**Newsletter 1/2017**

I cannot believe it is April already!

Our referees were quite busy officiating at Junior events, Women’s events, Leagues, PAT Opens and Senior events (40 days of refereeing were done since the beginning of January) There is now a bit of a break before the WP Amateur and the PAT club opens kick off.

We wish to share the following:

**Carol Goldsbury memorial**

Following her passing, a very fitting memorial service was held to celebrate the life of Carol.

We were all struck by how deeply she was involved in golf and especially the education and rules side of it.

As one of the founders of the WPGRA, she leaves a legacy not seen elsewhere in golf in South Africa.

It also certainly leaves us with a huge responsibility to nurture and build on the memories she has created. By striving to follow her professionalism, dedication and hard work, we will continuously honour her and her work!

We salute her and wish Chris well for the future.

**Western Province Golf**

The men’s section of WP Golf held their AGM last night.

The new executive was elected with Henk Smith the president and Mike de Swardt  as his vice-president.

We wish them all the best for their term and they can be assured of our continuous support in serving the game of golf.

**Education**

A level 1 course was recently held where Neil Homan of SAGA used the opportunity to use 3 local referees (Inus Marais, Helénè Marais and Rossanne de Klerk) to present the course.

He confirmed that it was a great success and accredited the presenters to present Level 1 under the auspices of the R&A in the future in the WP and Boland.

We can now present such courses on demand at clubs. (SAGA is responsible for any level 2 courses.)

A club that wishes to have a Level 1 course presented may contact Helénè to make a booking.

**Proposed new golf rules**

We had a discussion with Neil re the changes in the rules that will be effective 1 January 2019.

This will necessitate a huge effort to communicate it to and train all golfers on the rules. We foresee many workshops and courses on the changes that will need to take place during the second half of 2018.

**Feedback on proposed new rules**

Each individual have an opportunity to give **feedback** to the R&A re the proposed changes. The R&A has invited such feedback to be given before end August. They will then evaluate all feedback and make changes, if any, so that the final rules will be ready during 2018 for implementation in 2019.

We, as the WPGRA, would also like to give our feedback as an organisation. You are thus invited to give your feedback to Helénè Marais at hmarais@telkomsa.net before 30 May.

We will then compile everything into 1 document and send it to the R&A.

You can read the proposed changes at

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/text/major-proposed-changes.html> or <http://www.rules.golf/#resourcesarea>

**General**

1. We are very pleased with the new “uniform” for the WPGRA referees to wear when officiating. It adds to the professionalism and identifies us as referees. Thank you very much to WPGolf for their financial contributions and to Robert for negotiating and ordering the kit.
2. We are still waiting for the revamped WPGolf website and will then have our area to communicate with referees and share information with all members. The aim is to be live at the end of May.
3. We had a referees workshop where the focus was to help referees dealing with practical situations. We also launched our referees booklet and are planning to do more such workshops in the future.
4. We are still committed to give people, interested in Refereeing, an opportunity to get involved. We have assisted a couple of people - some of whom have already became valuable referees. If you are interested in refereeing, please contact Helénè at hmarais@telkomsa.net
5. If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, please contact Helénè to be removed from the mailing list.

I hope that you will enjoy the Easter break and remember to send your feedback on the proposed new rules!