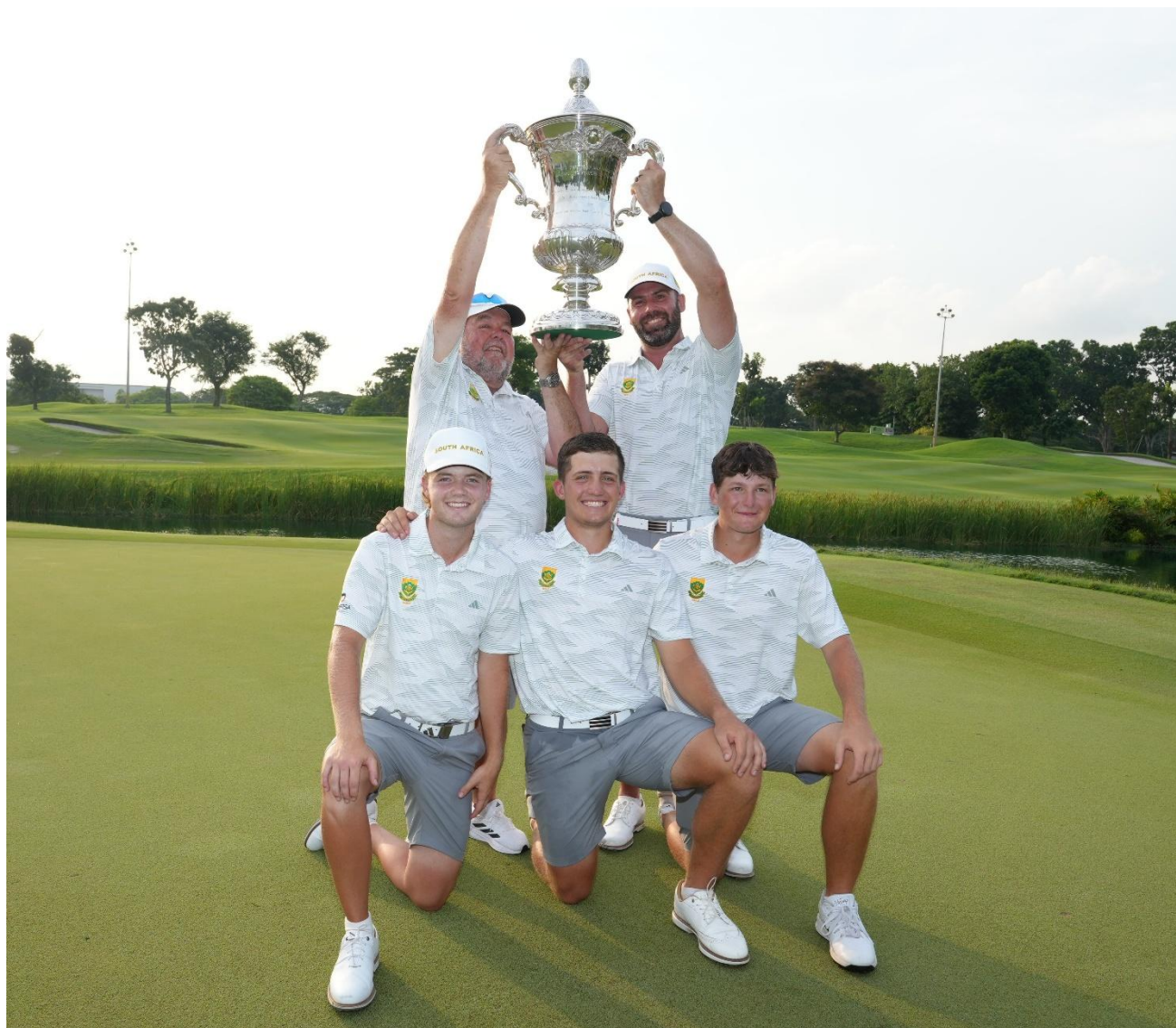


SOUTH AFRICAN GOLF ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

President: Henk Smith
Senior Vice-President: Peet van Schalkwyk
2nd Vice-President: Thinus Labuschagne

Report from the President:

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve a second term as the President of the South African Golf Association (SAGA) alongside Senior Vice-President Peet van Schalkwyk and Junior Vice-President Thinus Labuschagne as the SAGA celebrated its 117th year in 2025.

Competitively, we enjoyed another strong year, highlighted by South Africa's historic first victory in the **World Amateur Team Championship**.

Christiaan Maas, Daniel Bennett and Charl Barnard delivered a remarkable performance to lift the **Eisenhower Trophy** at Tanah Merah Country Club in Singapore on a winning total of 29-under-par 547 (139-135-132-141), sealing an emphatic eight-shot victory over Australia. Maas anchored the South African challenge with a commanding performance, claiming the individual title by 10 strokes on 22-under-par 266 after rounds of 66, 66, 65 and 69, and finishing just one shot shy of the championship's 72-hole record held by Jon Rahm.

South Africa's previous best performance in the World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy) was second place in 1980. The team had also finished third in 1970 and 1972.

Congratulations to Christiaan, Daniel and Charl, along with team manager Peet van Schalkwyk and captain Gavin Groves, on leading South Africa to its first victory in the World Amateur Team Championship and a historic Eisenhower Trophy triumph in Singapore.

A deserved mention goes to **Christiaan Maas**, South Africa's top performing amateur in 2025, who finished the season ranked No. 5 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking after climbing as high as No. 4 following his victory in the World Amateur Team Championship.

Christiaan won the Freddie Tait Cup for a second time as leading amateur in the rain-shortened 2025 Investec South African Open Championship at Durban Country Club. He was 12-under and in third place, just two shots off the lead after 54 holes, when the final round was cancelled. The University of Texas standout enjoyed an outstanding collegiate campaign, winning the NCAA Austin Regional and recording four top 10 and seven top 20 finishes while leading the Longhorns with a 71.09 scoring average. He was named to the PING Third Team All-America and Golfweek Third Team All-America, as well as PING All-Central Region and All-Big 12 teams. He also received an invitation into the 2026 Hero Dubai Desert Classic, courtesy of his No. 2 ranking on the PGA Tour University standings at the end of 2025.

South African teams also continued the country's proud legacy in the African Golf Confederation events on the continent.

Astin Arthur, Charl Barnard, Ivan Verster and Dian Kruger won the **All Africa Region 5 Tournament** by 26 shots on a total of 746 from Zambia in Botswana, and Astin lifted the individual title, winning by six shots on 13-under 200 at the Stanbic Bank Gaborone Golf Club.

Dewan de Bruin, Johndre Ludick, Marno Lange and Roelof Craig edged Morocco by five shots on a total score of 589 to lift the **All Africa Junior Team Championship** title for a record 18th time at The Residence Golf Course in Gammarth, while Dewan de Bruin captured the individual title on 15-under-par in Tunisia.

Dewan, Johndre and Roelof went on to represent South Africa in the annual **Toyota Junior Golf World Cup** in Japan, where the team finished 10th overall. Congratulations to all the players and team managers, Thinus Labuschagne (All Africa Region 5 Tournament) and Heinrich Lourens (All Africa Junior Team Championship and Toyota Junior Golf World Cup).

The 2025 GolfRSA South African Swing attracted competitors from more than 20 countries across three prestigious tournaments, and we were delighted to celebrate two South African champions and welcome France back into the winner's circle.

Charl Barnard won the **South African Amateur Championship** with a 5&3 victory over Great Britain's Cameron Mukherjee in the 36-hole final at a rain-swept Humewood Golf Club, earning himself a spot in the Investec South African Open at Durban Country Club.

Frenchman Noa Auch-Roy closed with rounds of 66 and 65 on the final day of the **South African Stroke Play Championship** to triumph on 23-under-par and secure a dominant nine-shot victory over Sean Paxton and Logan Leisher.

Astin Arthur defeated Charl Barnard with a birdie on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off to win the 2025 **GolfRSA International Amateur Championship** at Royal Johannesburg's East Course. Astin, Dian Kruger,

Ivan Verster & Jordan Burnand combined for a winning score of 27-under to win the team competition by 19 shots from the second-placed GolfRSA Presidents team.

Several current GolfRSA National Squad players and graduates excelled both nationally and on the global stage, and a number of emerging talents stepped up during the season to put themselves firmly on the radar. *Read more about these achievements under GolfRSA National Squad.*

Other notable winning performances in 2025 include:

- Cilliers Craig earned his first national title in the 2025 Nomads SA Boys U17 Stroke Play Championship with a four-shot victory at Reading Country Club.
- Aiden Combrinck moved to No. 1 in the GolfRSA U15 rankings following his first national victory in the Joburg Junior Open at Houghton Golf Club.
- Woodhill's Pieter Cooper (58) celebrated his maiden national victory in the 2025 SA Senior Amateur Championship, winning by two shots with rounds of 70, 76 and 71 at Kyalami Country Club.

Unfortunately, the **SA Mid-Amateur Stroke Play Championship** was cancelled due to the low number of entries. However, eight mid-amateurs were named for the **Coastal Inland Challenge**, alongside eight senior players. The Inland team produced a thrilling comeback performance to clinch the biennial title, defeating the Coastal side 13-7 after an impressive singles display on the final day at Langebaan Country Estate. It was the third edition of the national team event, with both the previous editions going the way of the Coastal team. Renier Janse van Rensburg, Andrew Curlewis, Shaun le Roux and Gareth Clements were also selected to the Protea Mid-Amateur team to represent South Africa for the first time in the **2026 GolfRSA International Amateur Championship** at Houghton Golf Club.

GolfRSA hosted seven inter-provincial tournaments and two schools' teams championships. A hearty congratulations to all the winning teams who held trophies aloft in the 2025 season.

SA Inter-Provincial Tournament: Western Province (A-Section) | Boland (B-Section)

SA U-19 Inter-Provincial Tournament: Western Province (A-Section) | KwaZulu-Natal (B-Section)

SA Mid-Amateur Inter-Provincial Tournament: Gauteng North (A-Section) | KwaZulu-Natal (B-Section)

SA Senior Inter-Provincial Tournament: Western Province (A-Section) | Southern Cape (B-Section)

SA Super Senior Inter-Provincial Tournament: Central Gauteng (A-Section) | North West (B-Section)

SA Country Districts Inter-Provincial Tournament: Southern Cape (A-Section) | Eastern Province (B-Section)

Challenge Inter-Provincial Tournament: Western Province

SA High Schools Championship: Paul Roos Gymnasium

Ernie Els Primary Schools Championship: The first round had to be called off due to flooding, and the tournament had to be cancelled due to persistent rain that left Rondebosch Golf Club unplayable. As a result, the tournament could not be completed and no champion was declared.

The **GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge** continued to gain strong traction in 2025, with widespread participation at club level as golfers across the country embraced the shorter format of the game. The national final at Mooiooi Golf Club in May produced two worthy champions in Barend Botha from Knysna Golf Club and Daryn Shepherd from Simbithi Country Club, who delivered an impressive performance in the international final at Royal Portrush, finishing tied third in the team Stableford competition on 34 points.

The eighth edition of the **GolfRSA Champions of Champions delivered by The Courier Guy** brought together club champions from across the country to compete for national honours and the tournament at Vaal de Grace Golf Estate once again showcased the strength and depth of South African amateur golf.

The 2025 winners were Fanyana Mogobana (Caddie), Cindy de Lange (C), Christiaan van Niekerk (C), Lourenda Steyn (A), Leonard Swart (A), Kerry Wood (B) and CJ de Villiers (B), who arrived as club champions and left as national champions after outstanding performances in their respective divisions.

Congratulations to all the winners of the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge and the GolfRSA Champions of Champions delivered by The Courier Guy, and a heartfelt thank you to Paul Adams and his wife Bridget for their continued commitment to ensuring the success of these popular annual events.

Handicaps and Membership

According to Handicaps Network Africa, a total of 3,985,311 rounds were played during 2025. The number of registered male golfers increased by 4.31% to 128,425 and women's golf showed an increase of 4.86% with 17,210 registered female golfers at the end of 2025.

The 2025 figures show a mixed picture compared to 2024. While total rounds played declined, participation in terms of registered golfers continued to grow. The number of rounds decreased by 5.3% from the 4,209,011 rounds played in 2024. Handicaps Network South Africa reported that severe weather conditions impacted the

number of rounds and the regions that showed the most pronounced decline in rounds were KwaZulu-Natal in the early part of 2025 and Central Gauteng later in the year.

However, the number of registered golfers increased notably, with male membership rising by 4.31% and female membership growing by 4.86%, indicating continued growth in participation despite the decrease in rounds played.

Transformation / Development

With many of our transformation players given the opportunity to compete in local, continental and international tournaments, significant progress has been made over the past year. From junior transformation to elite level, we have witnessed our players becoming more comfortable contesting in the Junior and Open Order of Merit events and converting good form into strong results and victories.

More than 20 players earned selection on merit to represent their unions in the South African Premier and U19 Inter-Provincial Tournaments hosted by GolfRSA in 2025, which emphasizes the fact that development in the country is being done at an exceptional level.

GolfRSA launched its Tournament Support Programme in 2025 with funding from The R&A, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and the National Lotteries Commission. Several players in programme, which is intended to make the migration of players from U19 level to the men's open circuit much more seamless, have already shown encouraging progress and delivered a number of standout performances.

Johndre Ludick, who represented South Africa in Japan and Argentina, captured the 2025 KwaZulu-Natal Stroke Play and Amateur double, while Vuyisani Makama produced a string of strong results on the Open amateur circuit, including runner-up finishes in the Eastern Province and Border Stroke Play Championships and a share of fourth in the GNGU Silver Salver Stroke Play Championship. Both players broke into the top 10 of the GolfRSA Open Amateur Rankings in 2025.

Johndre and Vuyisani were offered places with the prestigious Ernie Els Foundation, alongside fellow GolfRSA National Squad member and two-time Zimbabwe Junior Open champion Devon Valentine. Devon was the runner-up in the 2025 KZN Amateur and CGGU Stroke Play Open, and added third in the KZN Stroke Play and fourth in the Border Stroke Play Championship to his tally of top 10 finishes in 2025.

Mitch Phigeland reached the semi-finals of the South African Amateur Championship and Josh Daniels accepted a golf scholarship to Augusta University. Zinan Maimane and Tynan Vermeulen made multiple appearances at the Zimbabwe Junior Open and delivered standout performances for their respective unions in the SA Premier and U19 Inter-Provincial Tournaments.

Growing the Game with the GolfSixes League

GolfSixes is an initiative designed to make golf more accessible, affordable and enjoyable for beginners through a shorter, more social and less intimidating format of the game. Its primary purpose is to introduce junior beginner golfers to the sport in a fun and welcoming way, helping to create a positive first experience that encourages continued participation.

GolfSixes is delivered through two distinct formats in South Africa. GolfSixes events and activations are typically one-off opportunities designed to introduce beginner golfers and non-golfers to the game in an engaging environment, often at clubs or alongside larger tournaments. By contrast, the SAGDB GolfSixes Leagues are structured team competitions held across all 14 SAGDB regions, aimed specifically at players within the SAGDB system and providing regular playing opportunities while retaining the inclusive and enjoyable spirit of the GolfSixes format.

GolfSixes reached 751 participants in 2025, representing a 90% increase from 2024. This growth was driven by the delivery of 21 GolfSixes events and activations during the year, most of which took place in Gauteng, highlighting an opportunity to expand the initiative beyond Central Gauteng in future.

Key highlights included GolfSixes League activations at the Africa Amateur Championship at Leopard Creek Country Club and at the Investec South African Open at Durban Country Club, while future growth opportunities include collaborating with SA Kids where possible and introducing Women's GolfSixes events.

GolfRSA National Squad

A decade after its launch in 2015, the GolfRSA National Squad continues to support South Africa's most promising amateur golfers on their pathway to elite international competition and the professional ranks. Over the past 10 years, the programme has played a key role in developing talent and producing players who have achieved success both as amateurs and professionals.

A decade on, the GolfRSA National Squad members and graduates continue to fulfil the vision set out by its founder. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Johann Rupert for his investment in, and patronage of, the GolfRSA National Squad, without whose support many of these achievements may not have been realised.

New Inductees 2025 | 2026

Logan Leisher (Central Gauteng | Eagle Canyon)
Judd Sundelson (Central Gauteng | Houghton Golf Club)
Stefan Jacobs (Central Gauteng | Randpark Golf Club)
Jordan Groenewald (Southern Cape | Fancourt)
Alex Frankel (Boland | Devonvale Golf and Wine Estate)

2025 Squad Achievements

- Bryan Newman's two-shot victory in the R&A Africa Amateur Championship earn him starts in the 153rd Open Championship, the 130th Amateur Championship, the Sunshine Tour's Alfred Dunhill Championship, Investec South African Open and Waterfall City Tournament of Champions presented by Attacq. He also won the 2025 Nomads SA Boys Match Play Championship, defeating Dewan de Bruin in the 36-hole final with a 9&8 victory at Mossel Bay Golf Club.
- Johndre Ludick and Charl Barnard represented South Africa in the Juan Carlos Tailhade Cup in Argentina, where the duo extended South Africa's proud record to 12 consecutive top five finishes with their fourth-place finish at Los Lagartos Country Club.
- Andries van der Vyver enjoyed a watershed season, winning the Zimbabwe Junior Open, the Nomads National Order of Merit Coastal opener at Selborne, the NTT Data Junior Open U19 division and the Cape Town Junior Open at Robertson Golf Club.
- JP van der Watt won the Proudfoot Trophy, the stroke-play qualifying section of the South African Amateur Championship, with rounds of 65 and 67 for 12-under.
- Roelof Craig won the 2025 Nomads SA Boys U19 Stroke Play Championship, closing with a 67 to edge Dewan de Bruin by one shot.
- Johndre Ludick won the second Nomads National Order of Merit Coastal event at PE Golf Club, while Marno Lange defeated Nicholas van der Vyver for the first Nomads National Order of Merit Inland title at Benoni Country Club. Marno doubled up in the second Inland tournament with a six-shot victory at CMR Golf Club.

The new inductees also enjoyed outstanding seasons:

- Jordan Groenewald won the 2025 Nomads Gowrie Farm U15 Challenge by eight shots and the NTT Data Junior Open U15 division by three shots.
- Logan Leisher recorded victories in the MCB Indian Ocean Open and Northern Cape Open, while also finishing runner-up in both the SA Stroke Play Championship and the Gauteng North Silver Salver.
- Judd Sundelson claimed the European Order of Merit at St Andrews as part of the 2024 | 2025 R&A Student Tour Series.
- Stefan Jacobs continued his strong U.S. collegiate run with a victory and Southland All-Conference First Team selection in 2025.
- Alex Frankel became only the second player to win both the U13 and U15 divisions of the Sun City U13 & U15 Challenge.

Squad Graduate Watch

GolfRSA National Squad graduates Aldrich Potgieter, Christo Lamprecht, Jayden Schaper and Kieron van Wyk flew the South African flag on the global stage in 2025, while Samuel Simpson, Herman Loubser and Casey Jarvis celebrated breakthrough victories on the Sunshine Tour.

- Aldrich enjoyed a breakthrough season on the PGA Tour, winning the Rocket Classic in Detroit after a five-hole playoff to become the youngest South African to claim a PGA Tour title. He capped the year by earning the PGA Tour Rookie of the Year award after qualifying for the FedExCup Playoffs.
- Christo made an immediate impact in his first full professional season on the Korn Ferry Tour, securing his maiden professional victory at the Pinnacle Bank Championship and finishing high enough on the points list to earn a PGA Tour card for the following season.
- Jayden enjoyed a career-defining year on the DP World Tour, claiming his first two victories in successive weeks with dramatic playoff wins at the Alfred Dunhill Championship and the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open.
- Kieron made history by becoming the first amateur to win an APGA Tour event when he captured the Farmers Insurance Invitational at Torrey Pines and later finished fourth on his PGA Tour debut at the Puerto Rico Open.
- Samuel Simpson captured the Mopani Zambia Open at Nkana Golf Club for his maiden Sunshine Tour title.
- Herman Loubser claimed his first Sunshine Tour victory in the Vodacom Origins of Golf event at Parys

Golf & Country Estate in August.

- Casey Jarvis secured his first Sunshine Tour title in the Hyundai Open and added a second victory in the Vodacom Origins of Golf Final after beating Barend Botha in a playoff.

2025 UK Squad Tour

The 2025 UK Tour comprised the Brabazon Trophy, the Scottish Men's Open, The Amateur, the St Andrews Links Trophy and the European Open.

Christiaan Maas and Daniel Bennett made their third successive appearances, Ivan Verster and Jack Buchanan teed it up for a second year running alongside Judd Sundelson, and the first-timers were Astin Arthur, Charl Barnard, Dian Kruger, Johndre Ludick, Bryan Newman and Christopher Bagnall.

Top Performers

Brabazon Trophy (English Men's Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship) | Hankley Common Golf Club
289 Ivan Verster RSA 71 75 70 73 (T-35)
294 Charl Barnard RSA 74 70 72 78 (T-50)

Scottish Men's Open Championship | North Berwick
277 Dian Kruger 72 69 68 68 (T7)

St Andrews Links Trophy | Old and Jubilee Courses
277 Christiaan Maas 69 67 73 68 (T-6)
283 Jack Buchanan 70 68 70 75 (T-30)
286 Judd Sundelson 74 67 73 72 (T-39)

The Amateur Championship | Royal St George's and Royal Cinque Ports, England
ROUND 1
Daniel Bennett beat Wilhelm Ryding SWE 1-up
ROUND 2
Daniel Bennett beat Kayun Mudadana AUS 4 & 3
ROUND 3
Daniel Bennett lost 4&3 to Matthis Lefevre FRA

European Amateur Championship | Vasatorp Golf Club
292 Dan Bennett 79 69 74 70 (T26)0
295 Christiaan Maas 75 74 72 74 (T36)
301 Jack Buchanan 72 74 78 77 (58)

World Handicap System (WHS) - Course Rating System (CRS) Re-Rating Process Update (2025)

World Handicap System Requirements for Course Re-Rating Cycles

- Initial Implementation: Completed 3 September 2018
- Cycle 1 (3 to 5 years from Implementation): Completed November 2025
- Cycle 2 (5 to 10 years): Estimated Completion December 2035

All courses implemented Course Ratings & Slope Ratings in September 2018. As of the end of 2025, a total of 407 active courses have been successfully re-rated.

Phase 1 of the re-rating process has now been completed. A structured plan of action has been developed for Cycle 2, which will ensure that all golf courses are re-rated within 5 to 10 years of their most recent rating, in accordance with World Handicap System requirements.

Requests from Clubs Seeking Re-Rating Outside of their Eligibility Period

The following factors are considered when evaluating requests from clubs seeking re-rating outside of their prescribed cycle:

- Administration & Preparation Prior to the Re-Rating
- Averaged Expenses based on Historical Data
- Time Required for the Physical Re-Rating
 - 9-Hole versus 18-Hole Courses
 - 2-Person versus 4-Person Team
- Capturing on both Golf Course Rating Assistant (GCRA) and World Handicap System Course Rating System (Men & Women)

Amounts agreed on by the Handicap & Course Rating Sub-Committee:

- 9-Hole Courses = R3000.00 (Excluding VAT)
- 18-Hole Courses = R6000.00 (Excluding VAT)

World Handicap System (WHS) - Rules of Handicapping (RoH)

The 2024 edition of the World Handicap System Rules of Handicapping, implemented on 1 January 2024, remains in effect. This includes Section VI (Local Guidance for Golf Club Committees), which outlines South Africa's application of discretionary provisions within the system.

Official Communication: Daily Course Setup Notification

An official communication issued by GolfRSA on 26 March 2025 reminded all affiliated clubs of the importance of setting up their courses in accordance with Appendix G of the World Handicap System Rules of Handicapping.

Our appreciation goes to Lara Weinstein, Mike Johnston and all the volunteer course-raters for their tireless dedication and commitment to these ongoing projects.

Stakeholder relationships

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of GolfRSA management, our partnerships with The R&A, the Sunshine Tour, the PGA of South Africa, the Club Management Association of South Africa (CMASA), Nomads, the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture (DSAC) and the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) are strong and it is encouraging to see the relationships between GolfRSA, the SAGA and WGS, golf unions, golf clubs and affiliated golfers continuing to strengthen.

The value of these partnerships is reflected in the various projects and initiatives that we deliver in collaboration with these organisations.

GolfRSA and CMASA have partnered on the GolfRSA Education & Training Programme since July 2021. This past year the programme has been supported by funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC), the Departments of Sport, Arts & Culture (DSAC) and The R&A. Through this collaboration, clubs are provided with access to recruitment support, industry surveys, legal and governance resources, the CMASA Partner Programme and a range of networking opportunities. In turn, GolfRSA provides clubs access to Recruitment, Industry Surveys, Legal Resources, the CMASA Partner Programme, and various other Networking Events.

The partnership between CMASA and GolfRSA has significantly contributed to the growth and development of the club and golf industry in South Africa. Since its inception, CMASA has facilitated 26 GolfRSA-sponsored education webinars and educated 2032 club employees in those webinars, while GolfRSA has made available 53 Specialisation Area Bursaries for the Manager in Development (MID) Programme. In 2025, GolfRSA and CMASA facilitated five GolfRSA-sponsored webinars, educating 387 employees, and awarded 15 Specialisation Area Bursaries.

In collaboration with CMASA, GolfRSA launched the R&A Women in Leadership Programme in 2025. The initiative forms part of GolfRSA's broader commitment to fostering a more inclusive and diverse golf industry in South Africa. The programme is designed to create opportunities for professional growth through mentorship, networking and leadership education and development, while encouraging greater female representation in management and leadership roles within the golf industry. After a successful launch with 25 graduates in its first year, the next two R&A Women in Golf Leadership cohorts is scheduled for 2026.

GolfRSA marked another important milestone with the launch of the Women in Golf Charter in South Africa, a global initiative led by The R&A aimed at creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment for women and girls in the game. The Women in Golf Charter encourages golf organisations, clubs and industry partners to commit to meaningful actions that increase female participation, promote gender balance and support leadership opportunities for women within the sport. Through this initiative, GolfRSA continues to work with stakeholders across the industry to grow the women's game and ensure that golf in South Africa is accessible and inclusive for all. Our sincere thanks to Anne Vermaak for her leadership and commitment to the Women in Leadership initiative, and to Janyne Marais for her dedicated work in advancing the GolfRSA Women in Golf Charter and helping grow the women's game in South Africa.

Funding from DSAC, secured in 2023, has afforded GolfRSA the opportunity to send teams to selected events in Africa, to launch and support the GolfSixes League South Africa, host The GolfRSA Race to The R&A 9 Hole Challenge, present Safeguarding workshops, and provide support for Women's events, Disability Golf and elite transformation golfers.

Funding from the NLC in 2025 also supported key initiatives, including the Elite Transformation and Women's National Camps, the participation of the women's team in the 2025 Southern Regional All Africa Challenge Trophy in Namibia, the boys and girls teams to the Zimbabwe Junior Open, the President's Teams to the GolfRSA International and 28 players to various tournaments throughout the year, the GolfSixes League South Africa, as well as ongoing club management education and bursaries.

Through our partnership with the Sunshine Tour, our top-ranked players received invitations to compete on the

Altron Big Easy Tour and in selected Sunshine Tour events. These are valuable platforms for our top amateurs to learn about the challenges that come with levelling up to the professional circuit.

Sponsors and Benefactors

On behalf of the National Executive Committee, I wish to extend my gratitude and thanks to all our sponsors, partners and benefactors who continue to assist with the promotion, growth and development of amateur golf in this country.

These include the National Lotteries Commission, The R&A, Nedbank, Sun International, Titleist, the National Lotteries Commission, the Department of Sports, Arts & Culture, Avis, Adidas, The Courier Guy, Southern Sun and Jonsson Workwear.

We applaud the Nomads Golf Club of South Africa for their unwavering support of junior golf. As a vital sponsor within the golfing ecosystem, their dedication to raising funds to support 15 GolfRSA Boys and Girls junior tournaments is truly unmatched. Thank you, Nomads.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Mr Johann Rupert for his investment in, and patronage of, the GolfRSA National Squad, without whose support many of these achievements may not have been realised.

Financials

GolfRSA provisional surplus as at 31 December 2025: R 5 106 441.

From an income perspective, GolfRSA experienced strong growth during the year. Affiliation fee income increased by 19%, largely driven by the successful implementation of the new affiliation fee collection method across several unions. In addition, the surplus achieved for the year can further be attributed to the 30% increase in revenue from HNA and the strong performance of GolfRSA's investment portfolios, which benefited from favourable market conditions.

Expenses remained well controlled, supported by continued accountability across staff portfolios and disciplined cost management. Several funded projects were successfully executed during the year, with associated costs covered by DSAC, NLC and the R&A.

These combined factors have contributed to GolfRSA maintaining a strong and sustainable financial position.

GolfRSA Board of Directors

The full board of directors as on 31 December 2025 comprised the following directors:

Mr Johann Rupert	Non-Executive director (Chairperson)
Mr Moss Gondwe	Non-Executive director (Vice Chairperson)
Mr Pieter Verwey	Member Representative Director of SADGA
Mr Moss Ngoasheng	Member Representative Director of the SAGDB
Mr Dale Hayes	Non-Executive director (Independent)
Mr Ken Walker	Non-Executive director (Independent)
Mr Selwyn Eagle	Non-Executive director (Independent)
Mr Corrie Verburg	Non-Executive director (Independent)
Mr Henk Smith	Member Representative Director of SAGA (President)
Mr Peet van Schalkwyk	Member Representative Director of SAGA (Senior Vice-President)
Mrs Susan Andrew	Member Representative Director of WGSA (President)
Mr Ken Walker	Member Representative of WGSA
Mr Stef Grobbelaar	Member Representative of SAGA

GolfRSA Board of Director members are volunteers and are not remunerated. We thank them for their time, commitment and service.

GolfRSA Operations

At the end of 2025, GolfRSA employed 12 full-time staff members.

Safeguarding

This past year has seen the International Golf Federation launch an online Safeguarding Education Programme in partnership with UNICEF. This allows all members of the golfing industry to do Level 1, 2 and 3 education at their own time. This is really helpful in reaching more members of the industry. GolfRSA will now focus on supporting clubs and unions with more golf-specific webinars in different areas of safeguarding in 2026. GolfRSA also continues to support with receiving reports throughout the industry. It is essential that all Unions and clubs ensure they are actively involved in the promotion, education and response in safeguarding.

GolfRSA launched its updated safeguarding policy in March 2024 under the leadership of Operations Manager Anne Vermaak. A workshop explaining the policy took place in April and thereafter Safeguarding awareness and officers training took place each month with GolfRSA Executive and staff, SAGDB Managers, Union leadership, club leadership and athletes in this important subject.

GolfRSA 'Golf is Good for You' campaign

This annual 12-month campaign, run in partnership with The R&A, promotes the health benefits of golf with ongoing communication through the website, social media, as well as physical posters at tournaments that highlight the benefits of the game.

The Golf Mag

GolfRSA took ownership of the digital magazine, The Golf Mag, in August 2024 as part of its commitment to strengthening communication with affiliated golfers and the broader golf community.

The magazine features a wide range of content, including amateur and professional golf news, player profiles, instruction, equipment and industry updates, lifestyle features and stories that celebrate and promote the growth of the game in South Africa and across the continent.

The appointment of respected golf journalist Gary Lemke as editor in March 2025 has further strengthened the publication's editorial direction and it has grown into Africa's biggest golf magazine, reaching a readership of more than 160,000.

Acknowledgement of our predecessors

Thank you to all the executives, contributors, volunteers and members who dedicated their time, resources and services over more than a century who have all played a part in building SAGA's excellence over more than a century. Your dedication is sincerely appreciated and never forgotten.

Thank You

Thanks to the dedication of the teams at GolfRSA and across the unions, we once again delivered a strong and diverse competitive calendar that created meaningful opportunities for our members to compete, gain experience and develop their games. The continued success of South African amateurs on both the international stage and at national, provincial and club level reflects the strength of our structures and the ongoing growth of amateur golf in the country.

We also extend our appreciation to our professional handicap system partners, HNA, for their continued support and service, in particular Mr Mike McGrath and Mr Cuan Chelin, who always have the interests of amateur golf at heart.

I would like to thank every member of the SAGA National Executive Committee, along with the presidents and office bearers across the unions, for their dedication, leadership and passion for the game.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Board of Directors of GolfRSA for the invaluable time they volunteer to help guide and grow the game, and in particular our Chairman, Mr Johann Rupert, whose contribution to golf extends far beyond what most golfers realise.

I would also like to commend CEO Grant Hepburn for his unwavering commitment to executing the vision of GolfRSA. Under his leadership the organisation continues to grow from strength to strength.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the staff of GolfRSA, whose passion for amateur golf and dedication to the game remain unmatched in the industry.

Serving amateur golf in South Africa for more than 20 years, and the South African Golf Association for the past decade has been an immensely rewarding journey. It has been a true honour for me to guide this respected organisation and, with the support of so many committed people across the game, I believe the foundations are firmly in place for future generations to continue building and enjoying the game.



HENK SMITH
President – South African Golf Association