

THE SA SENIOR TOUR

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

2019 Qualifying School

Following discussions with the members & the Board of Directors, there will be a Qualifying School taking place in January 2019. All Senior Tour members who are within the top 40 of the final 2018 Order of Merit are exempt. All those members who are placed from 41 & above will be required to enter to try and regain playing privileges, other than Honourary members. There will be 10 full playing cards awarded & details & entry forms are available on the website:

THE SUNSHINE SENIOR TOUR:

As you all know by now, the SA Senior Tour is officially affiliated to the Sunshine Tour and all agreements are in place. Our Order of Merit events are now marketed and sold under the brand name Sunshine Senior Tour (SST). A suitable person will be employed in 2019 with responsibilities for the membership, event entries with sales and marketing assistance. We hope to grow our event schedule with the Sunshine Tour (ST) in 2019 and are pleased to announce that the ST have committed to inject R500 000 into the SST for Prize Funds at 5 events of R100 000 each during the month of October next year. We thank the Sunshine Tour for this wonderful gesture and these will be 36- hole events each with a Pro-Am day.

TOURNAMENT NEWS

1. The SA Senior Masters took place (2- 3 Nov) at Silver Lakes Golf Estate, Pretoria, and 28 teams participated in the Pro-Am each day. It was a very successful 36-hole tournament where 47 exempt senior professionals participated. The prize fund was again R400 000 this year and the winner, was the main draw card, Mark McNulty on a superb score of 138 after rounds of 70 and 68. Mark beat a very strong field of Neil Cheetham, 2nd and the likes of James Kingston, Chris Williams, Andre Cruse, Kevin Stone, Chris Davison, John Bland and Bobby Lincoln. Thanks go to the tournament host, Jannie Ackerman for his continued support as well as the Silver Lakes staff and members. The course was in good condition but firm, dry greens and tricky pin positions made for some challenging shot making and putting.
2. The Simon Hobday Classic (7-9 Nov) was a new event created in memory of the late Simon Hobday. The 54-Hole, R300 000 PF event was played in tricky windy conditions and by way of comments all enjoyed the Dainfern layout. The tournament was won by James Kingston on a great score of 10 under par, 206, followed by Chris Williams (-6), Neil Cheetham (-5) and Peter Wilson (-4). The first 2 days were played in a Pro-Am better-ball team's format, the first day sponsored by Fidelity. Again a very strong field was assembled and the performances were admirable. Simon Hobday Junior, played in the Pro-Ams and presented the prizes on day 3. Thanks go to all who assisted in making the event successful and especially to the Dainfern facility and staff for their contribution. Full result – www.seniortour.co.za
3. The SA Senior Open was played at Plettenberg Bay Golf Course (2-5 Oct) and 60 exempt main event players played alongside 60 amateurs on the first 2 days in a Pro-Am format. The final 2 days were contested by the 57 senior professionals and 3 amateurs and the overall winner was Mark McNulty on

a 72-hole score of 287 or 1 under par, pipping Kevin Stone by a single shot with Rodger Wessels a further stroke adrift. The tournament was marred by atrocious weather on day 1, making Mark's score of 69 a remarkable effort. In fact he made 2 scores of 69 on each of the first 2 days without dropping a shot to par!

The golf course was in ideal condition but the stiff windy conditions and some tough pin positions had the players realize that this course was no push-over with these elements playing their part in this R500 000 tournament.

The Mayoral Day took place on the Sunday prior to the main event and was concluded with a cocktail and welcoming party at the Beacon Isle Resort. We thank the Mayor and the Bitou Municipality for their support and sponsorship this year and their contracted agreement to host the same event for the next 2 years.

4. Fidelity Pro-ams were held at Silver Lakes (Winner: Chris Williams-66), Country Club Johannesburg (Winner: James Kingston-71), Parys Golf Club (Winner: Kevin Stone-68) and the 4th event incorporated in the Simon Hobday Classic (Winner: James Kingston-206). We thank Fidelity for their generous support of sponsorship this year as well as over the past 3 years and we trust this partnership with the Senior Tour will continue for many years to come. The remaining contracted Fidelity event will be played in February next year with the date and venue to be confirmed.
5. The Powertrain and Regcomms events were withdrawn from our 2018 schedule. Only 38 members went to Middelburg and this was the deciding factor for PGT to create their own event at Ebotse.
6. There were ongoing negotiations with the Port Elizabeth Council to firstly host a co-sanctioned European/Staysure Tour event to be held at the Humewood Golf Club in August. This fell through when the NMBM contracted concern, established to seek the R14m funding, were unable to secure the desired sponsorship. Many meetings and correspondence in this regard took place with the Europeans and PE council at various facilities both locally and abroad. When the proposed co-sanctioned event was dismissed by the NMBM, we as the Sunshine Senior Tour opened talks and meetings with NMBM to secure a similar sponsorship as the Bitou model. This was nearing final agreement until the local Mayor was dismissed from NMBM with political implications and pending legal proceedings. With a new Mayor in place, the process is heading for re-resolution from the Council to continue to host the newly proposed Nelson Mandela Bay Classic in 2019. The event was withdrawn from our 2018 schedule (28-30 November) because of the reasons given.
7. The Tour Championship was withdrawn as it was envisaged that it would follow the same format as 2017 at Peeble Rock. Fidelity co-sponsored in 2017 and have delayed the funding release to 2019 for reason of a suitable venue and date in 2018 that would enhance their business opportunity.

2019 Calendar:

- The Board of Directors have announced that the 2019 tournament season will commence with a Qualifying School on 23-24 January 2019 at the Irene Golf Club. The top 40 players of the 2018 Final Order of Merit will be exempt & the remaining players will have a chance to gain one of 10 full playing

cards. It is suggested that those players who finish in positions 31-40 attend the Tour School to improve their playing privilege status in line with the published entry category list for 2019.

- The Board has also confirmed that the member's subscriptions for 2019 will be R1,500 (including the new 15% VAT) This applies only to those members who fall in the top 40 of the 2018 Order of Merit.
- The 2019 Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place at the Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club on 5th March 2019 at 9am. Notifications will be sent out to members at least 21 days before the event. There will also be a Better-Ball medal event starting at 11.30am for members, which carries a R20,000 prize fund. There are a few changes to the 2018- SAST Rules and Regulations to be resolved and adopted by members, as well as the election of a new Players' Committee (8 members) and 4 directors to the Board. Please make an effort to attend.
- A new tournament planned for the 2019 calendar is, the PGA Senior Championship. This is scheduled to take place at the Germiston Golf Club in November 2019, details to be confirmed.
- The Sunshine Tour have committed to fund 5 tournaments in 2019, starting in October and ending with a Tour Championship in December. These 36-hole events will each carry a minimum R100 000 prize fund with one of the days being in a Pro-Am format.
- Further 2-day events of the same value and format are planned every month from April 2019 in honour of past legends of SA Professional Golf who have since passed away.
- The 2019 SA Senior Open is scheduled for the 29th October – 1st November 2019 & will again take place at Plettenberg Bay Golf Club with a prize fund minimum of R750 000.
- Fidelity Series: Fidelity Security Services who have supported the Senior Tour over the last few years, must receive many thanks. Their continued support is highly appreciated & we look forward to these Pro-Ams being confirmed and scheduled again in 2019.

Thank you to all our members for your continued & loyal support of the Senior Tour during 2018. We are anticipating a good 2019 with a playing schedule of at least 12 events.

The Board of Directors wish you & your families a Blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

