

Presidents Report AGM Echunga Golf Club 2019/20

Welcome to the Echunga Golf Club (EGC) Annual General Meeting 2020 and thank you to members who have taken the time to attend.

This is an official meeting of the EGC and to that end we have established there is a Quorum in accordance with the Club Constitution and can proceed with the meeting in the order set out in the Agenda.

The said Agenda along with the Notice of the Meeting has been appropriately published and made available to members in the lead up to this meeting.

What a year 2020 has been – interestingly enough the last paragraph of my 2019 president’s report read

“With the continued support of the membership we have enjoyed over many years together with our sustainable approach to growing the course and our current financial position, I am confident the EGC will be able to overcome challenges and continue to improve”

When I reflect back on those words in light of what evolved in 2020 how true the statement turned out to be. I believe it captures the very essence of our club where the collective efforts of a group of committed and caring people, past and present, have enabled the club to come through to where it is today.

Managing the club through the Covid19 period from a committee perspective was initially quite taxing with close contact maintained almost on a daily basis. We had to contemplate closing down which we did for a period (the canteen was closed for many months) followed by a series of changes which included establishing a CovidSafe plan to enable Golf to continue to be played on our course.

Fortunately, Golf in general, given the nature of the sport, was considered to be one of the few activities that could continue in SA, with restrictions, during the Covid19 period.

Financially it was going to be a testing time given the full impact of the virus hit in March 2020 and the new season commencing on the 1st of April. At that time, on behalf of the committee, I wrote to the members asking them to support the club if they were able by renewing their membership.

The membership response was positive and I can not thank them enough as it helped stabilise the club.

Much recognition and thanks should also be given to our sponsors and volunteers for their continued support during this uncertain time. Their positive communal and financial impact should not be underestimated.

From a course management perspective Echunga continues to punch above its weight with a course playing standard that should be commended thanks to efforts of our committed ground staff.

As a result of the efforts of the committee the club did also receive certain government-initiated benefits and grants including “Jobkeeper” payments. This coupled with our historical asset and cash position has seen the club through difficult times and maintains a healthy position. The treasures report will provide full and better details.

Thanks to the collective efforts within the club including those of my fellow committee members the club maintains its debt free status and strong asset base. The benefits which have resulted from successful grant applications has enabled us to free up some funds to be devoted to improve the club amenity with a fresh paint and new floor coverings.

Other items of note for the year include –

- Purchase of 4 golf carts which will have a positive affect on the bottom line
- Successful grant application enabling installation of solar panels to the club house which will result in mitigation of electrical costs
- Purchase of a new cash register
- Successful Juniors grant application (\$5,000) devoted to a new defibrillator and junior development program golf equipment
- Benefit of 2 donations of \$5,000 each from a club member devoted to Junior Development and Volunteer assistance
- An additional defibrillator donation to the club resulting from a St Johns and Clubs SA initiative
- Continuing work on the club's biodiversity and business plans
- Work on an evolving Junior Development program

Moving forward although we are hopeful the worst is behind us a diligent approach should be maintained in dealing with Covid19 and managing the club's affairs. In its undertakings the committee has posted a blue print as a guide to taking the club forward. The intent is to oversee operations at a viable and sustainable level to meet the club's desired objectives which includes being the best value for money course in the Hills. We trust this strategic plan will continue to evolve and be adopted by the club's future custodians.

Thankyou

Ray D'Alessandro

Echunga Golf Club

President