



THE SENIOR TOUR



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018

2018 Qualifying School

A very successful Qualifying School took place at the Irene CC (18 & 19 Jan) with 41 entrants. Well done to Gary Thompson (Zimbabwe) who finished on a great score of -5. More detail & the results are available on the website:

www.seniortour.co.za

THE SUNSHINE TOUR:

It was announced at the AGM on the 19th January that the SA Senior Tour and the Sunshine Tour were in an affiliation process. The agreement has been signed & all Order of Merit events will now be run under the name "The Sunshine Senior Tour". We will pay the Sunshine Tour a 5% sanction fee of the prize fund for each tournament respectively. The Sunshine Tour has also assisted us in arranging a repayable loan for the purpose of growing the Senior Tour. A big thank you goes to Neville Clarke for all his hard work in organising this for our tour. We will be

occupying offices in Midrand shortly & will be looking to employ a permanent staff member to look after the office, membership & entries etc.

TOURNAMENT NEWS:

1. Simon Hobday Classic (SHC)

Last Friday, Gary Grant, from Accelerate Sport, advised Neville Clarke that the General Manager of the Sabi River Bungalows Resort, Hazyview, has withdrawn his initial commitment to host the SHC at the resort course. He stated at this late stage that the ROI (return on investment) was the problematic cause for his decision. At no stage did the GM mention ROI in any of our previous dealings with him or in meetings with his staff.

This is a cautionary announcement for our members and amateur players to exercise caution when booking hotels or any further planning in the lowveld area with the expectancy of this SHC taking place.

We are now trying to move the event to the Nelspruit GC a week later. We will make a call on the event taking place by Wednesday next week (14 February 2018)

2. SA Senior Open (SASO)

It is our understanding that SAST/Accelerate Sport have a 3 year contract/ agreement with the Bitou Authorities in Plettenberg Bay. We have been trying, through various contacts and a visit to Plettenberg Bay, to confirm payment for the funding of the event this year.

Last Friday, we received notice from the responsible accounting officer from Bitou stating that the event is still to be confirmed. Funds will only be released if available and by due process in a meeting of the Bitou Council members on 28 February 2018.

Therefore, this is a further caution to our members and their guests that they wait for a further announcement, (28 February 2018) from SAST to confirm the status of the tournament.

3. Nelson Mandela Bay Senior Championship-PE

We are pleased to announce that negotiations are advanced in securing this tournament to be played from 10-12 August at the Humewood Golf Club, PE.

It is envisaged that this be a co-sanctioned event with the Staysure Tour(ex European Senior Tour) carrying a prize Fund of approximately R6m. We are negotiating that all our members with playing privileges will have an opportunity to play in

the event either by invitation, exemption or pre-qualification in line with our Rules and Regulations and the event terms and conditions.

We still have to negotiate, debate and decide with the Staysure Tour and the Funding Promoter all the necessary details to deliver the tournament. The format and the total number of players of SAST and Staysure will be decided soon. The Sunshine Tour is assisting in the process of this co-sanctioned event.

Further there is a letter of intent out from the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality to host the event and committed to funding R1.5m. The remaining funding is to be found by the NMBM approved promoter, Sportelizabeth. We trust that this funding is confirmed and in the Sunshine Tour control bank account by 31 May 2018. The event taking place is conditional to the funding being found by Sportelizabeth.

So, please don't take this event as a given. There is much hard work to clinch opportunities for our players and exercise caution when investigating travel, accommodation, etc arrangements.

4. Fidelity ProAms:

Negotiations are currently underway with Fidelity for the 2018 Pro-Am series. An agreement is likely to be signed this month for a total of five events each carrying a prize fund of R80k. Dates & venues for these will be communicated to you all in due course.

5. PGA Senior Championship:

Discussions & negotiations are taking place regarding this premier tournament to be hosted in November this year. More details will follow as they become available.

6. Membership-Subscriptions, Cards and Badges

We hope to distribute to **all subscription paid up members**, Membership cards that contain a photo of the member.(Regular,Affiliate,Honourary).

Membership playing badges will be distributed to the following:

- Top 40 in the 2017 order of merit list (3 event qualifying)
- Top 10 in the Q-school of 2018
- Current active players who are honorary members

All players who finished 21-41 in the Q-school will also be able to pre-qualify for standard SAST order of Merit events. This is not possible for those who took affiliate membership in 2018 unless they receive invitations. All members will be able to enter the SA Senior Open.

We trust that these cards and badges will be distributed by the end of February. If you have not received an invoice from our FD please contact her immediately. There will be a penalty of R1 250 payable by qualifying members if your subscriptions are not received by **28 February 2018** and you will be placed in the Affiliation Membership category.

Thank you to all our members for your continued & loyal support of the Senior Tour during 2018.

Kind regards

SAST Management