



**PGA OF SOUTH AFRICA
(INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS)**

The 13th in our series that takes a random look at member PGAs in turn.



Well-Blessed With Winners On AND Off the Course

Among the many and varied members of The PGAs of Europe, including both the Full and International categories, not many can lay claim to a prouder history than South Africa with its 25 Major Championships embroidered into the fabric of the sport.

Bobby Locke, Gary Player, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Sally Little, and now, just a few weeks ago, Trevor Immelman, who earned his place on that proud roll of honour by winning the US Masters... with Tiger Woods among those who trailed in his wake.

There have many other similar high achievers with masses of tournament wins

around the world to add to South Africa's collection: Harold Henning, Dale Hayes, John Bland, Hugh Baiocchi, David Frost, Mark McNulty.... and their recent European Tour winner, Hennie Otto, to name but a few.

Since, inevitably, it is these elite players by whom the public at large categorises a country's status in the sport names like Locke, Player, Els are most easily identifiable with South Africa... and yet.

And yet, South Africa's contribution to golf in general, and professional golf in particular, is, equally commendable in terms of support for the rank and the file, the lesser known and the unknown, the public at large.

"The PGA of South Africa has` a long and proud history," says Dennis Bruyns, Chief Executive. " Formed in 1925 its members have made a major contribution to the game at all levels not just in South Africa but internationally as well. Our goal is to continue in this tradition servicing the game and our membership in line with the best practices worldwide."

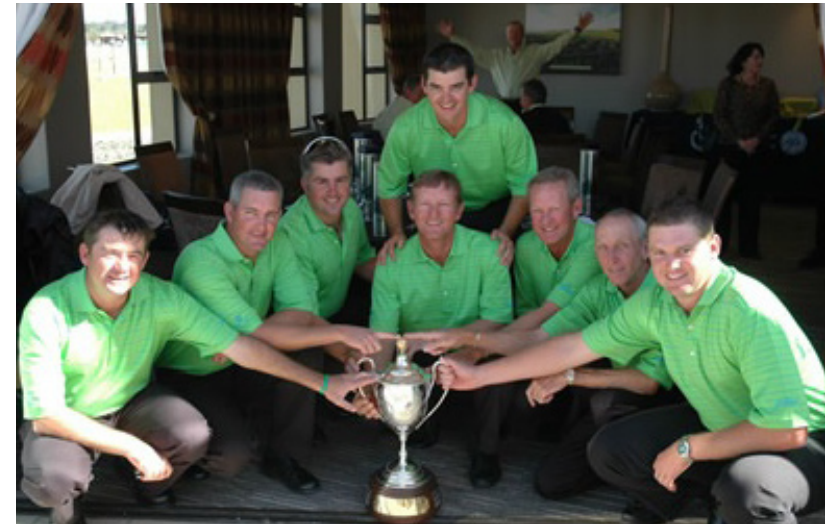
This 83-year-old PGA is based at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club, under the chairmanship of Craig Ross, (resident professional at The River Club), and with a staff

of seven, (three of them part time), to constantly administer those members whose duties centre around clubs and driving ranges.

As one of the larger PGAs, South Africa, is well served by qualified individuals with specific duties: Dennis Bruyns (Chief Executive), Janyne Marais (General Manager, Marketing, Communications and Operations), Anne du Toit (Secretary), Val Bartram (Education), Tracey Marais (Events), Vanisha Vanmali (Marketing Assistant) Frank Rosslee (Accounts).

By common agreement the PGASA is 'stronger and more focussed than it has ever been before'. Indications of this are seen in their well-established education programme, their tournament schedule and their strong communications philosophy. In addition to a comprehensive and well-presented website (<http://www.pgasa.com/>) they produce an Official monthly magazine, the Compleat Golfer, along with other relevant publications.

As recently as the end of May, South Africa staged a high-profile PGA Coaching and Fitness Conference, with a programme of international speakers on specialist subjects, designed and presented to enable individuals to add to their fund of knowledge and expertise.



Above: A Cape side, comprising players from the Western, Southern and Eastern Capes, won South Africa's prestigious Webster Cup by five points on the new Peter Matkovich-designed Ebotse links course, east of Johannesburg.

The tournament is contested by three regions over a 'Ryder Cup'-style format of foursomes, betterball and singles and it was the Capes' experienced tournament players like Teddy Webber, Wayne Bradley, Mike Michell and Algy Kietzman who prevailed, though young teaching pro Lawrence Collen was 'player of the tournament', by not losing any of his matches.

Above left: One of South Africa's spectacular courses.

It was merely the most recent on an agenda of such seminars and conferences to ensure that modern thinking is passed on to those professionals whose life's work is dedicated to helping others to play the game a little better and thereby enjoy it even more.

South Africa is, of course, far luckier than those member countries for whom golf is 'wintered out of action' for a large slice of the year. Blessed with a sunny climate and immeasurable acres of fine golfing terrain, their opportunity to constantly grow the game outstrips many others.

Most of the 470 courses are concentrated in the urban areas around Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Pretoria and are mostly private member clubs. Although, currently, there are only a hand full of public courses in South Africa this situation will undoubtedly change in due course.

Awards for High Calibre Individuals

South Africa's reputation for high-calibre individuals has been recognised in each of the two PGAs of Europe Annual Awards presentations since the new International members category was introduced in 2006.

Last year it was the legendry Dale Hayes 'on stage' with a tribute that stated: 'Tournament Player... Club Professional... Golf Magazine Publisher... Events Manager... Raconteur... Golf Journalist... Golf Commentator... TV presenter... Golf Course Designer.... Dale Hayes' contribution to the game is beyond question.'

A year earlier it went to Jeff Clause, an American who moved to South Africa in 1990 and a lesser-known, but equally fine servant to the game whose testimonial included the words 'It is very seldom that a profession finds a person with his exceptional skills who is prepared to pass on those skills to his fellows on a voluntary basis while sacrificing a huge amount of his own quality time.'

There are many more deserving individuals among their ranks....

PGA of South Africa The Facts

Number of Members	636
Full Members	343
Trainees	293
Female Members (all categories)	22

GOLF COURSES AND PARTICIPATION	
Number of Facilities	approx. 470
Number of Players	
(Registered Members of Clubs)	160,000
(Unregistered)	350,000 (estimated)

OFFICIALS
 Chairman: **Craig Ross**
 Chief Executive: **Dennis Bruyns**
 General Manager, Marketing and Operations: **Janyne Marais**
 Directors: **Derek James, Adrienne Thorne, James Botsoere, Pat Lowth, Paul Marks, Rob van Velzen, Jeff Clause**

SUNSHINE TOUR: Icing on the Cake

Of the many great benefits enjoyed by South Africans is the availability 'on their doorstep' of the superb Sunshine Tour for those with the playing ability to earn their card to take part in it. In excess of 30 high-level tournaments, each with generous, sponsored prize funds, are listed on a schedule that attracts players from many parts of the world and provides its competitors with literally a travelogue of destinations to enjoy as they ply their trade and, hopefully, boost their income.