



THE SA SENIOR TOUR NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

THE SUNSHINE SENIOR TOUR:

As reported in the September Newsletter, Covid-19 has certainly set us back in that most tournaments were cancelled on the schedule for 2020. In the interim we have created some 'Practice Sessions' at venues like: State Mines, Glenvista, Goldfields West, Wild Coast Sun and Blue Valley. These were low key events meant to keep the players in shape and add some competition. They were not supported very well and there will not be any more of these until next year.

Management has reset the business and already have secured two new events for 2020.

Orkney

The first of these was the Orkney event played 3-4 October and was remarkably successful. The Pro-Am over the two days attracted 207 amateurs and 40 senior professionals. Doug McGuigan won the 36- hole event on a good score of 137, seven under par by two shots from James Kingston after a solid second round of 65. This was Doug's first start on the Senior Tour having just turned 50 last month.

Orkney Golf Club 3-4 October 2020 Winner: Doug McGuigan 137(-7)

Sun City

The Sun City Pro-Am event will take place on the dates 13-14 November 2020, obviously at the Sun City Resort. The Players' information Sheet will be available on the website on 12 October. A condition of entry is that the senior tour professional must invite and accompany 3 paying amateur guests in a team of 4 players. This is a limited field tournament that will enable all members to enter and participate to make the final starting field of 25 teams. Entries will be taken from the 2020 Ranking and Exemption list for members for the top 22 including invitations. 3 spots will be available to pre qualifiers, who have confirmed amateur partners via a pre-q on 10 November at the Blue Valley golf Estate. Some entrants will be allocated VIP guests from Sun International requests. The details are on the website. Prize Fund R100k Minimum in a Pro-Am format.

Silver Lakes

SA Senior Masters 23-25 November 2020 Prize Fund R200k Min. Pro-Am format-Silver Lakes

Please note the date changes from the previous announced date of 18-20 November 2020.

We have pleasure to share the news that Mark McNulty and David Frost will participate in the 54 Hole event that appears will field the best field ever in this event. It takes place from a Monday to Wednesday, very unusual for our tournament schedule. The field size has been increased to 54 and the details are on the website from 12 October.

SA Senior Open and Nelson Mandela Bay Classic

It is sad news that we must announce that the Plettenberg Bay event (SASO) will not take place from 27-30 October 2020. The reasons eventually given to the Senior Tour by the main sponsor was that they have spent the money allocated to the event on Covid-19 projects. They have a contract to fulfill and the SASO is likely to take place in February next year alongside the PE event. We may decide to play the SASO 2020 locally in Gauteng for a small prize Fund. Watch this space as we try to fit in a date.

The PE event marked for 21-23 October 2020 is also cancelled for 2020 and is scheduled for 10-12 February 2021. Both the SASO and NMBC have R500k prize funds and we hope for the best outcome in 2021 to have these tournaments in two consecutive weeks.

There is also a possibility of an event in Nelspruit from 5-6 November or early next year depending on the sponsor requests.

From the AGM on 17 August, the question arose about subscriptions for 2021 concerning the low tournament activity in 2020. The response from management is that the Board will meet to resolve certain options of extending existing 2020 membership into 2021 at a lower rate **or** keeping membership rates the same as 2020 **or** keeping the normal R&R in place to qualify for membership in 2021 given that there will be at least 4 -OOM events in 2020 **or** a combination of adding the OOM years of 2019/2020 and projecting rankings from there.

OTHER NEWS:



1. Fidelity

We have spoken to Fidelity about their continuation of sponsorship in 2020. The response was to wait until their Board met at the end of September before a decision could be taken.

As you already know, Kevin Stone won the only Fidelity event this year in March with a great score of 15 under par 129 over the 36 holes that included a second round 61. The decision to set sponsorship money aside for the Senior tour contract is still to be made. We hope for a favourable response.

2. The Board and their sub committees have been working on other prospective events including beyond our borders. We all have to be patient and realise that the Covid position has had a huge affect on our economy and investment from others for our cause has diminished.

Website

We are pleased to announce that a new Senior Tour website, under the Sunshine Senior Tour banner, is under construction. It will not have the same bells and whistles as the Sunshine Tour domain but we believe it will have better navigational options and eventually have a Players' Sign In facility. We hope this will be ready to go live by 19 October 2020. In the meantime,

. 025.information will be inserted and posted on the current website until we can cross over to the new.

The management requests you keep your game sharp and be safe and healthy in these uncertain times.

The Board of Directors