

Tel: 013 492 0106  
Cell: 082 326 9999  
Fax: 086 589 2045  
Email: golf@bankenveld.co.za



**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE GOLF CLUB, BANKENVELD (Pty) Ltd.  
For the period ending  
December 2016**

It is an honour and privilege to present to the members of the Bankenveld Golf Club our fourth Chairman's Report.

**1. Background**

The Golf Club Bankenveld (Pty) Ltd is a private company with the two shareholders and directors namely Eben & Marius van Wyk.

**2. Governance of the Club**

2.1. Administration

The Golf Club Bankenveld (Pty) Ltd functions as a subsidiary of Elmir Property Projects (Pty) Ltd which renders the following services to the golf club:

- 2.1.1. Financial assistance;
- 2.1.2. General management of the club, i.e. administration, staff, equipment, etc.;
- 2.1.3. Accounting services;
- 2.1.4. Marketing & promotions;

2.2. Captains' Committee

The Captains' Committee, consisting of the two club captains and their deputies, forms the core of the day-to-day operation of the club. This committee meets every second Monday where the business of the previous and upcoming two weeks is discussed. I wish to thank Carl Manser, Sarie Fourie, Michelle Bezuidenhout and Dirk Lamprecht for their time and effort.

2.3. Extended Club Committee

It was resolved during the previous AGM that an Extent Club Committee will be formed and that it will be structured as follows:

- The Captains' Committee; with
- The Captains' of our league teams.

Directors: E van Wyk (Pr.Pln 93/85) M van Wyk CA(SA)	Postnet Suite 1234 Private Bag X 7260 Emalahleni Central 1035	45 Silwer Avenue Bankenveld eMalahleni (Witbank) 1035	The Golf Club Bankenveld (Pty) Ltd Reg. No: 2007/006934/07
--	--	--	--

This Extended Committee has met three times during the past year.

#### 2.4. Director of Golf

After a thorough procurement process, Renier de Beer was appointed as Director of Golf and he started in May 2015.

Renier resigned in December 2015 for personal reasons.

### 3. Membership

Our membership has shown a sustained increase in numbers and is as follows:

Member Type	Male			Ladies		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Honorary (Neven Matthews, Carl Manser, Sarie Fourie & Eben van Wyk)	2	3	3	1	1	1
Golf Estate (Full)	86	97	99	5	11	12
Golf Estate (U/23)	8	10	12	0	1	2
Bankenveld (Full)	28	29	29	3	4	3
Bankenveld (U/23)	10	14	12	1	1	1
Non Resident (Full)	32	32	57	4	3	6
Non Resident (U/23)	11	10	9	5	6	5
Staff	20	10	9	6	5	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>

### 4. Activities of the members of the Club

Teams from the Club competed in all the Highveld Golf Union leagues.

The Ningi Services Club Championship took place over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The third Bankenveld Open was extended for a single day to a Week of Champions, played from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 and sponsored by the Franchisee Company.

My thanks to everybody that represented Bankenveld Golf Club and the various sponsors.

More detail of our achievements will be given by Carl & Sarie.

## 5. **Golf Operational Matters**

### 5.1. Long-Term Competitions

During 2015, two successful competitions were launched, and they were well supported during 2016, namely:

- The Eclectic Competition as part of the regular Nine-&-Wine competitions; and
- The Elmir Cup, league type of match play competitions.

### 5.2. Weekly Competitions

The Wednesday Competitions remain a challenge, as well as sponsors for all our weekly competitions. It is for this reason that we “contracted” Compton Golf Academy to manage the Wednesday competitions on an experimental basis. This was also not a great success and terminated.

Our Club Manager plans to start a 3-hole competition on Wednesdays as a form of hit-&-run for persons with a very busy schedule.

### 5.3. Score Cards

It is the continuous objective of the Club Management to improve the golfing experience. During the last year we have experimented with different score cards by different combinations of tee-boxes.

From the experience gained, we produced three final score cards with the following course ratings:

- 73 - Yellow
- 71 - Green
- 69 - Red

We still need clarity on the distances to compile a Seniors’ score card, as there is a definite need for such a score card.

### 5.4. Golf Academy

Compton Golf Academy is our loyal partners on the Driving Range. Edwin now employs two full-time PGA accredited coaches.

## 6. **The development of club facilities**

### 6.1. The course

In spite a very dry first half of 2016, the course was still in a good to excellent condition. The removal of the zebras definitely contributed in the upkeep of the course.

In order to achieve the optimal combinations of using different tee-boxes, we have added three new tee-boxes on the course. This facilitated the creation of the three score cards.

The vandalism of the course by non-golfers (hopefully) is a constant challenge. We plead to all our members to be alert and help us identify the culprits.

In the club house we have separated the golfer's change rooms from the public areas in both the ladies' and men's cloak rooms.

We have also enclosed an area dedicated for the golfers. Although this is suitable for normal prize-givings and smaller events, we realise that a larger area is needed. We will investigate the possibilities and we will try and find the best solution in close consultation with the Captains' Committee.

## 6.2. Future projects

6.2.1. We will also change the design of most of the bunkers on the course this year. This will entail that we level the floor of these hazards, which will make maintenance of them substantially easier.

6.2.2. Construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 holes of the course remains the challenge. The two contracts we signed with potential investors to develop the remaining vacant land within Estate came to nothing. In both cases, the land prices included the cost for the construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 holes.

The current economic situation in Witbank, as well as the Municipality's ineffectiveness, is not cooperative in this regard. I regretfully have to state that despite many meetings and negotiations, we (as Elmir projects) have not been able to conclude such transaction.

In view of the current situation, we plan to pursue the development of a retirement complex. If this materialises, it will definitely expedite the development of the remaining open land and thus the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 holes.

## 7. Africa Golf Summit

The Annual Africa Golf Summit took place at Serengeti Golf Club at the end of August 2016. Christo de Beer and I attended this two-day conference.

My overarching impression was that the captains of the golf industry are deeply concerned about the sustainability of golf. World-wide the number of golf club members and the rounds of golf played are dwindling.

There are a range of reasons for this situation and many possible strategies to counter this trend. The amalgamation of Mowbray and King David golf clubs is viewed as a win-win local solution.

Many participants at the Summit were also concerned about the role of the golf traditionalists and members' (unreasonable?) expectations.

Positive aspects we took from the conference are the following:

- 7.1. We have joined the Club Management Association of South Africa (CMASA).
- 7.2. Social golf groups are important building blocks for a club.
- 7.3. Personal engagement with prospective members by teaching coaches.
- 7.4. Clubs must be "Home-from-Home".
- 7.5. Kids and women are the future of clubs and the golf industry.
- 7.6. Seniors golfers must be catered for.

## **8. Staff Matters**

Two of our pillar staff members resigned at the end of 2015. Both Louise Wessels (caretaker club manager) and Maurice Meintjes (green-keeper) finish at the end of January 2016.

The newly appointed green-keeper, Christian Kinnear, also resigned during August 2016.

These resignations offered us the opportunity to restructure our management.

Lindiwe Tshabalala has been promoted to be our first Admin Manager as from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.

Christo de Beer was appointed as Club General Manager which includes the duties of green-keeper and Director of Golf. Maurice Meintjes has been co-opted as a green-keeping consultant.

These arrangements are bearing the desired fruit to be seen by our members.

## **9. The Club Transition**

Since the establishment of the Golf Club, the developer (Elmir Projects) assisted with all the financial shortages of the operation of the club. Although Elmir does not intend to walk away from these development challenges, the objective is that the members will take control of the full operation of the club in due course.

The ownership of the land which the current golf course is situated is as follows:

Holes	Description	Owner	Servitude
1, 2 & 9	Erf 537, Bankenveld X16	Elmir Projects	None
3 & 4	Erf 536, Bankenveld X15		
5, 6, 7 & 8	Erf 2, Bankenveld; Erf 169, Bankenveld X 7; Erf 204, Bankenveld X8	Bankenveld POA	Yes, to be used by the Golf Club for purposes of a golf course in ad infinitum.

One of the benefits of the proposed retirement complex will be that Elmir can transfer all the remaining open areas to the Bankenveld Golf Estate POA, with the same servitude in favour of the Golf Club.

## 10. Close

I wish to thank the following persons, without whom the last year of the Club would have been impossible:

10.1. All our loyal members, as well as our new member;

10.2. Christo, Lindiwe and the Pro-shop staff

10.3. Our club captains, Carl & Sarie, as well as their deputies, Dirk & Michelle;

10.4. Mauritz and all his staff at Primi; and

10.5. Our backroom staff Ilze, Christel and Marius.