 35pts)
- Copperleaf Pro-am 4th March 2019 (Winner: Devaux Van Der Watt 41pts)
- Pretoria CC Pro-am 15th April 2019 (Winner: Henk Alberts, Conrad Du Plooy & Ulrich Van Den Heever 30 pts)
- Nelspruit Pro-am 28th & 29th April 2019 (Winner: Alrich Labuschagne 68 pts)
- Zwartkop Pro-am 27th May 2019 (Winner: CJ Levy 40 pts)

Then we had a wonderful event at Kyalami the Gauteng Cup and despite the elements conspiring against us we managed to get out and another exciting event was held. The match was decided by the last group and I am sorry to report that the best team did not win and we narrowly lost to Central. As Captain I must take full responsibility and steps will be taking to ensure we reverse the current trend. In the end we lost by Central Gauteng 8.5 pts vs Gauteng North 7.5 pts

I would at this time like to thank my committee for the excellent work they do, I would also like to thank Byron for the great job he does as our region's member relationship manager.

Social events we had our regional awards dinner at Irene, and it was well attended and a great way to acknowledge the success of our members. We also hosted our first annual cricket match between Gauteng North and our arch enemies and current nemesis from across the Jukskei River, those men in red the guys from central. Despite having some talented players in our team, we knew we were in trouble when the guys from central arrived and many of their players proceeded to remove brand name kit bags from the boots of their cars. Our preparation consisted of a mad dash Saturday afternoon to the nearest sports shop to get the one piece of equipment we as Gauteng North players knew we could not under any circumstances venture onto that cricket pitch without, that was of course the all-important box.

I can happily report that no injuries occurred in this regard. We did however lose our star player Michael "Warne" Scholz to a freak accident during the warmup, this swung the game, and, in the end, we went down by a few runs. Thank you to all of those that came out for the day, it was great to see the families there.

A special word of thanks to Juan Van Greunen who always supports our initiatives. A very special thanks to Diets who drives these events and manages all the communication, he also served as Captain for the day and sent me in to open the batting, we will definitely have a word about that.

Now for some motivation for our members out there, we continue to play a pivotal role in the industry so stand up and be counted. Wear your badge with pride and represent your fellow members with dignity, professionalism and integrity. We are active in so many areas of the golfing industry and we should continue to grow our relevance and influence. I each year encourage you all to take the lead and believe this whole heartedly, we should own golf in South Africa. The average age of our members at clubs continues to climb, highlighting a major shortcoming in what we are doing, we are not teaching our juniors to love the game. Let the kids at your clubs play more better ball and team competitions, stop trying to turn every kid into the next Ernie and rather teach kids to love the game and its values. This will turn them into our members of the future. It is after all the best game to play and the only game we play for life.

Finally, a big thank you to the board and to our Chief Executive, Ivano Ficalbi for the work they do. Let's keep the momentum going.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT:

Ivano Ficalbi, the Chief Executive of the PGA of SA, presented a comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation covering a large range of subjects pertaining to the running of the PGA. (The power point presentation is available to those members who wish to see it). On conclusion, the Chief Executive asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were none and David Riddle thanked IF for his report.

8. PRESENTATION OF REGIONAL ACCOUNTS:

Byron Nel presented the regional accounts.

9. YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

3 x Members were acknowledged for years of service to the association. They are:
Emile Steinman, Pieter Kruger & Henrie Kruger – 10 years

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence received.

11. GENERAL:

David Riddle mentioned that the Regional Committee was really working on putting together events to engage with the members in the region. He mentioned that we need to communicate more with each other as members. We are all going through similar issues at our facilities and by communicating amongst each other we can encourage, support and offer advice when needed. We are a body of professionals who work in this industry because we love it along with the game of golf so we need to engage with our fellow professionals and really grow this great game.

David Riddle also mentioned that golf clubs need to change their way of thinking when it comes to getting the black middle-class golfers to play more golf as well as then becoming future members of our clubs. He went on to say that we also need to take time out to consider what our staff is going through in their personal lives, like the effort and time it takes to get to work and back every day. Perhaps by installing shower and changing facilities at our clubs for them would make a huge difference to their lives, which would then also attribute our staff's improved happiness at work. This makes the world of difference to the quality of work one does. The happier our staff the happier they can make our members.

Paul Marks added that he feels us as golf professional's and managers sometimes need to take ourselves out of certain situations and ask for help from the right people in specific areas, F&B Management for example. When it comes to working with our staff we need to personally get involved in their lives and care for them to enhance their quality of work as well as the overall experience at the club for both staff and members.

Pat Lowth thanked David Riddle and the Regional Committee for all their hard work over the past year.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was closed at 10:15 am.

David Riddle

Chairman

Gauteng North Region