

Southern Cape SAGDB Report for 2018

Current State of the Program in the Southern Cape

We started to focus on our feeder groups in the various areas as we knew that we would lose some of our more established players and we have had significant growth throughout the past year. We now have more players taking part in the Monthly SC Junior Order of Merit Tournaments from the following Chapters:

Riversdale5, Mossel Bay 2, George 9, Plettenberg Bay 5.

This brings the total players that can take part in Official Tournaments to 21 (with 3 more starting in 2019). This is by far the most players we have ever had in the past 15 years in the Southern Cape. With the number of handicapped golfers at clubs declining we see this as positive growth, and know that this will go a long way to better our program throughout the SC Union.

Adapting to the changing Times

As with most things today we also started to have a look at the effectiveness of our program to get the most out of our current budget. We made some changes to our program to the effect that we reward the better players by giving them more playing opportunities in Club Competitions and Union or Junior Tournaments. Although this means that we work with smaller groups of our Elite Players at a time which has helped us to raise the quality of our players.

Successes for 2018

The growth in numbers is definitely one of our most important success stories for 2018. With 70 % of our Premier Squad still under the age of 16 years we definitely see a strong future for our SC SAGDB Program. Devon Twigg who started with Joseph Booysen our George coach about a year and a half ago won the C Division of the George Club Champs with Joseph as his Caddie. He then went on to win the B Division of the Goose Valley Men's Open B Division as well as finishing 2nd in the Plettenberg Bay Men's Open B Division on the same weekend. Markwin Hector was introduced to the game just over a year ago and quickly made his mark in the SC Junior Order of Merit U13 Division winning 4 Tournaments in 2018. He also represented the SAGDB at the SA Boys U13 Tournament at Corro Creek. During the recent George Open the SAGDB players taking part in the B Division had the following results: Keano Damons (1st), Wafeeq Philander (3rd), Herschelle Hendricks (5th), Markwin Hector (8th).



The Way Forward

We believe that, although we would like to develop future champions for the game of golf, a huge part of our focus should be on growing the game at grassroots and club level. With this in mind we started to give our Premier Squad players more opportunities to play in their local club competitions. This gives the members the chance to get to know the players but also gives the players the sense of belonging and helps to develop the love and pride for their club. This will hopefully lead to them joining their local club when they grow up thereby contributing to the sustainability of the local golf club scene.

In closing we would like to thank the SCGU and all the clubs in the SC Union for their ongoing support the SC SAGDB program. Without this support the successes of the program will not be possible.

We wish everyone a Happy Festive Season and we hope that you will enjoy the time with family and loved ones.

JOHAN ERASMUS

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