

# Service Golf Club News Letter

**JANUARY 2024 / FEBRUARY 2024**

**The first month of 2024 is already in the rear view mirror, but as Excom and Services Management we would like to wish our members a blessed and prosperous 2024.**

Having been in the position since March 2023, the Excom would also like to give open and critical feedback to the members on the state of Services Golf Club and the problems that we face going into 2024. Therefore please note the following:

1. It has been a well-known secret that our Club has suffered losses through fraud in the time of the previous regime which specifically pertains to funds collected in connection with SARS liabilities but never paid over to the Receiver for quite some time. The perpetrator has been sentenced through the criminal justice system, but this does not entail any re-payment of the stolen funds for which the Club is still liable.

1.1. The Excom has appointed auditors and after a careful review of the figures for the relevant period the liability is estimated at approximately R6M at this stage. Negotiations are taking place on how to re-pay this liability and/or other possible outcomes which might mitigate the liability and members will be notified once the process is finalized.

2. On Club level we are also constantly faced with the fact that Services Golf Club remains a cash strapped club which negatively impacts on all aspects of the club, most notably the manicuring of the playing facility and the maintenance to the implementation needed in the process thereof.

2.1. Our grounds team has to make due with old and, sometimes worn out, equipment, with which to deliver a proper playing facility. This issue is being looked at but replacement of equipment is something that is very costly and which can only be done over a period of time depending on the funds available.

2.2. Members can however be assured that our grounds team still strives to provide the golf course in the best condition possible.

2.3. This being said, we acknowledge the fact that the golf course was not in a good condition during January 2024 due to a variety of issues that arose during December 2023. New systems have been put in place to try and avoid a repeat thereof.

2.4. Members can therefore be assured of the full commitment of the Excom and the grounds team in order to ensure that the playing facility meets the expectation of the members going forward.



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## JANUARY 2024 / FEBRUARY 2024

2.5. Members are again reminded that there is a "complaints/suggestions book" in the pro shop which members can use to voice their difficulties but also to make positive suggestions to the benefit of all members.

3. On the topic of complaints and suggestions received from members during 2023, the Excom would also like to provide the following feedback:

3.1. We are in the process of addressing the problem with the ageing carts and members will see more and newer carts on the course in 2024.

3.2. We have also commenced with the repair of the carports which has been a steady complaint from members during 2023. Due to the cost involved this renovation is staggered over a longer period of time but members will already see the difference.

3.3. Since the golf course remains our biggest asset and focus point, we are constantly monitoring it and strive to, first restore it to where it needs to be, and then to maintain it to the standard that members have become accustomed to.

4. On the golfing front please note the following:

4.1. The various leagues have kicked off for the 2024 season and members will be informed of the progress of the various teams in the following newsletter and on the notice board.

4.2. ScoreCapture has been used during the league fixtures and seems to be functioning well. For more information and to follow the progress of the league teams please click on the link:  
<https://www.golf-scorecapture.com/leagues/>

4.3. Due to the fact that the driving range was functioning at a complete loss, the decision was taken that the operation of the facility would be altered in 2024. Members will still be able to use the facility but would have to report to the Pro Shop in order to pay the fee and collect the practice balls.

4.4. Members are also reminded of the fact that all membership fees have to be paid by end February 2024.



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**JANUARY 2024 / FEBRUARY 2024**

4.5. Service Golf Club is unfortunately not exempt from the ever rising costs of inflation and members must please take note of the new playing fees for 2024 which will be available at the Pro Shop.

4.6. The Excom would again like to thank members for adhering to the request to drive carts along the ropes and/or dedicated areas. Please assist the grounds team by replacing and correcting the rope when playing through and the rope has to be removed.

4.7. Members are reminded of the **SERVICES GOLF DAY** which is scheduled for 23 February 2024. The only aim of the golf day is to generate extra funds which will be utilized solely on the maintenance of the playing facility and the upkeep and/or possible replacement of the equipment. We hope to attract a full field, and should any member know any person or entity willing to be a sponsor on the day, please contact Lobo at the Pro Shop.

**Please enjoy your golfing in 2024 but remember this quirky quote by renowned golf course designer Pete Dye:**

**"Life is not fair, so why should I make a course that is fair."**

*Gerhard de Beer*

