

ROYAL JOHANNESBURG

# ONE FAIRWAY

AVENUE



THE ROYAL REVIEW 2022 / 2023  
A MEMBERS PUBLICATION | [WWW.ROYALJHB.CO.ZA](http://WWW.ROYALJHB.CO.ZA)





# The Mission

Our mission is always based on our commitment to provide a "Royal" experience both on and off the golf course that exceeds expectations:

*A private members Club,  
where visitors are welcome*

We focus on offering all members and visitors a consistently high level of customer service.

To treat all our customers, suppliers, business associates and each other with dignity and respect.

We will be entirely honest in everything we do and say.

We will be uniform and consistent in dealing with members and customers, in the application of our best practices and procedures and in working with each other.

We will work together as a united team to consistently provide the highest possible levels of good governance, strategy and service excellence to our Club.

We will continuously strive to find innovative and creative ways to reduce costs and increase our efficiency.

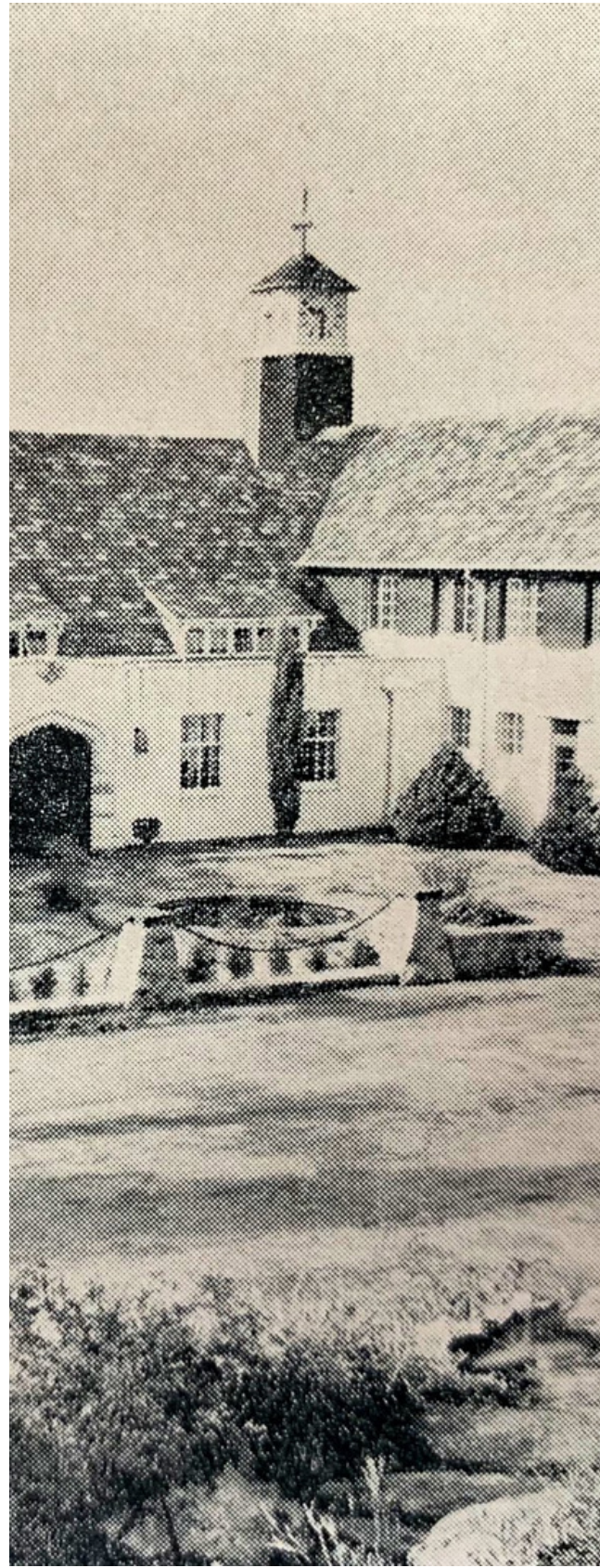
We will apply ourselves to find ways to improve our cost/value relationship.

We maintain a high standard of discipline on the golf courses, in the clubhouse and in the workplace to meet our members and customer needs and expectations.

We will always remain flexible and will adapt to changes in member and customer requirements.

We will communicate effectively and openly with members, visitors, business associates and ourselves.

We will at all times abide by the constitution and operational structure.







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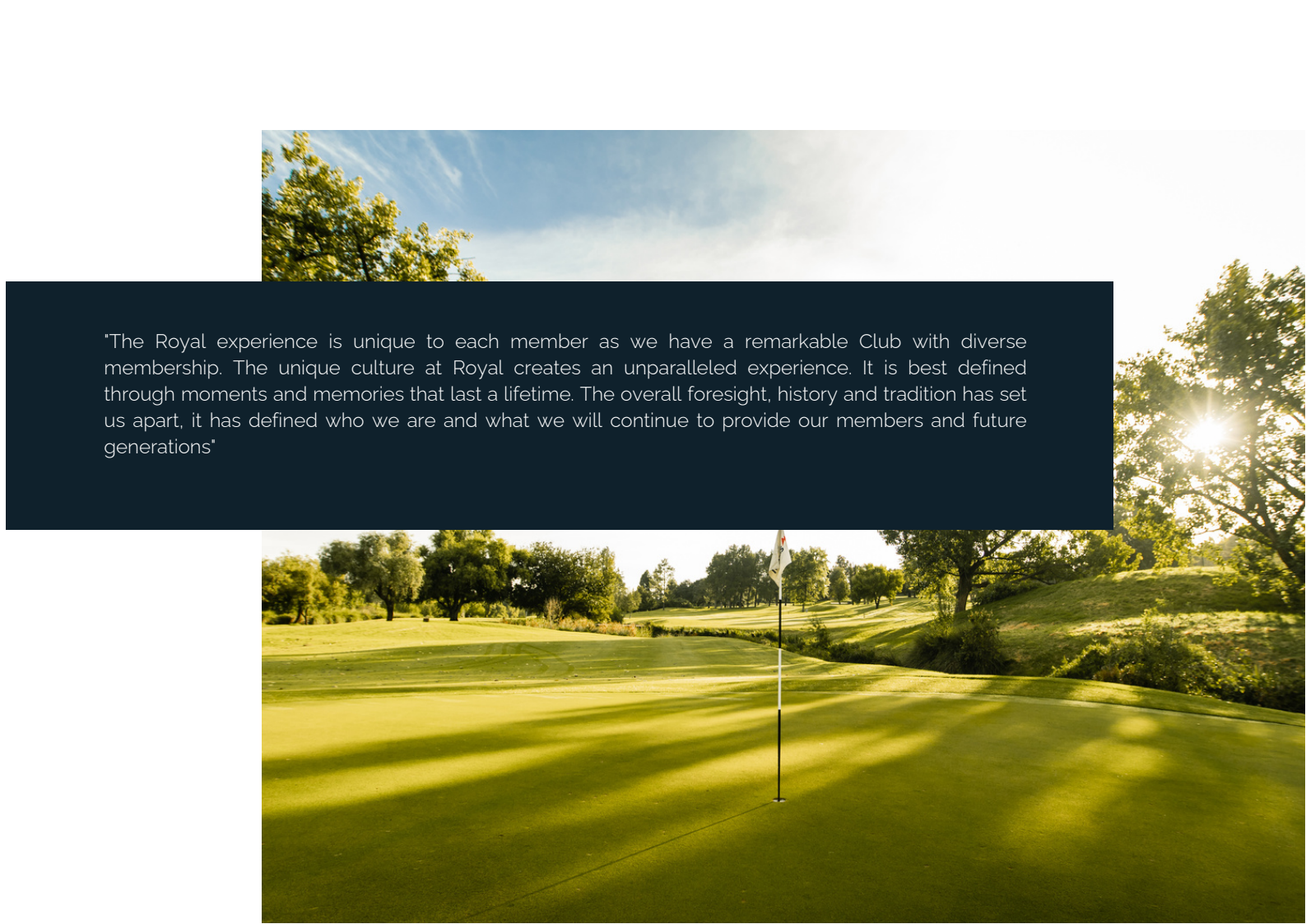
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"The Royal experience is unique to each member as we have a remarkable Club with diverse membership. The unique culture at Royal creates an unparalleled experience. It is best defined through moments and memories that last a lifetime. The overall foresight, history and tradition has set us apart, it has defined who we are and what we will continue to provide our members and future generations"

# A warm welcome

The members of Royal Johannesburg, you are the heart and soul of the Club and play a huge role in what makes us so successful.

While we're fortunate to have assembled some impressive bricks and mortar, it's really the people of Royal that make it so special as we're blessed to have some of the finest staff, serving some of the finest members anywhere.

We are proud to present the year in review and our efforts to continue our level of excellence in amenities and facilities. We are consistently developing and executing strategies, which has allowed us to become the Club of choice for prospective members, while maintaining fiscal diligence.



ROYAL  
JOHANNESBURG  
EST. 1890







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*Historic past  
Ambitious future!*

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# Board



Chandru Wadhvani  
Chairman



Dean Harding  
Vice Chairman



Nick Watt - Pringle  
Captain



Jane Goodwin  
Lady Captain



Teran Peyper  
Treasurer



Christopher Bentley  
Chief Executive Officer



Wendy Huddy  
Board Member  
Ladies Golf Manager



Duke Moorosi  
Board Member



Gordon Odgers  
Board Member

# Capital Fund Committee



John Hare  
Committee Chairman



Graham Twaddle  
Committee Member



John Saker  
Committee Member



Tom Burger  
Committee Member



Greg Sansom  
Investment Advisor

# Leadership



Christopher Bentley  
Chief Executive Officer



Charlotte de Jong  
Financial Manager



Erik Brakhoven  
Food & Beverage Director



Ransley Pietersen  
Executive Chef



Jerry Steyn  
Course Manager



Candice Humphrey  
Marketing & Membership  
Manager



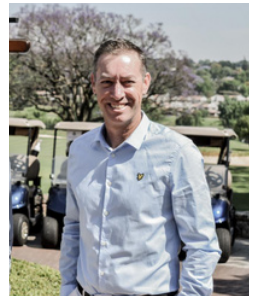
Hennie Bredenhamm  
Infrastructure &  
Security Manager



Charmaine van Eerden  
HR Manager



Liam Brown  
Director of Golf



Greg Jacobs  
Head Professional



Shaun Carter  
Assistant Golf Director



John Bailey  
Head Chef



Siobhan Bersiks  
Club Accountant



Marcelle Fourie  
Events Manager



Eleanora Galletti  
Golf Events Manager



Ruhan Duvenage  
Assistant F&B Manager



Vinelle Botha  
Guest Relations  
Manager



Martin Briede  
Head Teaching  
Professional



Gavan Levenson  
Teaching  
Professional



Leigh-Ann Knipe  
Sous Chef



# Royal Values

Define 'Standards  
of Excellence'

Improve Value  
Proposition

Maintain 'Standards  
of Excellence'

## As a Club we are:



**Improving** the Club and peoples lives



**Committed** to growing the game of golf



**Promoters** of health benefits of the sport



**Respectful** of our heritage, history and traditions



**Welcoming** and inclusive to all



**Proud** of our links and contribution to the industry and local community



**Committed** to acting with integrity and transparency



**Innovative** and embrace change with new ideas in all operational areas



**Determined** to deliver excellence in everything we do



**Responsible** employer, committed to the development of our valued staff



**Stewardship** and sustainability of our environment



**Ensuing** the safety of all while at our Club

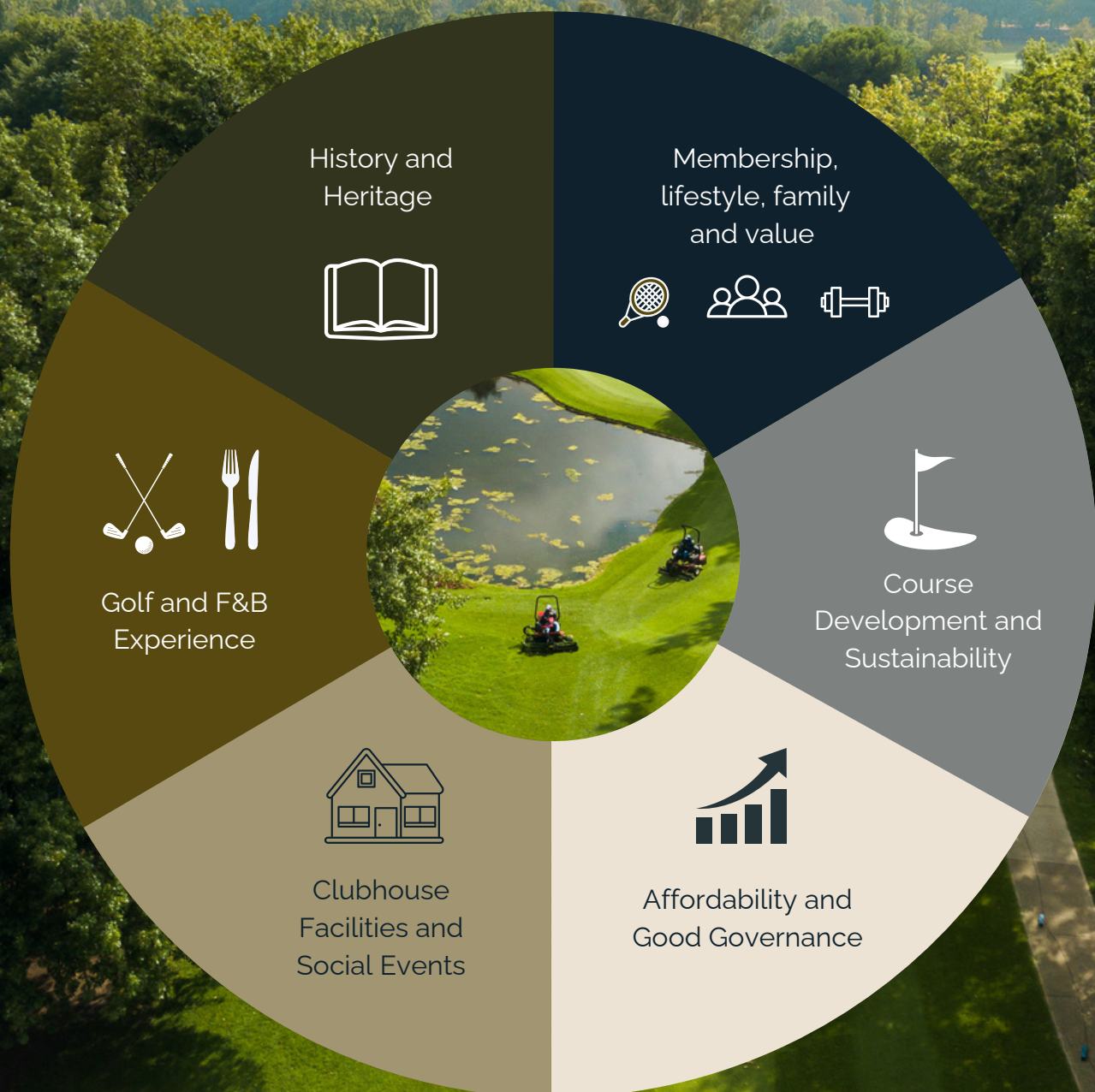


**Playable**, Affordable and beautiful



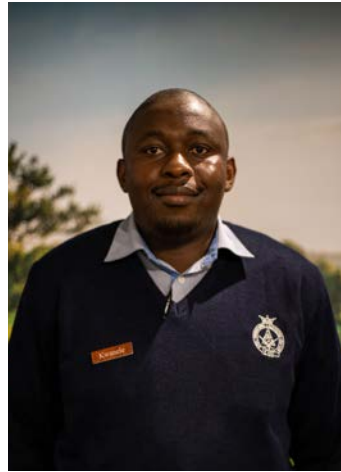
# Focus Areas

*Eat, Sleep, Play*





# Teams







World Golf Awards  
2018 & 2019  
Africa's Best Course (East)



World Golf Awards  
2018 & 2019  
South Africa's Best Course  
(East)



Golf Scape Top 100  
Courses in the World  
2019 (East)



Golf Scape Top 100  
Courses in the World  
2020 (East)



Luxury Travel Awards  
2019 Destination of the Year



Luxury Travel Awards  
2020 Destination of the Year



Club Managers Association SA  
2019 Pillars of Distinction



Club Managers Association SA  
2022 Pillars of Distinction



Club Managers Association SA  
2023 Pillars of Distinction



Luxury Lifestyle Awards  
2022 & 2023 Best Luxury Club



Luxury Lifestyle Awards  
2022 & 2023 Best Luxury  
Family Restaurant



Professional Auditing  
2018, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23  
5 Star Health & Safety









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## Travel Club

Where discerning golfers unite to embark on extraordinary golfing holidays centered around coveted bucket list destinations and unforgettable experiences. Our club offers an exclusive opportunity for members to blend rounds at the world's most prestigious golf courses with major events on the sporting calendar. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a passionate beginner, our travel concierge allows you to customise your dream golfing holiday. Join us and tee off on the journey of a lifetime!

## Highlighted Destinations



The Masters



St Andrews



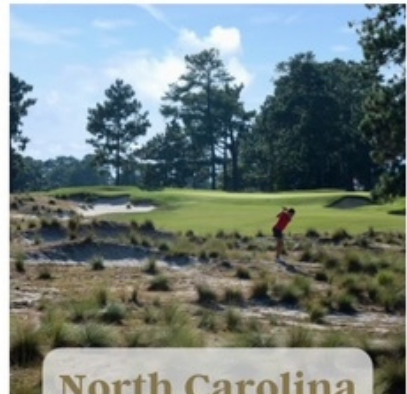
Ireland



Norway



New Zealand



North Carolina

golftraveller

To register for any trips or  
to discuss your travel  
requirements please visit  
[royaljtravel.club](http://royaljtravel.club)





# The Chairman's Report



*“Success is never on discount. Greatness is never on sale. Greatness is never half-off. It’s all or nothing. It’s all day, every day. Greatness too, is never on discount.”*  
*Eric Thomas*

I am pleased to be writing my first annual report as Chairman of this remarkable institution, for the year ended June 2023.

Firstly, I would like to convey my appreciation to the members, for your ongoing loyalty and support.

Our combined passion for this fine establishment is unbridled, particularly as we rise above these turbulent times. If it hasn't been the economic climate or load shedding, it is Mother Nature and the record-breaking levels of rainfall last summer which disrupted business, your golf, and our hospitality in the summer months.

Truly, an impactful reminder to nurture all we are blessed with.

The year has continued to present its fair share of challenges, however, I believe our Club can reflect with quiet satisfaction on what has been achieved and what's still to come. The Board and management have continued to adjust without compromise and navigated the way without passing any of the burdens onto the members. We have remained focused on 'Royal's' future with collaborative solutions to protect, retain and execute sustainable growth, whilst of-course, prudently driving all aspects of what spells meaningful success.

As communicated in my quarter one report, we were on track to deliver a good financial year. However, the environment forced several additional investments and frustratingly impacted our financial performance, primarily due to exorbitant fuel bills, extreme rainfall, and the carrying of the West Course renovation (higher loss of revenue - with far lower utilisation on the temporary greens than assumed). This all leads to a year of two halves despite the operational loss (R1.5m), which can almost directly be placed against additional fuel for generators. There too have been many triumphs over the year which places us in good stead for the year ahead:

- Following the final payment from our property developer, the Club's Capital Fund has been restored to R16.1m. (R2m more than anticipated).
- The Club's year resolution is almost concluded and to date, we have welcomed 185 residents into the Royal fold.

We completed the construction of a new storage dam (located next to Brookfield), which secures an additional 20% water storage for the East course. With the oncoming of El Nino this summer, hotter and drier spells are forecasted for all of us.

- Membership for the financial year increased from 1410 to 1654 as of 30 June, which includes 180 residents.
- Following a competitive tender process, the Board approved the implementation of a PPA solar carport structure and battery storage system, which will curtail our fuel bills and electricity consumption moving forward. Lesser dependence on the national grid can only be good for the country overall while the powers that be hopefully resuscitate power generation to where it needs to be.
- The successful implementation of our Padel club (three courts and pro shop).
- The launch and rollout of our name change and rebrand.
- The refurbishment and implementation of new greens and bunkers on our beloved West course.
- The renovation of our driving range tee lines, bunkers, and greens complex.
- We approved the replacement of our entire machinery fleet for our golf courses (hybrids).
- The Old Oak Restaurant has continued to flourish and produced R11.5m in revenue in its first year, alongside being named the best luxury family restaurant in South Africa.
- The Club has retained its five-star health and safety status alongside the CMASA pillars of distinction status.





In the wake of these achievements, along with the Club's turnaround financially, it has proved to be a highly commendable year and we cannot thank our C.E.O, Chris Bentley, and his team enough, for navigating the Club with uncompromising composure. This is a key aspect to not only moving through the tough 'cycles', but keeps allowing us to push and deliver the many new and exciting facilities on the property. As quoted at the beginning of this communicate, "It's all day, every day", and Chris, along with all our staff, exemplify this without fault.

We therefore remain in control, whilst providing the necessary service and balance between quality offering, member expectation, and the Club's medium-term financial health - we continue to move in a robust direction and needless to say, all while enhancing and delivering the most exceptional Club experience, we all receive!

Our premium Club lifestyle continues to evolve and following the numerous investments over the past couple of years, we now confidently provide a luxurious and casually refined membership that is diverse and caters to the entire family. The Club offering, now combines two fully refurbished golf courses, a top-tier family restaurant, state-of-the-art fitness, padel facilities, and much more, all realised within our friendly and welcoming atmosphere that invites everyone to feel at home. Overall, investing in the golf courses has always been about member retention. This is about catering to our core business and membership. It is so important to do and is being done. But that's about perpetuating tradition and maintaining our historic business. The investments into lifestyle and family is all about value proposition, growth, and the future of our Club. Still to come in 2023:

- The second and final delivery of our new course machinery.
- The upgrade of our clubhouse furniture.
- The upgrade of the website.
- The implementation of five 10 000 litre reserve water tanks for the clubhouse (with El Nino in mind).
- A new and enhanced car wash service

The Club's strategy has remained unchanged and the Board continues to drive the enhancement of the Club through calculated studies, industry trends and collaborative planning. This has enabled members to decide on the best path forward to secure the all-encompassing future and an incredible offering for the next generation but at the same time, eliminate the current and future risks facing the country and in turn, our business.

Royal is fully committed to managing its business in a sustainable way, preparing for headwinds of the future whilst upholding the highest standards of ethics and good governance practices. The Board is ultimately accountable for the performance of the Club, appreciating that strategy, risk, performance and sustainability are inseparable. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members for their immense efforts thus far. The time spent on support, planning, good governance and scrutinising aspects of the Club's health and strategy is considerable and all have been most diligent in their efforts. A special mention to those Board members who will be standing down at the upcoming AGM. Your contributions have been extraordinary and will be remembered with appreciation.

Whilst the economic outlook is a cause for greater concern, I remain cautiously optimistic about the prospects for growth at Royal and in our economy. I take comfort in the unwavering commitment of our people, social partners and society at large to see us through these challenging times. At Royal, we remain devoted to playing our part in shaping a better future for our institution and country.

We will continue to advocate that golf and our Club is open to all and work with our communities to make it more appealing, inclusive and accessible to ensure it is thriving for years to come. The strategic focus of evolving the Club and amenities for future generations, remains priority one and we thank you for your continued trust and support to deliver an even better future.



I am also proud of the efforts to continually uphold the Club's history, traditions, standards and decorum to our Charter. It continues to be a great honour and privilege to serve as your Chairman and I would like to conclude this report by reminding members that this is your Club and your Club will continue to grow and flourish with support, and constructive and positive input, whilst at the same time upholding the approved structures.

In closing, membership remains the heartbeat of everything we do. I remind members to keep engaging with the Executive when the need arises, and ultimately to keep 'flying our flag' proudly. I look forward to the year ahead with confidence in our membership, teams, our business model and our ambition as we build on our strong foundations. "Greatness is never on discount".

*Chandru Wadhvani*











# From the Clocktower



It is a pleasure and a privilege as the Chief Executive Officer of Royal Johannesburg to present my tenth annual report to the members of this great Club.

In a world driven by accelerated change, worry and the endless pursuit of 'success', it is easy to forget that at the heart of every endeavour lies the human connection. Whether in business, relationships or everyday interactions, it's all about how we make people feel. Our attitude, level of patience, kindness and understanding play a pivotal role in shaping not only our individual journeys, but also the collective future we leave behind as a legacy for others to build upon.

-the same purpose established by our forefathers and the shared values which continue to serve as our north star. Royal Johannesburg is a place of great friendships, filled with camaraderie, history and tradition, yet is more modern and appealing than ever before.

A members Club that combines the best parts of lifestyle, living, premier golf, padel, events, family, top-tier restaurant, state of the art wellness – all realised within true hospitality and an atmosphere that invites everyone to feel at home.

2022/23 was another watershed year for 'Royal', as we experienced many highs and a few lows.

The lows were a function of our external environment while the highs were made possible by the unsurpassed teamwork and execution strength that has become synonymous with our Club.

Strategic achievement and the tangible progress made this year, is a source of immense accomplishment and the culmination of many years of continuous hard work, planning, preparation and execution. I am proud of what our Club has maintained, overcome, enhanced and attained, particularly in this persistently volatile and complex environment. It goes without saying that the year remained very disruptive, heavily affected by the country's failing infrastructure, administration and the economic downturn that confronts all of us.

As South Africans, we live in a time of great anxiety, which intensifies every action and aspect of our daily lives, including increased inflation affecting the cost of living and ongoing uncertainty. Our country continues to grapple with water and electricity supply issues and the constant interruptions are having far greater implications for everyone, but particularly for the hospitality sector as our facilities rely heavily on consistent power to provide quality services to our members and guests. Our Club's acquisition, installation, maintenance and running costs of generators has come at great expense and has challenged profitability. However, the Club is not lying idle and is proactively doing everything possible to ensure we are 'in control of our own destiny'.

By following a lengthy and diligent process, we have entered into a power purchase agreement, to establish a solar & battery solution to ensure reliable and cost efficient power moving forward.



The implementation of our solar carport structure is underway, which will reduce annual fuel costs and keep driving the high road strategy. Once the energy program is complete, it will take the Club 70-80% off the grid and stabilise the current excessive costs being incurred. In terms of water, the Club has procured five 10 000 litre tankers for the Clubhouse, which will provide short term relief during water disruptions.

Over the financial year, the Club has continued to experience challenges with the City of Johannesburg and has received warped increases in water & electricity billing - this despite experiencing the highest number of load shedding days when compared to prior years. As experienced by many members, the Club for months at a time receives accounts based on estimate readings, instead of our actual consumption and the Club is forced to settle these accounts and then lodge objections, which also takes important resources and time to correct. The Club on two occasions received sizeable credits, when incorrect billing was reversed, only to face the same extraordinary billing cycle again.



The Club continues to be overcharged for both water and electricity consumption within the Clubhouse, putting unnecessary strain on working capital. It has been a burden dealing with the inefficient administration system of council and we now await feedback from an appointed consultant to assist in addressing the errors. In addition and to curb these challenges, the Club will also be implementing prepaid meters throughout the facility by year end.

As noted in the Chairman's report, it was always going to be a year of two halves with the renovation of the West Course and the Club could not have foreseen the extreme increases, primarily in fuel to run our generators and the unimaginable rainfall levels that affected revenue. The first five months of the year traded at a -R3.5m deficit while the remainder seven months of the financial year traded at a R2m surplus.

Looking back over the year under review and faced with the backdrop, it has certainly been abnormal and we cannot categorise it as one of great financial results. However the Club completed all its projects and has shown great patience and fortitude to navigate the way, pivot and stay the course. The lows through the year equated to unbudgeted costs of -R1.5m in fuel, matched with a minimum loss in revenue of over R2m. The highlights for the period saw our Capital Fund restored to R16.1m (R2.1m higher than forecast), following the conclusion of the '5 year' resolution and the annuity income from resident's becoming a reality.

Membership grew by 17%, from 1410 to 1654 as at 30 June 2023. Membership is higher than it has been during the last 8 years with one of the biggest contributors been the inclusion of residential membership and positive developments in ladies golf, the junior section, corporate and ordinary subscriptions. Despite only having one full course for five months of the year and the extreme summer rainfall, the Club produce 57 157 rounds of golf. We also managed to keep the associated member costs in golf and food and beverage affordable. Overall, the Clubs revenue increased by 27% from R45.4m to R57.6m, however as described above, expenses, frustratingly increased by 30% from R45.3m to R59.2m for the reporting period.

Having experienced the past years isolated events, we look forward to minimising the negative variances with strong growth in the new financial year. The improvements made both on and off the courses provide great confidence for further growth. As in previous years, the Board will continue to develop annual plans, apply contingencies and budgets to support the vision, with careful deliberation to achieve our goals.

The Club's annual financial audit was completed by HLB Barnett Chown at the beginning of August 2023 under the guidance of Mr. Malcolm Sheppard and his diligent team. We confirm that the Club's best practices, human resources, first aid, health & safety, liquor trading and good governance standards, along with all our other legal requirements, insurance and policies, remain compliant and above necessity.



My sincere appreciation to our finance team, Charlotte de Jong & Siobhan Bersiks, for their diligent efforts and for delivering another seamless performance with the added pressure of large capital projects, cashflow constraints and swift adaption to material changes.

The external environment is important for any review of the year and while considering the forces of Mother Nature, the standards and conditions of our golf courses have remained high and presented well through the period. They were in exceptionally good condition for the premier events such as Club Championships and the Ladies Standard Bank Open which showcased the new West Course in grand fashion.

Golf courses cannot be prepared overnight and good conditions depend on a dedicated team with sound agronomic practices, continuous improvement and the setting of achievement goals. From floods to storms, uprooting of trees to the finest millimetre cut of a smooth rolling green, the days of our maintenance teams are as varied as it gets. It is a trade that explores unique ways of manipulating vast landscapes through unpredictable weather patterns to create a green oasis, all while remaining environmentally responsible. Golfers turn up at the Club every day expecting everything to be just so, often forgetting what goes into making our courses such lovely places to play. Some of this hard work goes unnoticed as much greenkeeping takes place unseen, while many are still asleep.

The average staff member of the course crew wake up at 3am (6 days a week) to make the morning briefing which takes place at precisely 05h30 each morning (365 days a year). The day includes 32 staff members, operating some 70 pieces of equipment to the value of R20m. From mowing the greens, tees, rough and fairways to raking the bunkers, changing holes, pruning, rolling and divoting across two golf courses (70 hectares). The average 'morning set up', takes around 4-5 hours ahead of play, to ensure our members and guests have everything they need to enjoy their game.

Keeping our greens smooth and poa free takes immense effort between maintenance staff, the elements and golfers. The two risks with greens continue to be the seasonal infestation of poa annua and the non-repair/incorrect repairing of pitch marks by players and caddies. I'm pleased to report that our chemical treatment regimes and hand weeding protocols continue to keep our putting surfaces 96% poa annua free, healthy and rolling well.

The daily efforts of the golf department and support of members, has ensured correct pitch mark repairing has improved significantly over the past year and Royal remains one of the few facilities in South Africa with poa free greens.

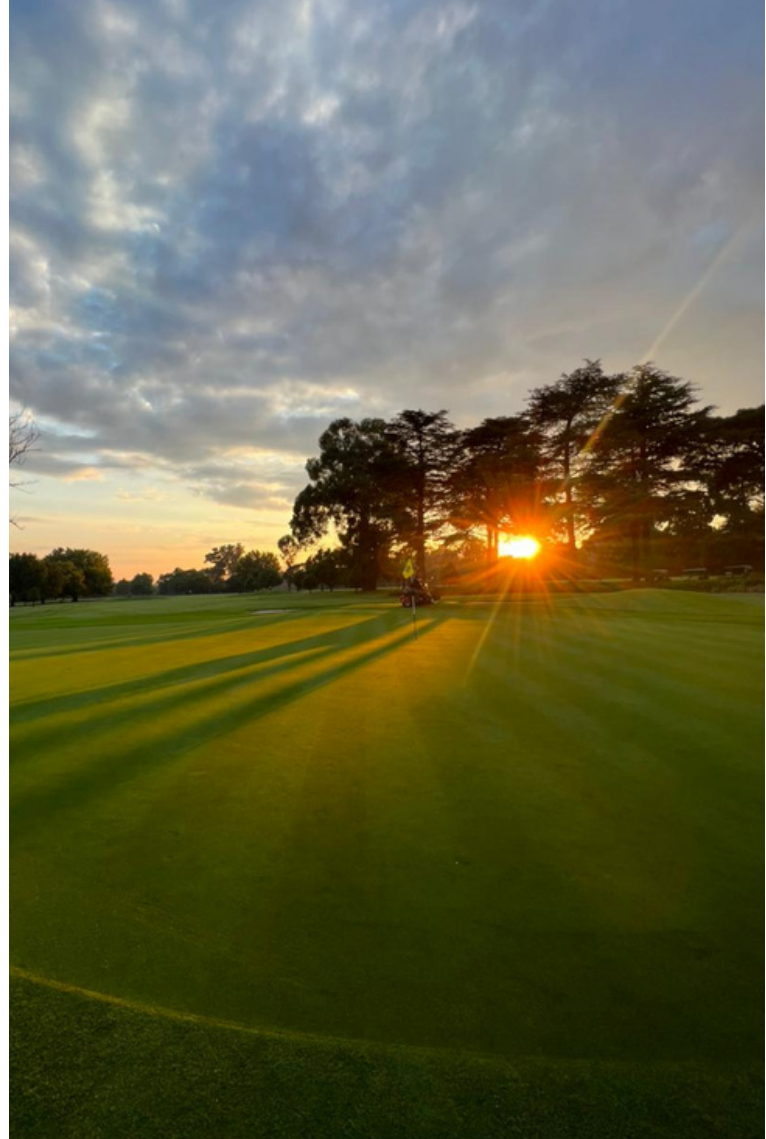
Bunkers are one of the five defined areas of the course and often a hot topic of discussion. By definition, bunkers are hazards and despite this fact, many expect pristine playing conditions. Not only does this detract from the original intent of bunkers – to penalize a player for an errant shot – but it significantly diverts resources away from higher priority areas like greens and fairways.



While the team make every effort to keep our bunkers playable and visually beautiful, making them 'perfect' all day, every day is not realistic. Over 100 bunkers are prepared each morning at Royal, but as the rounds progress through the day, more golfers find their ball sitting at the bottom of someone else's divot, in a footprint or in an area where sand has been drastically moved. Bunkers are already frustrating places to visit, but by following the correct etiquette, golfers can help themselves and others escape and boost their own standing amongst playing partners as considerate players. Together we need to rake bunkers evenly and leave the bunker in a better condition than it was found.

The refurbishment of the West Course was a great success and the enhanced facility opened for play on 30 November 2022. Our members support was tremendous in completing this important project for the Club. Both our courses now provide 'new'/resurfaced greens, wonderful bunkers, enhanced aesthetics, easier maintenance, more fun and better reflects modern play, which our current and future members certainly deserve. Both courses have maintained their acclaimed reputations across the various ranking platforms throughout the year, with increased attention and praise for the West Course, following its successful restoration.

Over the period, our commitment to agronomic excellence has been achieved with sustainability, economics and environmentalism embraced. With the completion of the Brookfield dam, we have increased water capacity for the courses by 20% and improved on many techniques which enables us to create some of the most celebrated playing surfaces in the summer months.



Our golf courses conditioning is an ongoing effort, focused on achieving an optimal visual appearance, while maintaining excellent turf health at best value. Under the leadership of our passionate and dedicated course manager, Jerry Steyn, our teams have done a superb job to not only deliver great course conditions and steer through the external challenges, but at the same time execute the West Course restoration, which was one of many in house projects completed through the year. Over this period our team need to be commended for delivering the results with very old machinery, due to the 16 month delay in assembly and shipping of our new machines. Fortunately, the first batch of the new fleet has arrived, with the remaining units set for delivery in December.



The new machinery will see great improvements in the quality of cut, conditioning, and reduction in fuel (hybrid) and we will also save on the maintenance of the fleet.

There are some bigger challenges. The primary of these is funding for the restoration requirements of our waterways and old dams, rebuilding/redesigning of our tee boxes across both courses, the implementation of more cart paths and the underground repair works required on the 16th West fairway. In addition, the Club will be aiming to build the new 15th hole on the West Course in winter 2025, depending on council clearance with our property developer.

Great golf is also far more than just stellar golf courses – it requires a passionate golf operations team that encompass everything that members and guests interact with on the grounds. From bookings to reception, course set up, starters, marshals, driving range, golf carts, the Pro Shop, halfway house, club competitions to league and the on course experience - our golf operations team combine expertise and processes to keep delivering one of the finest personal golf experiences on the continent, which is what keeps our members and guests coming back. This was reflected with our Head Professional, Greg Jacobs being named National PGA Club Pro of the year for 2023, but he will be the first to tell you that it's a team effort and all our staff, their passion to deliver, protect and continually enhance the Club, remain one of our greatest assets.

The very act of measuring and reviewing progress towards goals, is as important as achieving the goals themselves. Each year from start to finish, is an opportunity for the Club to measure its holistic delivery and progress. The indicators and member feedback in the annual member survey for 2022/23, reflects a 97% satisfaction level across the facility and is used to reinforce our procedures, standards and programmes at all levels and to make corrective adjustments where necessary. Whilst we acknowledge that we will never make everyone happy and there will always be areas that require improvement, the member feedback certainly reflects the Club's immense efforts.

Along with other resources and insights, the survey guides the Club in action planning, which includes the development and implementation of policies and practices to address inequities that impede our ability to create and maintain our wonderful environment for members and the greater golfing community.

We have invested and accomplished a lot this year and our combined efforts confirm how Royal remains dedicated to excellence across all facets of the business for the future. We are a fully immersive Club – one that is more sustainable, more efficient and innovative and one that has even more focus on you, the member, your family, the future customer, resident and patron. From wellness and fitness, to padel and dining, we have exponentially built more value and limited member costs so you can continue to enjoy far more for your subscription and invest confidently into this exciting future.

There was one change in senior management over the financial year and thanks to strong succession planning, it allowed us immediate continuity. Following a minor restructure, our director of golf, Liam Brown, was promoted from junior management to senior management and Marcelle Fourie and Eleanora Galletti took over functions and events from Jenene Bernhardt.





They have all been remarkable and certainly embraced the challenges. This ensured the staff, members and clients have experienced a seamless transfer of responsibilities.

Under the leadership of our food & beverage director, Erik Brakhoven, and executive chef, Ransley Pietersen, the food and beverage team have delivered yet again and continue to enhance the hospitality offering. Food & beverage makes up 42% of the Clubs income and remains the Club's most profitable department. From the patio to weddings and more, we have a food & beverage offering that is affordable, constantly amplified and there is something for everyone. The Old Oak Restaurant generated R9.6m in sales for the financial year with an operating profit of R451k. Overall, the department fostered R24.2m in sales - a significant increase from R13.5m the previous year. The department produced an operating profit of R2.7m for the year and extended over R2.8m in member discount.

At the time of writing this report, we have finalised the upgrade of our clubhouse furniture (bar, patio, deck and halfway house).

The furniture in these areas is 8 years old and has certainly seen better days. We have budgeted the replacements and hope to have the new furniture in place by the end of October.

Our expectations of quality, operational excellence and financial performance remains a formula for success and my sincere gratitude to all our chefs, kitchen staff, waiters and scullers for all the hard work and for your immense efforts, not only facilitating smooth service and operations, but the desire to deliver complete customer satisfaction front of house.

Our Club is certainly a grand structure and maintaining this historic building is no easy task. It's never a quiet day in general maintenance at Royal and there is always a long list of repairs, refurbishments and projects to complete. I would like to extend a special thanks to our infrastructure manager, Hennie Bredenhann and his team, because for them, there is no task too big or small. Without their incredible effort behind the scenes to maintain and protect our infrastructure, we wouldn't be able to deliver our front of house service. Their hard work and dedication, sometimes over many late nights and weekends, continues to be remarkable.

In line with our strategy to create new, non-golf income streams to limit the future cost of golf for our members, in June we launched an exciting partnership with Africa Padel (lease) - three courts and a wonderful Pro Shop on the west side of our car park. This new offering has enhanced the value proposition to both the Club and its members and serves as another hub for bringing likeminded people together. While the Club will always be primarily about premium golf, Padel has been another remarkable enhancement/offering to the Club and the members.



At the 131st Annual General Meeting, the members took a bold step and authorised the Board to change the name of the Club from Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club to Royal Johannesburg (the name, together with a new logo) and in November 2022, we received the approval/clearance from the Cabinet Office in the UK. The change was successfully implemented and the Club is now rolling out the new brand, with the enduring symbol of the clocktower as the centrepiece. The new brand guide also includes a heritage logo and a members only seal, which celebrates where we have come from and where we are going. The new brand stays faithful to everything our existing members and customers love and it provides opportunity to build stronger relationships with younger patrons, who will essentially sustain the Club for decades to come.

With our unique appeal, shortened name and united symbol, we are using the new brand to extend to all areas of our Club, with a fresh approach, to promote our culture, facilities, events and services. Our new name and brand is inclusive and our mark of quality, which reveres its past whilst looking into the future. It is our promise of quality and consistency and matches our award winning facilities.

Members have been kept well informed throughout the year across the various communication channels and our open door policy at the Club has served us well and allowed members to transparently engage with the Club's executive team.



The quality of our various social media platforms, content and reach continues to grow at an average of 30% per annum and through meaningful content and great quality, our audience remains engaged locally and across the world. The virtual world is not a void - what we say on the internet truly matters and our authentic words, posts and comments leave a digital footprint that can influence real things. We are pleased to communicate that over the past couple of months, the Club has upgraded its server, installed fibre and we are currently working in the background to launch a new and enhanced website, which will include latest technology, security, artificial intelligence and a much improved online experience for bookings and navigation. We are aiming to go live with the new website in November 2023.

The immense efforts of Candice Humphrey (membership & marketing), has kept us all connected with valuable insight and authentic stories of events and days well spent at the Club. The enhanced data, statistics and marketing activities has kept us prominent in the communication space and our sincere appreciation to Candice for all her efforts.



Royal continues to play an integral role in the development of golf in our country and we are proud to be at the forefront of premier tournaments once again. Over the past year the Club has worked hard to secure several prestigious events and we are pleased to confirm that we will be hosting several exciting championships in 2024, namely the Men's SA Amateur Championship (February), a Ladies Sunshine Tour event (September) and most notably, the return of another international co-sanctioned tournament in November. The sponsors and details of these events are still under embargo and once confirmed will be released. It is also important to note that all of these tournaments will be played on one of the two courses, ensuring our members still have the alternate course to enjoy.

In terms of member events, the Club is also delighted to advise that our property developers (Tricoltt) have once again confirmed their sponsorship of the Festival of Golf taking place in October 2023. This is the fourth year running that Tim Kloeck and his team have undertaken the success of this exciting celebration and our sincere appreciation to them for all the support. Alongside all the other golf championships, the Club also confirms that it will be reinstating the following events in 2024 - the member/guest championship, member/ member championship and the much loved parent and child event. There is a lot of exciting golf to look forward to.

At the direction of the membership and in line with the Club's strategic plan, members are to give special consideration to the final proposal of a Lodge at Royal (notice – annexure a), which will be presented at the upcoming AGM. As per the proposal, the Lodge would provide overnight accommodation for members, golfing breaks, holidays, people attending weddings and social events at the clubhouse, together with offering a venue for golf societies and corporate events. The Lodge would also help support the future financial viability of club operations and accelerate capital fund growth. The joint venture proposal with Tricoltt is unique and requires no capital outlay and minimal risk for the Club. The initiative will further elevate the Club's offering and create an experience for both golf enthusiasts and travellers alike. The proactive approach to create new 'non' golf income streams' is to ensure we limit the future costs of subscriptions and greenfees for our members. Upon member approval and followed by council approval, the construction is expected to commence in 2027/28, with work scheduled to be completed by 2030. This would coincide/compliment the Club's 140th anniversary.

In closing, I would like to make a point that the people we serve are justifiably concerned about our country that is in a state of considerable flux. It is easy to forget that there is so much good in so many South Africans and we can only succeed in unity for all who call our beautiful country 'home'. In the light of the challenges we face, we must continue to operate without fear, we must keep investing and building – ensuring that the products we provide, create a safe escape and meet the changing needs, with excellence and purpose. Royal is always looking to the horizon when it comes to our members, friends and family. We are consistently developing and enhancing the Club's facilities with detailed focus, planning and execution which is targeted to exceed the needs and expectations of all.



The Club is fortunate to have established a baseline of operational resilience that exceeds most. The facility adapts to adverse or onerous situations while not losing sight of our member's needs. In this regard, the story of effort and achievement is but a bald record and it would be impossible to name everyone who has contributed time or money or loyal cooperation to the prestige and success of our charter. The past year does not only highlight another challenging and successful time, but also pays tribute to the immense sacrifices to protect and support camaraderie, fellowship and the constant endeavour to do all we can individually to uphold and protect the proud name and fame of 'Royal'. We will continue to face volatile times ahead and we will work with the necessary agility and flexibility to manage uncertainties, while ensuring continued growth and brand equity.

I would like to make special mention of the families of our employees. We thank them for everything they sacrifice which include early mornings, late nights, weekends, public holidays, birthdays and vacations, allowing their loved ones to do the job they love, for us. Your unconditional support and continued understanding is greatly appreciated by our entire Club.

On behalf of the 150 personnel of Royal, we thank each and every one of our members, for the immense support and trust. The partnerships we've built, drive the work we do every day, on every challenge.

I'm grateful for our inspiring members, who do so much to make progress toward our mission of ensuring a better Club and better lives for the greatest number of people. We have strived to keep all members happy and that success comes down to your patronage, support and use of all facilities.

Over the period the Club is proud to have claimed several national and international accolades, namely Best Luxury Golf Club in South Africa by Luxury Lifestyle, Best Luxury Family Restaurant in South Africa by Luxury Lifestyle (The Old Oak), The Pillars of Distinction award by the Club Managers Association of SA and for the 6th consecutive year, the Club was awarded 5 star status in First aid and Health & Safety by Professional Golf Club Auditing.

To our Board members, thank you for your selfless commitment of time and knowledge and for assisting management with the overall delivery, vision, strategy, good governance and forward movement of our Club. It is because of these members that we are positioned to tackle both the short-term uncertainties and long-term growth. As a result of the hard work, invaluable experience and determination, we have entered the new financial year with significant momentum. We are positioned for growth, profit and our common goals of continuous improvement, high performance, operational excellence, inclusiveness and integrity, fitting to where we are today.

It would be amiss of me not to thank the Capital Fund Committee and Investment Advisor (Stanlib). On behalf of the Board, we thank you for your commitment and support through this eventful year and the extraordinary efforts to secure solid investments and growth for the Club's reserves.

As always, there are things to be done, challenges to address and improvements to be made and it has been a great honour and privilege to have lead 'Royal' over the past decade and through these defining times.

Despite everything happening around us, there is much excitement to look forward too and we will continue to steer the business into a new and even better future.

*Christopher Bentley*























Trevor Barnett



# Statistics

1654

Total Members

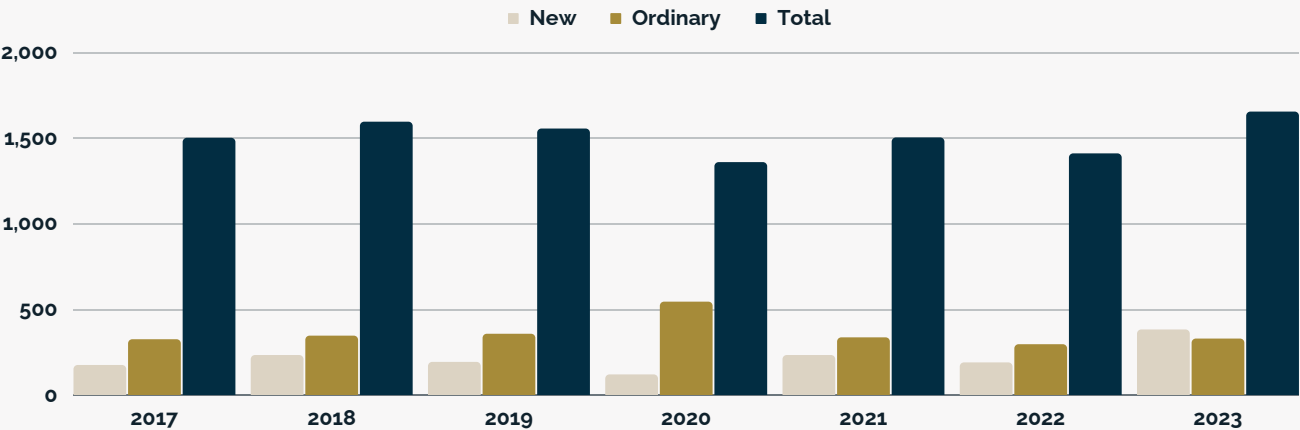
384

New Members

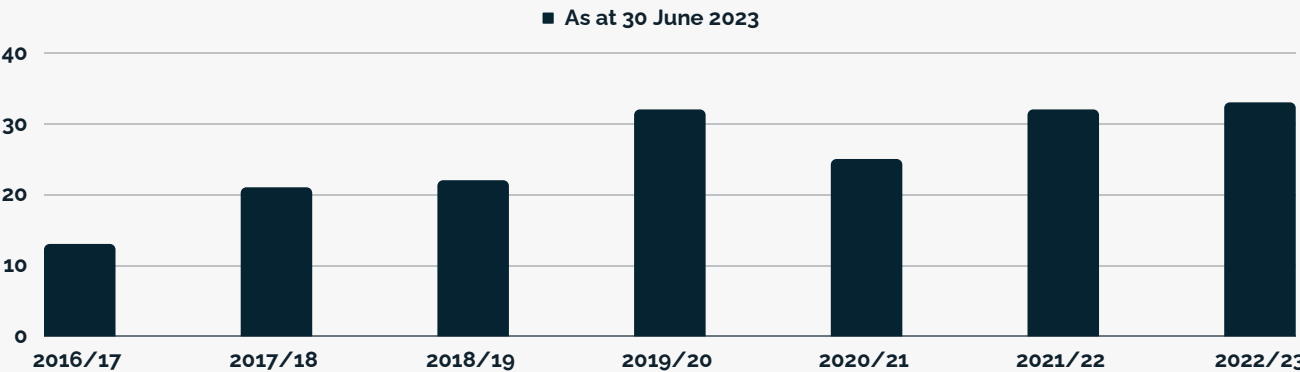
17%

Subscription Growth

## Membership



## Corporate Members









# All in a year

AT JUNE 2023



## IN THE KITCHEN

**6,5 TONS**  
CHICKEN MEAT USED



PLATES OF FOOD LEAVING THE KITCHEN

*The Old Oak*

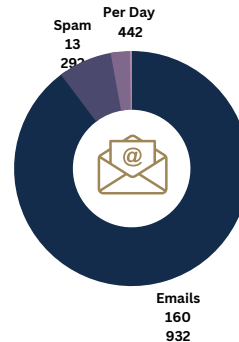
**64 206**



**84 000**

EGGS PURCHASED

## INCOMING EMAILS



## BEHIND THE DESK

### INCOMING CALLS

011 640 3021



**93 656**

## KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

### DIESEL USAGE

**28 518 ℓ**

*Club House Generator*



*The Old Oak - Generator*

**19 790 ℓ**

## H2O

**120 000 KG** OF ICE USED



**32 510**

BOTTLED WATER



## COFFEE BAR

### CAPPUCCINO'S SOLD

**16 516**



\*CEO'S CONSUMPTION: 14 PER DAY

## ON THE COURSE

TIME SPENT  
MOWING THE COURSES

**3 650 HOURS**



TIME SPENT  
RAKING BUNKERS

**1095 HOURS**

KM COVERED  
MOWING



**187 500 KM**

AVERAGE GREEN  
SPEED  
BOTH COURSES

**10.9**

## FROM THE BAR

BOTTLES OF WINE SOLD

**6 980**

*The Old Oak*

**1 662**

*The Club House*



## DAUGHTS SOLD

**3 925**

*The Old Oak*

**32 251**

*The Club House*



## FROM THE CLEANING CUPBOARD

LAUNDRY  
DETERGENT



**600 ℓ**

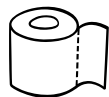


DEGREASER

**600 ℓ**

PINEGEL

**300 ℓ**



PAPER TOWEL  
ROLLS

**406**

2PLY  
TOILET ROLLS

**5896**



## KEEPING THINGS BRIGHT



REPLACED  
GOLBES

**640**

MENS DEODORANT

**312 CANS**



## BEERS SOLD

**4 500**

*The Old Oak*

**42 581**

*The Club House*

MONEY SPENT ON BEER **R 2 751 000.00**



MEMBER EVENTS

**43**

MEMBERSHIP & GREENFEE SPECIALS

**21**

AWARDS WON

**6**



57 157

Total Rounds

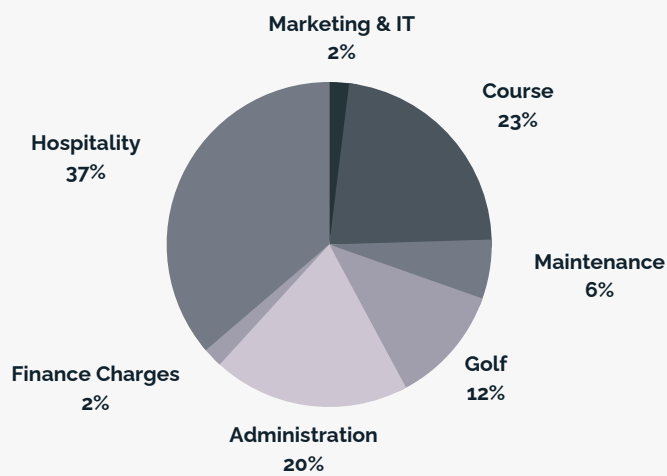
24%

Playing Fee Income

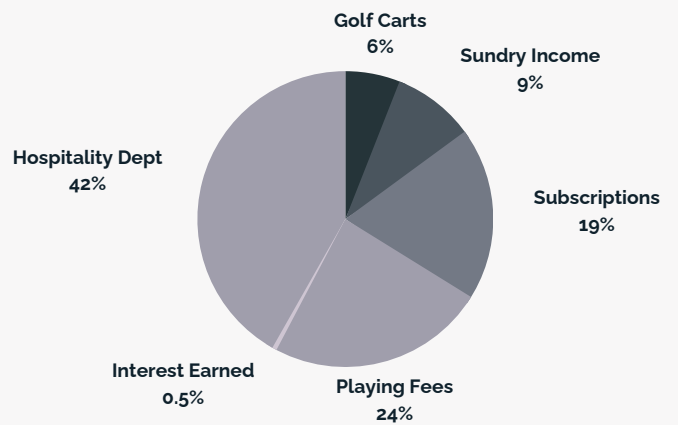
19%

Subscriptions

Operational Expenses:  
July 2022 - June 2023

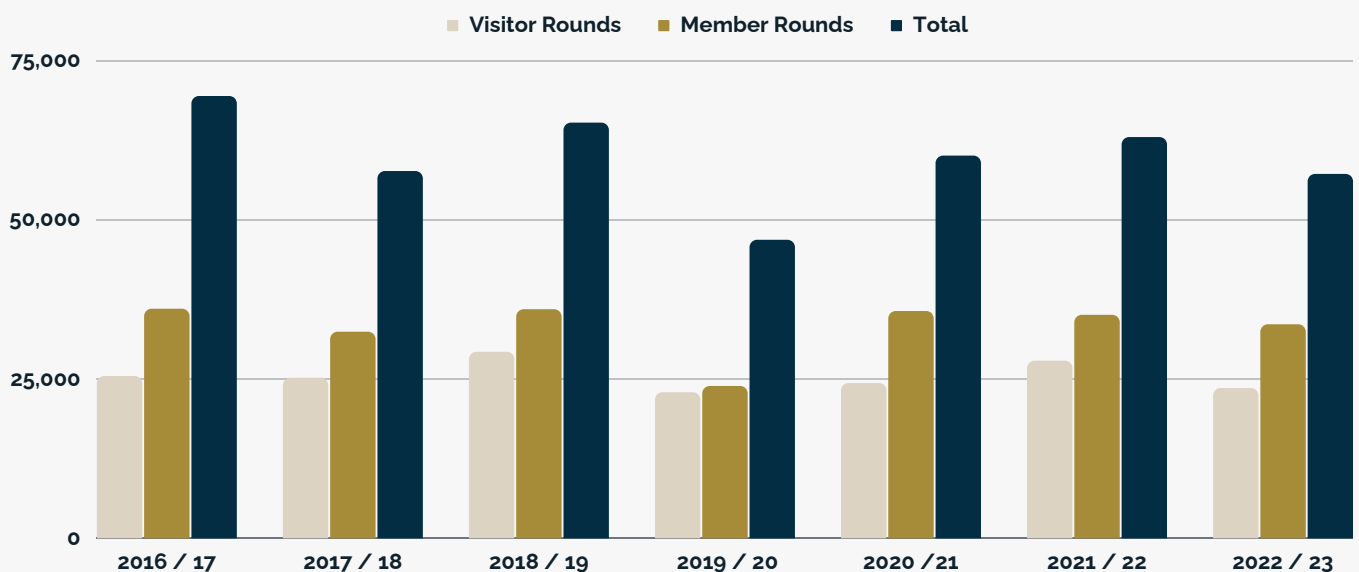


Operational Income:  
July 2022 - June 2023



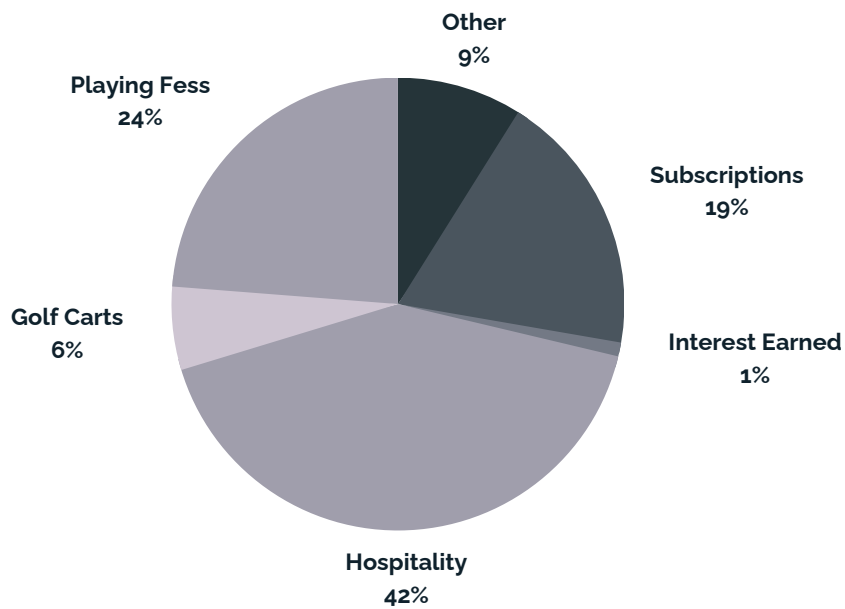
## Rounds

\*West course renovation 5 months

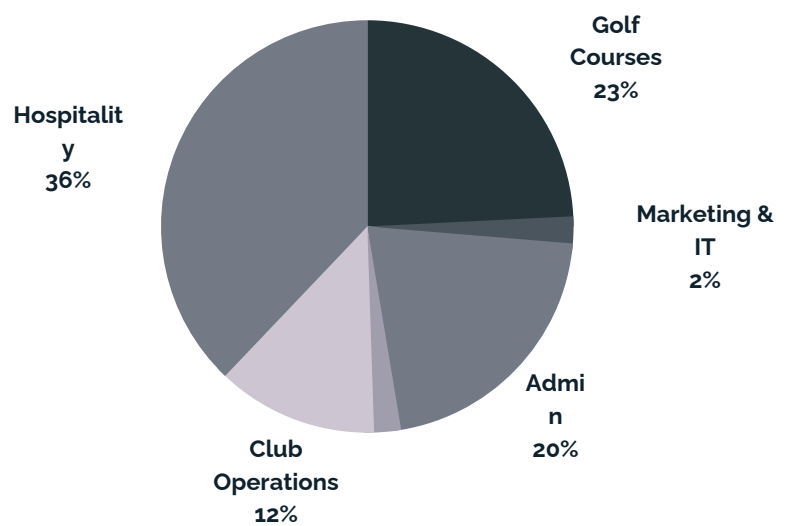




## Club Income R 57,6 Million



## Club Expenses R 59,2 Million











# Social Media

our primary marketing and brand platform, which has allowed the Club hyper focus on its audience and engagement across the globe.

30% Growth

# @Royal\_JHB\_Golf

21k



Total followers



Total engagement  
1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

❤️ 142 💬 37 👤 27

3.4m



# Africa.

## Region Summary

**A**frica has enjoyed strong growth in terms of total 9 & 18 hole golfers since the last report in 2020, with an estimated 594,000 9 & 18 hole golfers in Africa in 2022.

Registered golfer numbers are also slightly up, with 10,000 more golfers officially affiliated to African golf federations and nearly 200,000 registered across the continent in 2022.

Total numbers of recorded junior registered golfers in Africa have risen by nearly 5,000 in the last two years and, encouragingly, in nearly two thirds of the African nations included in this report, juniors make up more than 10% of registered golfers, suggesting that

strong groundwork is being laid for the further evolution of the sport in the coming years. Greater female participation is also developing, with Morocco and Nigeria now reporting that women represent over 30% of adult registered golfers. In 21 out of the 24 countries where data on gender distribution is available, women make up more than 10% of registered adult golfers.

Encouragingly, Africa also has a large number of alternative format golfers. Total adult engagement with golf on the continent is estimated at 5.3 million, giving Africa the highest ratio of alternative to 9 & 18 hole play.



# 198,000

registered golfers

# 396,000

unregistered  
9 & 18 hole golfers

# 5.3M

total adult engagement  
(including all formats)

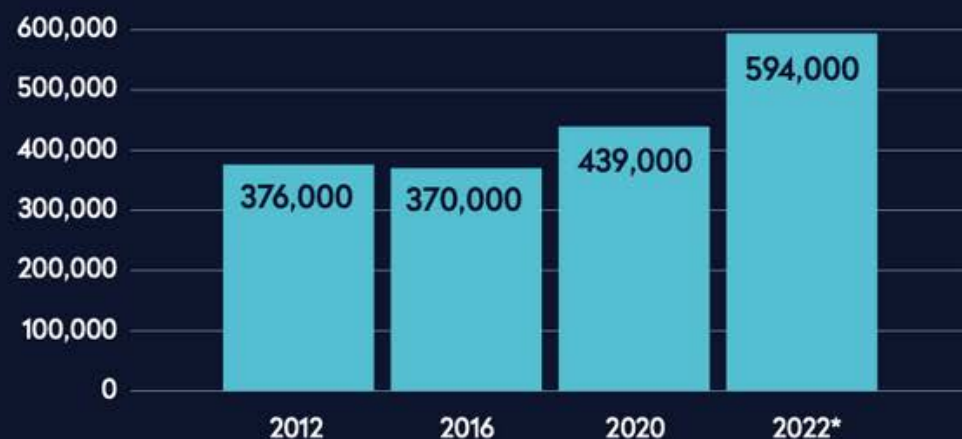


Total Affiliated Golfers  
Total Golf Clubs

129 000  
466



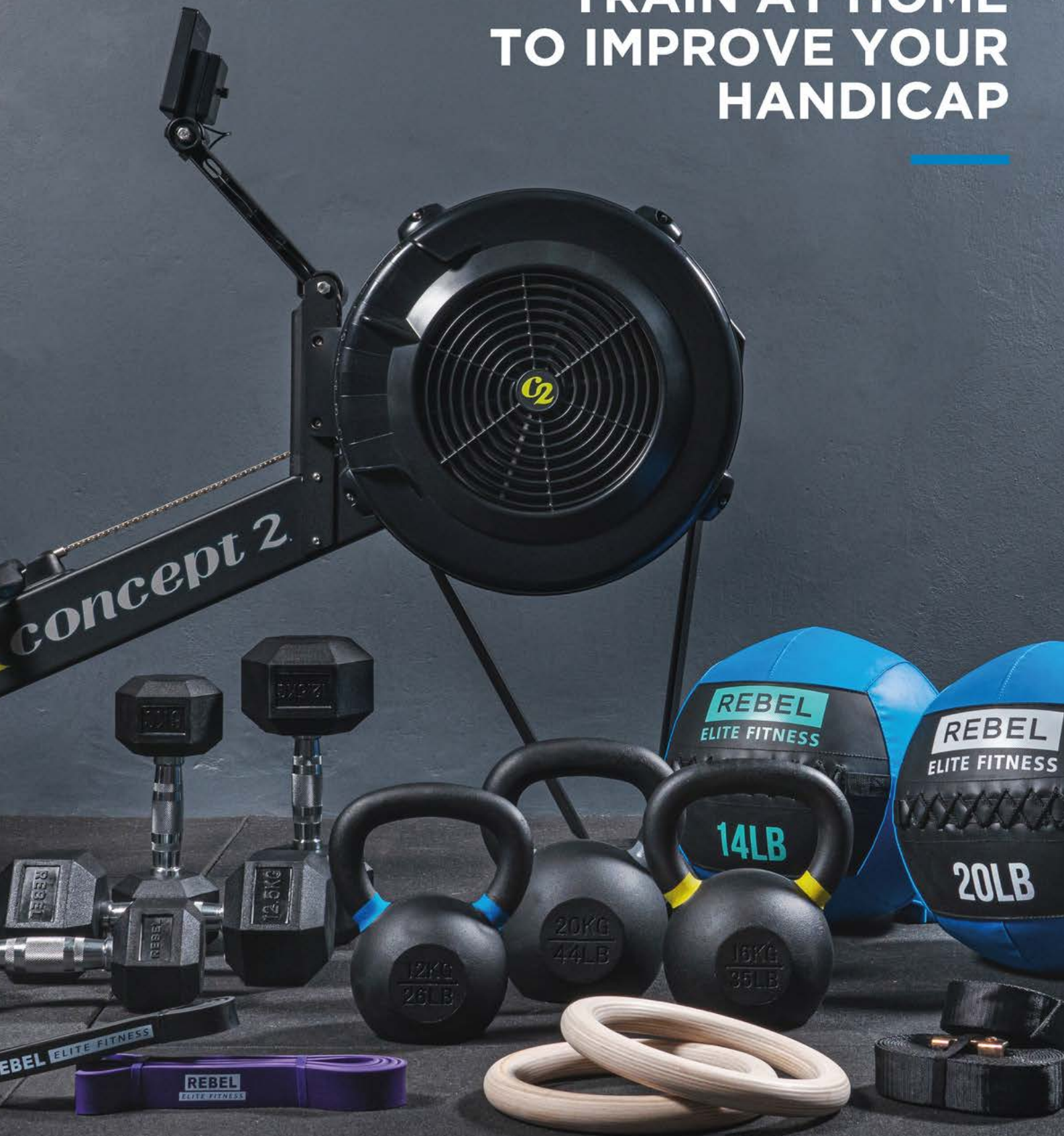
## Number of 9 & 18 hole golfers by year - Africa



*\*2022 was the first year of the International Golf Barometer, previous years' figures were sourced solely from the national associations combined with industry stakeholder estimates.*



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# The Treasurer's Report



Once again thank you for the opportunity to present the Treasurer's report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Royal Johannesburg is moving into an exciting new phase, having successfully navigated several challenging financial years, which included the Covid-19 pandemic, material upgrades and maintenance to both courses, record loadshedding levels, as well as the construction of new facilities and amenities. All of this done while maintaining a strong membership base, courtesy of having a team of staff living the Royal values and providing exceptional service every day.

Although the outlook for the 2023 financial year was more positive than prior periods,

we were presented with an immediate challenge. In terms of revenue generation in that the first half was impacted by the closure of the West course for renovations. Although we had forecasted a reduction in rounds played on the West course, the reality was that with the temporary greens, total rounds were even lower than what was budgeted for (8% utilisation vs 20% expected utilisation) and contributed materially to the financial result for the year. To add to the challenge for the team, Johannesburg once again experienced above-average rainfall (estimated lost revenue of c. R2m), resulting in substantial lost revenue from rounds played, cart hire as well as through our hospitality offerings.

Total rounds played were 9% lower than FY22 and a full 12% lower than pre-Covid levels.



Although the Club was able to finish FY22 with a break-even result (prior to depreciation), the closure of the West course, the higher-than-anticipated costs of running generators to keep the club operational during loadshedding (noting that the club spent R3m on fuel, R1.5m higher than budget), as well as the expected levels of rainfall during the summer, meant that a break-even result was always going to be unlikely for the 2023 financial year. Some major contributors to the expense line for FY23 include:

- Excess fuel costs to run the generators.
- Higher than anticipated electricity and water charges (31% increase in electricity, despite the loadshedding levels, and 159% increase in water billed).

The Old Oak restaurant was in operation for the full financial year, this can be seen in the overall hospitality result, a pre-depreciation profit of R2.7m, compared to a loss of R664k in FY22. Towards the end of the financial year, we saw the opening of the Padel Courts as well as the first occupation by residents in Royal View and Brookfield as the Club continues the journey towards a holistic country club offering as we seek sustainability for future generations through the generation of annuity income to continue to support operations.

The senior management team deserves praise for steering the Club through this period of significant change, to a financial result we can be proud of when considering the sheer number of challenges facing an organisation such as this as well as the overall state of the South African economy. The Club is well-placed to take advantage of the increase in foot traffic through the Club, which is expected to positively impact the hospitality result for FY24 and is expected to continue to support the golf offering. The below analysis provides a snapshot of the improvement in hospitality revenue:

Hospitality Revenue	2022 -2023	2021 -2022	Improvement
Clubhouse & Events	R14.6m	R12.1m	21%
Old Oak	R9.6m	R1.4m (2 months)	586%
<b>Total</b>	<b>R24.3m</b>	<b>R13.5m</b>	<b>80%</b>

The following key metrics are noted for FY23:

- Actual rounds and cart hire were behind budget for the year as a result of challenges noted above
- The hospitality pre-depreciation profit of c. R2.7m is a fantastic outcome when considering the reduced foot-traffic for the year. The breakdown of this overall result looks as follows:



Hospitality	Clubhouse	Old Oak	Total
Revenue	14,154,414.26	10,102,255.87	24,256,670.13
Expenses	11,911,475.27	9,650,518.00	21,561,993.27
Profit	<b>2,242,938.99</b>	<b>451,737.87</b>	<b>2,694,676.86</b>

- Member subscription fees: R10.7m – R661k behind budget
- Member bulk playing tickets: R3.4m – R1.4m behind budget  
(Subs & prepaid tickets are generally viewed together in the membership renewal)
- Member Pay-as-you-play green fees: R2m – R75k ahead of budget
  - Visitor green fees: R8.2m – R686k behind budget
- (This includes individual visitors, corporate golf days, large golf groups and golf specials)
- Golf cart hire: R3.7m – R520k behind budget

The below table gives an indication of the breakdown of the number of rounds since 2018:

Rounds of Golf						
	30-Jun-18	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-22	30-Jun-23
Members	32,412	35,944	23,853	35,662	35,068	33,579
Visitors	20,392	23,595	20,460	20,803	16,845	14,505
Corporates	4,807	5,673	3,963	3,570	11,031	9,073
Total	<b>57,611</b>	<b>65,212</b>	<b>48,276</b>	<b>60,035</b>	<b>62,943</b>	<b>57,157</b>
Number of members		<b>1,565</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,654</b>
Subscriptions Revenue		<b>R9,438,665</b>	<b>R9,626,315</b>	<b>R9,521,780</b>	<b>R9,724,548</b>	<b>R10,832,352</b>
Average Rate Increase		<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>11%</b>

The past few challenging financial years have meant that we have retained significant flexibility within the budgeting process and with the uncertainty surrounding loadshedding and the rainfall level, we believe the budget for FY24 to be sufficiently conservative.

Liquidity risk remains a key risk to the business, with future expenditure required for maintenance and upgrading of the facilities (including the new offerings).



The past few challenging financial years have meant that we have retained significant flexibility within the budgeting process and with the uncertainty surrounding loadshedding and the rainfall level, we believe the budget for FY24 to be sufficiently conservative.

Liquidity risk remains a key risk to the business, with future expenditure required for maintenance and upgrading of the facilities (including the new offerings).

The Club has embarked on a long-awaited capital replacement project, where much needed assets are being acquired, after several years of postponement. In the past the Club would provide cashflow for capital purchases from surplus operational funds or from the capital fund. However, in an effort to spread the cashflow impact and provide the capital fund with opportunity to grow, the Club has opted to finance the purchases through lease agreements.

Planned Capex will continue to be managed within available cash resources and/or sustainable financing solutions. The liquidity risk will continue to be carefully managed, ultimately to be supported by the additional income streams.

In addition to the expenditure items highlighted above, the following is noted insofar as liquidity risk is concerned:

- Cash balance of R1.25m at year-end (FY22: R3.6m).
- The Club has received the money due from the property developer during the financial year and these funds have been transferred to the Capital Fund and invested accordingly.
- The overdraft facility remains in place, noting that is a demand facility and can be called by the bank at any time.

Although the liquidity position remains acceptable and largely in line with FYE22, the expenditure required to keep a facility like Royal operating optimally means that we remain susceptible to unforeseen large expenses (capital and operating in nature) and if the club is required to reduce expenditure to manage the liquidity position appropriately, this may be to the detriment of the golfing and hospitality experience. As previously noted, the additional income generated by the club is expected to enhance the liquidity position and positively impact the overall sustainability of operations.

The Club continues with the following initiatives:

- Careful monitoring and management of expenditures and an appropriately conservative budgeting process.
- Early raising of golfing subscriptions, which continues to be supported by the members and assists with the timing of the operational cash flow.
- Detailed cash flow forecasts and regular updates to ensure the club can adapt to material changes.





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Bradford Manor, 10 Bradford Rd, Bedfordview, 2007



# Abridged Financials

ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2023		
	As at 30 June 2023	As at 30 June 2022
	R'm	R'm
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Leasehold improvements	18.3	13.6
Investments	16.1	3.8
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>17.5</b>
Trade and other receivables	2.0	2.2
Inventory	1.5	1.3
South African Revenue Services	0.0	0.0
Cash and cash equivalents	1.3	3.6
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>24.5</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
CFC Reserve	27.7	10.1
Accumulated deficit	(5.4)	(1.0)
	<b>22.3</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Loan from related party	1.7	1.7
	1.7	1.7
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
South African Revenue Services	0.0	0.1
Trade and other payables	15.1	13.7
	15.1	13.8
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>15.5</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>24.5</b>



ABRIDGED STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT			
		12 Months Ended 30 June 2023	12 Months Ended 30 June 2022
		R	R
Playing Fees		13.6	13.9
Subscription Income		10.7	9.7
Other Income		8.7	7.4
Total Golf Income		33.0	31.0
Total Golf Expenditure		(37.5)	(30.5)
<b>Net Profit / (Loss) from Golf Operations</b>		<b>(4.4)</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Food and Beverage:	Sales	23.2	13.2
	Cost of Sales	(10.7)	(6.1)
	Gross Profit	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Other Hospitality Income		1.0	0.3
Total Hospitality Expenses		(10.9)	(8.0)
<b>Net Profit / (Loss) from Hospitality</b>		<b>2.7</b>	<b>(0.7)</b>
Interest Received		0.3	0.9
Finance charges		(0.1)	(0.7)
<b>Net Operating Profit / (Loss) Before Depreciation</b>		<b>(1.55)</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Leasehold depreciation		(1.0)	(0.9)
<b>Net Operating Profit / (Loss) Before Capex</b>		<b>(2.6)</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>
Capital Expenditure		(1.8)	0.0
<b>Capital Account Deficit</b>		<b>(1.8)</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>(4.4)</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>
<b>Rounds</b>		57,157	62,943











# The Capital Fund



In accordance with the decisions of the AGM, the activities of the Capital Fund Committee have since then been constrained through the decision to use the funds in the Capital Fund as security for banking facilities used by the Club through the course refurbishment programmes.

The joint decision last year to repay the Standard Bank facility was supported by the CFC as being in the best interests of Royal and the remaining funds were invested in mainly interest-bearing instruments. The payment of the balance of the funds payable by the developer, was deferred by the Club as a result of delays in municipal approvals but has finally now taken place. The main function of the CFC remains the appointment and monitoring of investment advisors to the fund and

advising the Club on any proposed capital projects proposed by the Club that may involve the use of the Capital Fund. We have noted the Club's forward planning and that present planning indicates that it is unlikely that they will have a requirement to use these funds in the near term.

In addition, it must be borne in mind that the main purpose of the CF is to build funding that can help provide sustainability of the Club.

The CFC decided early in the year, in the interests of good governance and best practice procedures, to review the appointment of the investment advisors and to invite proposals from a number of investment houses projecting their views on suitable bases for the investment and growth of the CF funds.



All the major advisory firms were invited and discussed their proposals with the CFC after which two were shortlisted. Follow-up discussions were held and the CFC unanimously decided to reappoint StanLib for the next period.

The CFC and StanLib have approved and agreed on the investment mandate and targets. With the receipt of the payment from the developer these, and the previous balance of the CF funds, have now been placed under StanLib control and will be monitored quarterly by the CFC. StanLib will report quarterly and will submit monthly investment reports to the CFC and Royal Johannesburg.

I would like to thank the serving members of the CFC, namely Graham Twaddle, Tom Burger, and John Saker for their service on the Capital Fund Committee over many years. All members of the CFC have made themselves available for re-election.

*John Hare*







## ROYAL VIEW

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# From East to West



Year in and year out, Royal never disappoints, and the past 12 months has seen some exciting changes and challenging weather conditions. During these tough times, we, as a course maintenance team, keep on striving to produce the best possible playing conditions to our supportive members, even if Mother Nature throws a curve ball at us.

One cannot forget the West course renovation this past year, which was carried out on time and within budget. Shaun Brits did a fantastic job in managing the whole project, what made the project more special was that all our staff were involved in the - project, from prepping to seeding the greens, building new bunkers, installing bunker sand, irrigation and drainage. The team really did not just witness a special project but joined in on developing and completing it successfully.

Allowing our staff to be hands on and involved in a project of this magnitude, enhances not only their skills, but also enhances their understanding of the maintenance requirements going forward on both East and West courses.

Although the greens on the West course have taken some time to settle, I can comfortably add that the grow in of the greens was an even bigger success than the East was in 2017. The greens on the West will be a full twelve months old at the end of August, and they have had a remarkable year already. The new West hosted a Senior Sunshine and Ladies Sunshine tour event already in its first year and the feedback has been amazing and very positive. What is even more rewarding has been the members' understanding and support during the on and off maintenance of the new greens and all these maintenance practices only benefit the greens to move into their mature state far quicker.



We have encountered a summer season with almost all Mother Nature could have thrown at us. What started out as a dry and hot spring quickly escalated into a wet and hot start to summer. During November and December 2022, we had a total of 528mm of rain, one of the wettest experienced in the last ten years at Royal. This quickly set up our courses to be in lush and green condition. However this highlighted our drainage issues, multiple blocked and old drainage was discovered during this time but we immediately acted and repaired or enhanced the drainage as best we could. January 2023 was the complete opposite to the start of the summer season, with 28,2mm for the full month - this the lowest rainfall recorded in ten years. This however did not last long, February 2023 turned out to be one of the wettest months ever experienced at Royal. A total of 393,6mm was experienced for the whole month, but what made matters even worse was that 346,4mm came down over a two-week period, and this was two weeks before Club Champs. Amongst this excess rainfall experienced, the drainage work conducted on the East proved to be successful, with one or two holes still needing attention. We do however still need to get stuck into the West course but will be doing so in due course. 2022 rainfall recording was 1422,2mm with 2023 recording sitting on 620,3mm with our summer season still to come.

The La Nina presence was certainly felt this past summer. Unfortunately, an El Nino presence is predicted for this coming season, but we are still uncertain as to what extent it will be but predictions show a very hot and dry spring going into summer. With that being said and us being cognisant of what lies ahead, we will be using our water very sparingly during this coming spring and fertilizer application will be conducted on tees and fairways as soon as we have consistent rainfall. Our water holding capacity remains very limited and under pressure during drought periods, Royal is very reliant on rain and stormwater catchment.



During July and August 2022, we started working on our full fleet replacement plan for our maintenance equipment. Our order was placed in September 2022 as lead times had been forecasted to be 12 to 18 months due to the effects we still feel from Covid back logged productions in China. This full replacement plan was carefully planned to make Royal more efficient in maintenance costs but to also have a greener approach to play our part in global warming, the fleet will be a mixture of both diesel and diesel-hybrid units. This will add to a lower fuel bill and less hydraulic exposure to our turf. The first batch of machines arrived in July and over the span of six months, machines will be delivered as production allows them to be. We are expecting to receive all the new units by the end of December 2023. These are the lasts in golf course maintenance equipment which is equipped with modern technology to ensure not only effective practices to be conducted but to add to better conditioned Golf courses.

The generators installed at the pump stations have proven to have been the biggest asset in keeping our courses in pristine condition. With loadshedding threatening our cool season greens, the backup generators allow us to ensure we can keep them cool during severe heat during times of unplanned power outages. We do however try and still plan around loadshedding when needing the irrigation system to limit the use of the generators as they can become expensive to keep operating.



Members would have noticed that we have started to level out tees on the West course, as this was a much needed exercise.. The Club made a huge investment purchase in getting a laser level to perform this project in-house and any future leveling of tees can now be done in-house. During this time we have seized the opportunity to not only level the tees, but also gain as much teeing ground as we possibly could get out of an area. A noticeable difference can be seen on 17 West with the three back tees being increased in their width. This allows more shifting of the tees during the week, which will see an area being used only every fifth week. Following these tees, we will start with the forward tees and then proceed to the East course par 3 tees boxes and then gradually target tees on both courses where needed.

From the whole maintenance team, I would like to thank the Board, Chris Bentley and all the members for their continued support throughout the year. The 2023/2024 summer season won't be an easy one but we are aiming for new heights in the conditioning of the golf courses

*Jerry Steyn*







Trevor Barnett



# Captain's Report



I write my Royal Review for 2023 with great honour and gratitude as your outgoing Club Captain and the past three years have been both a privilege and a responsibility that I did not take lightly. I want to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your support over the last three years as we prepare to welcome in a new Club Captain who I hope will have a great passion for this wonderful sport and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our Club so special.

As we embark on another year of golf here at Royal JHB, I am reminded of the rich history and traditions that have shaped our Club into the vibrant and welcoming environment it is today. Our founders envisioned a place where people could come together to enjoy the game of golf, forge lasting friendships, and create cherished memories. It's our duty to uphold and continue this legacy.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to our dedicated members and our hardworking staff, who ensure this Club runs smoothly year after year. Without your unwavering commitment, our Club would not be the thriving community that it is today.

I have been excited about the additions to our Club e.g. Padel, which has introduced a number of new visitors. We will host a series of amateur tournaments in the not too distant future and our courses will test their skills and most importantly, foster the spirit of healthy competition and sportsmanship that golf is known for. I encourage each of you to participate, whether you are a seasoned member or just starting your golfing journey, to enter the Club knockout and weekly Club competitions. The joy of improvement and the thrill of the game are experiences we can all share.



Moreover, let us remember that golf is not only about the numbers on the scorecard; it's about the moments we share on the fairways and greens. It's about the stories we tell in the clubhouse after a round, the laughter we share with friends, and the serenity we find in the beauty of the course. Although I am the outgoing Club Captain, I will always make myself available to listen to your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. Our Club is a community and your voice matters. If you have any thoughts on how we can enhance the golfing experience, improve our facilities, or foster an even more inclusive and friendly environment, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Over the past couple of years, we at Royal have forged closer ties with Clubs of similar stature and created home and away events with them. I urge all members if you are keen to play in these Inter Club Competitions, please give your name to our golf director so that you can be added to the pool of players..





# Congratulations

## Club Championships

Champion	Matthew Mortimer	144
B Division	Rashaad Bhamjee	158
C Division	Xolisa Ngwadla	169
D Division	Suleiman Bhyat	70pts

### Ladies

Silver	Eleonora Galletti	144
Bronze	Jane Goodwin	74pts

### Junior

A Division	Josh De Aguiar	144
B Division	Tayo Straw	164
C Division	Thomo Mokgatle	193

## Winter Club Championships

Champion	Samual Mckenzie	141
B Division	Anthony van der Bank	158
C Division	Mohsin Seedat	72 pts

## League

Scratch League 1st Team - A Div	1st
Mid Am League A Team - A Div	1st
Junior League A Team - B Div	1st
Ladies Weekday 1 - A Div	1st

## Knockouts

Singles Knockout	Daniel Piemer
Betterball knockout	Ben Affuta
	David Segall
Greensomes knockout	Darren Lowery
	Rory Crossley
Mixed Knockout	Della Stapleton
	Michael Wardle

## Club Competitions

Presidents Cup 2022	Zain Asmal
Master Par 3 2022	Haroon Tayob
Golden Putter vs Royal Durb	Royal Jhb
Royal Jhb vs Pretoria CC	Royal Jhb

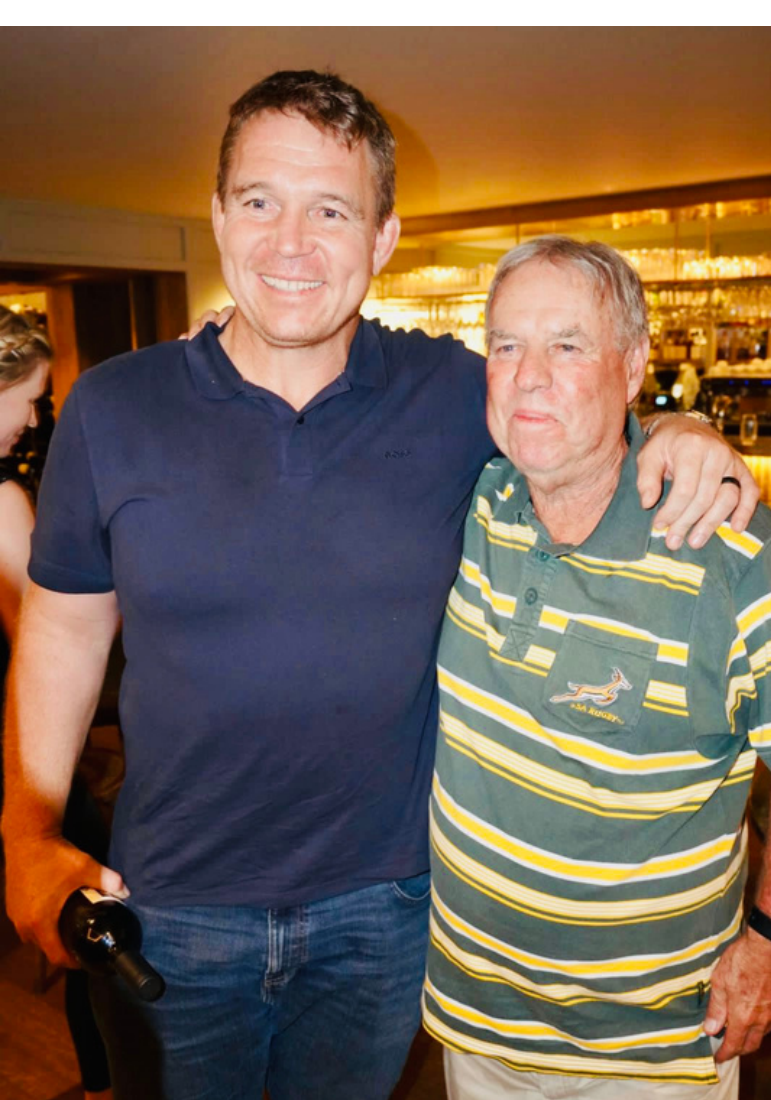
I look forward to our summer season that is fast approaching and I urge you all to embrace the challenges, savour the victories and cherish the moments we create together – may we all enjoy a fantastic year of golf, friendship and fun. Thank you for entrusting me with the role of Club Captain and I sincerely hope that our new Club Captain will be afforded as much support as I have enjoyed over the past three years.

*Nick Watt-Pringle*



















# Ladies Golf



*There are no absolutes in golf. Golf is such an individual game and no two people swing alike'.  
Kathy Whitworth*

Before starting this report, I had a quick glance through the ladies report from the 2022 Royal Review and noted that when reporting on Ash Buhai's incredible win in the 2022 AIG Women's Open, I commented 'we salute and admire your determination and belief Ash and know that this is just the beginning'! Never has a truer word been spoken....

Before coming home for a short break and her sister Jessicas wedding in December, Ash was invited to play in the 2022 ISPS Handa Australian Open Championship in Melbourne.

With husband David on the bag that week, Ash again came out on top winning the Championship on a score of 12 under par, beating Ji Shin by a single shot - yet another remarkable achievement.

Ash and Dave were welcomed 'home' to Royal when they, along with family and friends, were treated to a superb evening where stories were told, jokes were made and photos were taken and our golden girl was honoured by the Club who she represents with such pride.

Ash's winning ways didn't stop there though and in March, Ash came back to South Africa and played in the 2023 Investec South African Women's Open played at Steenberg.



Ash comfortably won this tournament by four shots and became the holder of 3 national open titles at the same time which in itself was exceptional. But she hadn't finished and in June of this year, she recorded her first win on American soil by winning the Shoprite LPGA Classic in New Jersey and had the distinction of having four wins, on four different continents in 10 months!! Such extraordinary times in Ash's career and how proud we all are of Team Buhai!

I was extremely fortunate to attend the annual Staff Christmas Party held in the St Georges Room on Tuesday 13 December. Every full time employee of the Club from course staff to senior management join together to enjoy a delicious meal with long service awards being awarded and certificates of recognition handed out to employees. It was such a happy get together and made me realise just what a special place Royal is. Every member of staff under the leadership of our C.E.O. is a vital part of the 'well-oiled machine' and our courses and facilities are magnificent. Although those in 'front of house' are often acknowledged, our marshals, course staff, kitchen staff, housekeeping staff, food and beverage staff are the unsung heroes and to see them all being rewarded was humbling. I urge you all next time you see any of these staff, to thank them for what they do on our courses and/or in the clubhouse, which enables us to be such proud members.

Our Club is also extremely proud of Cassandra Alexander, Kelsey Nicholas, Ivanna Samu, Lejan Lethwaite and Nobhule Dlamini who whether they are playing on South African soil or on the LET tour, represent Royal Johannesburg with passion and more often than not, much success. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful lady professional golfers representing our Club and we can look forward to reading of their success in years to come.

On the subject of pride, our amateur lady members have also been flying the Royal flag proudly. Although Royal does not have as large a number of lady golfers playing the game as many other Clubs in Gauteng, who we have as members is fairly impressive.... There are several players who have excelled in the game in one way or another and who are worthy of a special mention:

Eleonora Galletti

·won the Ladies Club Championship for the 9th time in 10 years!

Shannon Berry:

·selected to represent CGGU in the IPT, A division, held at Silver Lakes in October 2022. CGGU lost by ½ point with Shannon completing the week without a loss.

·second place in the gross competition and winner in the nett competition in the KwaZulu Natal Junior Championships at Kloof Country Club in December 2022.

·made the last 32 in the championship matchplay competition in the South African Amateur Championships at Mount Edgecombe in February 2023.

·selected to represent CGGU B team to play in the SA Women's 72 hole teams championships at Paarl Golf Club in May 2023.

Lauren van der Merwe

·selected to represent North West province in the IPT, B division held at Silver Lakes in October. North West province won the B2 division.

·winner of the 2023 Mid-Am A division 36 hole Championships held at Royal Johannesburg in February.

·selected as captain of the ladies North West Mid-Am team to compete in the SA Women's Mid-Am IPT in East London in May 2023.

·voted the most valuable player in division 2 of the Mid-Am IPT in East London.

·selected as captain of the North West team to play in the SA Women's 72 hole teams championships at Paarl Golf Club in May 2023.



#### Adri Vorster

- selected to represent Free State in the IPT, B division held at Silver Lakes in October 2022.
- finished runner up in the silver division of the 2023 Western Province women's mid-am and senior championships held in Durbanville.

#### Sarah Gutuza

- winner of the Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championships, silver division, at the Lost City Golf Club in March 2023.
- selected to represent CGGU in the Nomads SA Girls Championships at Gary Player Country Club in July 2023.

#### Stacey Lee van Gent

- selected to play in the Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championships, silver division, at the Lost City Golf Club in March 2023.
- won the B division trophy and the B division gross junior prize at the CGGU Championships held at Royal Johannesburg in February.
- selected to represent CGGU in the Nomads SA Girls Championships at Gary Player Country Club in July 2023.

#### Paola Sakota

- selected to play in the Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championships, championship division, at the Lost City Golf Club in March 2023.
- selected to represent CGGU in the Nomads SA Girls Championships at Gary Player Country Club in July 2023.

#### Valentina Sakota

- selected to play in the Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championships, silver division, at the Lost City Golf Club in March 2023.
- selected to represent CGGU in the Nomads SA Girls Championships at Gary Player Country Club in July 2023.
- finished second in the silver division of the Nomads SA Girls Championships at Gary Player Country Club.

#### Yaone Mokgatle

- second in the Nomads SA Girls Rose Bowl Championships, silver division, at the Lost City Golf Club in March 2023.
- second in the B division trophy at the CGGU Championships held at Royal Johannesburg in February 2023.
- selected to represent CGGU in the Nomads SA Girls Championships at Gary Player Country Club in July 2023.

Shannon Berry left for the USA in August to take up her full scholarship at the Arkansas State University. We will all miss Shan but just know that with her amazing work ethic and dedication, we will be hearing a lot about her accomplishments as she starts this new chapter in her life. Good luck to Shannon and thank you for always representing your Club and your province with such honour and pride.

The 2022 ladies league season finished off on a very high note in October. Sincere congratulations to our weekday 1 team, ably led by Ina Sanders, who won the overall ladies league by winning the A division by 3 points. It is worth mentioning that Ina has played in 4 winning league teams over the years and has been the captain of 3 of them!! Quite some record and at the time of writing this report, the team sit in third position on the log, with two games to play. augurs well for the finish of the season.

Lynn Gardner and her weekday 2 team played their hearts out in the last fixture of the 2022 season and avoided relegation to the E division and as I write this report, are sitting on top of the log in the 2023 D division, with 2 games left this year, so they too have had a wonderful league season again.



Our Sunday league ladies finished second in their division last year and earned an automatic place in the now seeded Sunday A division, which is where they truly belong. Gina Slade took over the captaincy role of this team from Sandra van den Bergh who had captained the team so efficiently for many years and the Club is extremely grateful to her for such dedication. Fortunately we didn't lose Sandra totally as she is still a member of the Sunday league squad. This team sits in second position on the log as I write this report so hopefully the last three games will be successful ones for the team.

Our 2023 league season started with what has now become an annual event, a league breakfast. This is a very informal get together of all the ladies who have offered to play league in the year ahead and for new members in a team, to get to know fellow team members before battling it out on the course. It has proved to be very a very popular morning with the ladies and a pleasant way to show appreciation to the ladies for their support and dedication as well as to thank our devoted league managers who give up their time so freely to look after their teams. They are not always popular in their selection of teams but always have the best interests of our Club at heart and the results over the past few years, is proof of that. Thank you Gina, Ina and 'Lina' – we are so appreciative.

Our 2023 Club Championships was held over the last weekend of February and this year, 36 holes were completed. The golf department always pull out all the stops for our most important weekend on the calendar and this year was no exception – they even got the weather right. Despite playing very little golf during the year, Ellie Galletti proved to be just too solid for the rest of the field over 36 holes of medal and won her ninth title, five shots clear of Lauren van der Merwe in second position. Ellie's aim is to pass Julie McWilliams record of 12 titles so we all look forward to seeing if she can do that. Our lady captain, Jane Goodwin won the Bronze championship trophy after 36 holes of individual stableford, 6 points clear of second placed Anne Daffey. Well played and thank you to everyone who played this year and please do spread the word about what a great weekend it is – let's hope the ladies entry next year is doubled! Whilst discussing Club Championships, it would be amiss of me not to commend our course manager, Jerry Steyn and his exceptional team, on managing to get our courses into playable conditions for that weekend after the incessant rain that had fallen.







How very fortunate we are to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable course manager looking after our precious courses and on behalf of the ladies of Royal, I'd like to thank Jerry and his team for spoiling all the members with two magnificent courses to play on all year round!

The number of ladies playing golf during the West course renovation was down considerably as many of our regulars find our East Championship course, just too long. Numbers of players have steadily increased since the course opened at the end of 2022 and the ladies are enjoying all that the renovated West course now offers.

Our membership has remained static over the past year and where we have lost valuable members, we have gained new members, several of whom are residents of Brookfield. It is always sad to see members leave and this year was no exception as several of our 'old' members, in terms of membership years, resigned due to relocation but we welcome all our new ladies and hope that their association with Royal Johannesburg will be a long and happy one.

Lady members at Royal have many options available to them depending on the membership category chosen. They may choose to join any or all of the three ladies school's that the Club has, namely the BG's, the TG's and the Tuesday ladies or if that doesn't appeal to the player, again depending on the chosen membership category, players may play with their own group of players.

Our BG's (Business Girls) are regular players on a Saturday morning. The number of players average between 16 and 20 ladies and they more often than not feature in the Club competition prizes, alternating the course being played, each week. This group of ladies has their own manager who oversees all their bookings and attends to anything extra on a Saturday that is required. Grateful thanks to Mandy Pardew who took care of the BG's in 2022 and to Val McKenzie who is managing them in 2023. Both ladies are organised and dedicated and the Saturday ladies are very lucky to have such committed managers taking care of them. The BG's do have a few of their own trophy events throughout the year and have their own singles and betterball knockouts, which are most competitive. It is also so exciting to see that many of the BG's over the past few years, have entered and had much success in the Club betterball and greensomes knockouts and I don't think it will be long before we have winners of these knockouts, emerging from this group of players.



Our Thursday ladies, some of whom also play on a Monday now that the Club is open, are our 'social' group of ladies who thoroughly enjoy every game they play but at the same time are still competitive amongst themselves. Joan Neville and Aileen Wilmot look after this group of ladies, who average between 8 and 12, and new members are always welcomed into this group with much enthusiasm. Thank you to both Joan and Aileen for all that they do for this great group of ladies.

The Tuesday ladies school averages between 24 and 40 players on most Tuesday mornings with numbers being higher when we host ladies open days. This year we chose to hold open days every second or third month which has proved to be a successful move as these open days, when the weather allows us to have them, are generally full and most enjoyable. Several trophy events are held on Tuesdays and many of these are steeped in tradition from both Kensington Golf Club and Royal Johannesburg Golf Club. The Tuesday ladies also hold their own singles and betterball knockouts and these are well supported. It is lovely to see several of our regular BG's playing on Tuesdays as well and in school holidays, several of our teacher members are able to join the Tuesday competitions.

The list of winners of various trophies played for throughout the year from 1 August 2022 to 1 August 2023 reads as follows and where applicable, I have included the year in which the trophy was first contested.

2023 Ladies Club Champion 36 holes medal  
Eleonora Galletti

2023 Ladies Bronze Champion 36 holes  
stableford  
Jane Goodwin

2022 Mixed Knockout  
Della Stapleton and Mike Wardle (2nd  
consecutive year)

2022 BG'S Betterball Knockout (1986)  
Shannon Frigyik and Gina Slade

2022 BG's Singles Knockout (1986)  
Lelane Straw

2022 Weekday Betterball Knockout (1975)  
Kim Cooke  
Aileen Wilmot

2022 Weekday Singles Knockout (1976)  
Niki Christie

Spring Trophy 3 Ball Alliance (2000)  
Audrey Shaw  
Barbie Grossmith  
Christine de Villiers

Jubilee Cup Individual Stableford – Silver  
Division (1966)  
Adri Vorster

Coronation Trophy Individual Stableford –  
Bronze Division (1979)  
Marian Ledingham

Most birdies recorded (1 July 2022 to 31 June  
2023)  
Silver Niki Christie  
Bronze Marian Ledingham

Anstey Trophy 3 Ball Stableford Aggregate  
(1925)  
Niki Christie  
Val McKenzie  
Liza van Wyk

Jean Eustice Trophy Betterball Stableford  
(1987)  
Shirley Hubbard  
Christine de Villiers

Crystal Bowl BG's Betterball Stableford  
(1995)  
Belinda Berry  
Shannon Berry



Our Club proudly hosted the Standard Bank Ladies Open from 27 to 29 April this year, with just the West course being used. What a wonderful tournament it was with Stacey Bregman being crowned the champion after one extra hole of play against Lee-Anne Pace. Well done to the Royal team on putting on a grand show to make this such a successful and memorable week - so many compliments were received from both visitors and members about the Club and the beautiful West course. It is hoped that the TV coverage and exposure that this tournament generated will entice more tournaments to be held on our world class courses.

Our Lady Captain, Jane Goodwin, and I have attended regular CGGU Lady Captain meetings over the past two years and although the amalgamation between the ladies and the gents has taken place under the CGGU banner, these meetings are well received as all discussions and feedback given to the lady captains is pertinent to lady golfers. Jane's two year term of office will come to an end at the 132nd AGM and she will be stepping down from the Board. I have so enjoyed working with Jane over the past two years and thank her on behalf of all the ladies at Royal, for her dedication and commitment to our wonderful Club. What an inspiring ambassador she has been but I wish her well as she takes a bit of time out from these extra commitments. Jane's shoes are big shoes to fill but I am confident that our next lady captain will be up for the challenge and I am sure will enjoy the full support of the Royal ladies.

Following on the huge success of the inaugural past lady captains' lunch that was held in 2022, the 2023 lunch was held on Wednesday 6 September in The Old Oak Restaurant. 17 ladies attended the lunch, and we were so fortunate to have Glynis Hutton from Southbroom and Glynis Nisbet from Mauritius attend the lunch. It was a very special gathering, and we were treated to the most delicious meal prepared by the staff. Chris Bentley welcomed all the ladies and thank you to him for his support of this annual event which we hope will carry on for many years to come.

Royal members are known for their generosity and this year was no exception. Each year we raffle a beautiful Christmas cake with all proceeds being donated to our housekeeping staff. Vouchers are purchased for each member of this department to thank them for all the 'behind the scenes' work they do in keeping our beautiful Clubhouse and locker rooms looking fresh, clean and tidy. They are all always so grateful so I do hope that this 'tradition' carries on for many years to come.

After three attempts, we finally got to play our Ladies Open Day in support of the Cupcakes of Hope Charity, one of Royal's chosen charities. Although cold, it was a most successful day and much relief that we had finally managed to host the day. Thank you to every lady who played on the day and who invited visitors to play for making a difference to these little cancer warriors. And then more recently, Chris Bentley and I were privileged to be able to hand over dozens of blankets to Fiona Manoim, from the Immaculata Shelter for the homeless in honour of Mandela Day. It was intriguing to hear about the shelter and the wonderful work that is done and quite fortuitous that we handed over the blankets on one of the coldest days we have experienced - they were gratefully received. Thank you to every member who so generously donated a blanket/blankets to this worthy cause. So many of our lady members so willingly sponsor prizes for many of our ladies days, but particularly our Open days and thanks are extended to you all. You know who you are and for fear of missing out an important name, I will not name you all but please know that your kindness and generosity does not go unnoticed.





It really is not surprising at all when our Club wins awards and this year the Club was adjudged to be the Best Luxury Golf Club in South Africa and the Old Oak Restaurant was adjudged to be the Best Luxury Family Restaurant in South Africa. Congratulations to Chris Bentley and his team on not only creating such magnificent facilities at Number 1 Fairway Avenue, but maintaining them at this high level as well.

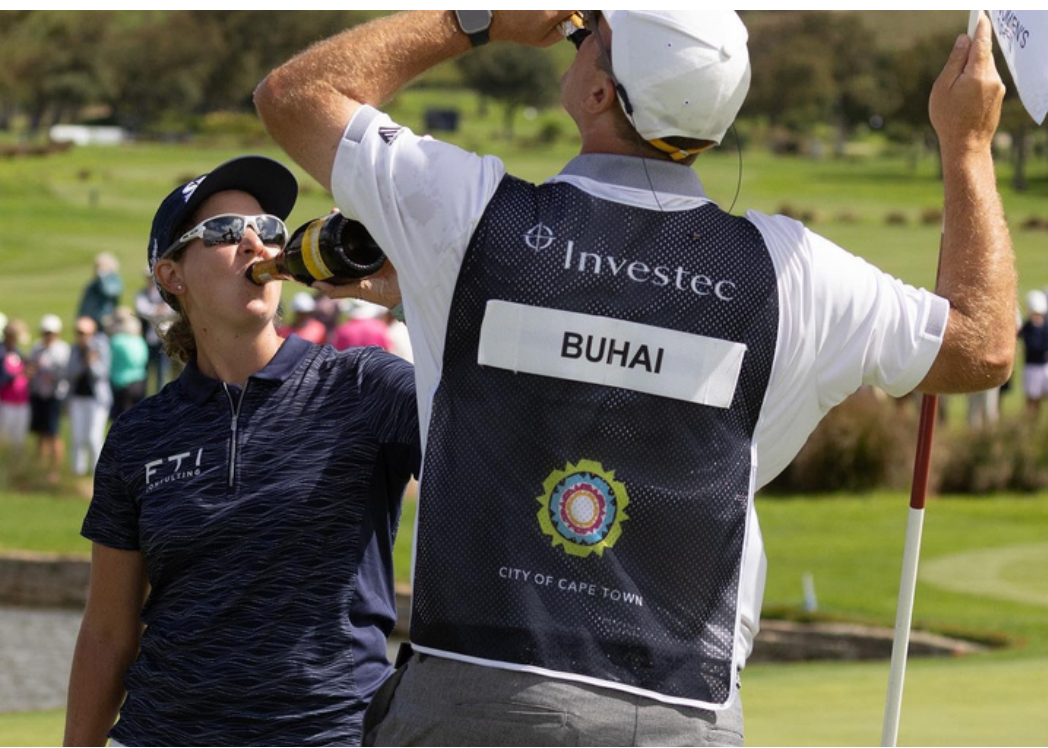
In addition to the Club awards, our Head Professional at Royal Johannesburg, Greg Jacobs, was named the PGASA 2023 Central Gauteng Club Professional and the PGASA 2023 National Club Professional. I don't think this award could have gone to a more rewarding recipient. We are all delighted to have Greg back at the Club full time again and in good health after his brave battle against leukemia and the Jacobs family are just so adored by our members.

In closing, I would like to thank Chris Bentley for the support and guidance that he always affords our management team and members and in our case, perhaps most importantly, the ladies – our Club is the envy of many a ladies section in the country and more often than not, his support of the activities and accomplishments of our lady members is totally unsolicited. He leads by example and as a result, we have a happy and dedicated staff contingent and I am grateful to work with such inspiring people. Almost every staff member on the management team is half my age, and it is so refreshing to see their commitment to excellence in all that they do. They are all thorough professionals and together work hard to please each and every member, which sometimes can prove to be very challenging.

Thanks too must be extended to our Chairman, Chandru Wadhvani, and fellow Board members for their support and for the effective and responsible governance of our wonderful Club. Congratulations to Chandru on a most successful first year as Chairman and although there are sure to be many challenges that lie ahead of us in the coming year, I am very confident that with the impressive partnership of our Chairman and our C.E.O., augurs well for yet another successful year for our Club. Thank you ladies for your support and best wishes to you all for yet another happy and fulfilling year as members of this amazing Club.

*Wendy Huddy*











# All the glory

2023 Club Championships

























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- Gross Sales Value - R660 Million





# From the Academy



This report will focus on the development and growth of the game at Royal Johannesburg and the projects at the driving range. The driving range has two Master Professionals offering lessons, Gavan Levenson and me. No other facility in South Africa has two active Master professionals and we are both proud members of the PGA of South Africa and endeavour to live by the PGA Slogan of "Touching Lives Through the Game of Golf".

Gavan and I spend the majority of our time providing individual lessons to members and guests. Gavan has a large clientele of junior golfers, many of whom are playing well in the SA Kids, US Kids, Gauteng Golf Union Tournaments and various professional tours.

I run group clinics for juniors, specifically a Saturday class for juniors under ten and a Tuesday class for ten and older. We have also hosted successful holiday programmes during school holidays.

With the development of the Auria Royal View Senior Living development it is not only juniors that are catered for and we have hosted clinics for the residents of Royal View. Going forward we are developing learning programmes for our other developments like Brookfield.



The academy runs various school programmes and is associated with the following schools - St Andrews School for Girls, St Benedict's, King David and St John's. The academy runs coaching and practice programmes for the mentioned schools. and Royal Johannesburg serves as the home club for the school league.

At the range, Jayde Rademeyer, the operations manager, has been upgrading the range shop. We now offer various sizes of buckets ranging from a warm-up bucket to a serious practice bucket and annual and monthly range memberships are also available. We offer cold drinks and snacks as well as a range of training aids to improve your game. We have constructed an indoor simulator room that can be used for teaching but can be also hired out for events and entertainment and have 90 courses around the world that can be played on the simulator. We use FlightScope technology and will soon be acquiring more FlightScope units for members to use.

The driving range and academy have also hosted various PGA of SA projects. I have hosted a 'Grow Golf' seminar on behalf of the PGA, which trains PGA Professionals to train school teachers to grow golf within their schools.

Royal Johannesburg is the perfect Club for juniors to develop their game. The Club offers very competitive membership rates and opportunities to play and has a very competitive junior league side. We continue to develop the game by hosting SA Kids, US Kids, and Central Gauteng Junior tournaments.

*Martin Briede*

















# The Chefs Table



Food & Beverage Report of Royal Johannesburg, One hospitality team. Three food and beverage outlets. Infinite dining opportunities

Throughout the 2022/2023 financial year, the food and beverage department has remained resolute in delivering the utmost quality results.

We have experienced many triumphs as well as lessons of our shortcomings, allowing time for self-introspection and the re-establishing of new parameters and goals.

Through constant training and raising the bar, we have diligently made progress in seasonal menu launches and the holistic upskilling of both the back of house staff as well as front of house. Despite inherent challenges of turbulence in terms of staff turnover, we have managed to stabilize and regroup as a team to maintain output levels that we ever so often relook at as we grow as a unit.

With the abundance of fauna and flora that has thrived at our historical Club over the years before us, we are set to contribute to this ecosystem by introducing micro-organisms and mycelium networks.



Sporing off into a myriad of mushrooms and fungi alike that has the capability of filtering waters from natural and man-made sources. Rumbi's Garden continues to provide a constant supply of robust herbs that are used in both kitchens, though an inclement season with erratic fluctuation in extreme weather conditions we do look forward to the spring and reviving sections of the garden for the upcoming months.

The prevailing economic conditions that we find ourselves in has dictated that we remain resilient and steadfast in continuous collaborations with suppliers to maintain our levels of service and unwavering offering. Over the last year, we have seen basic commodities increase to as much as 105% in raw goods together with up to 4 price hikes on liquor inclusive of annual sin tax. By using synergies in relationships that we have developed over the past years, we have managed to fix pricing for certain periods on fast moving line items as well as introduce new products that are unique on the market at a more affordable rate. With the gradual increase of Brookfield residents and a climb in social membership, we continue to see better weekday trade at The Old Oak and utilization of our facilities.

The Champions Retreat has released a very new menu with new and appealing fresh ideas to elevate the normal dining experience. The new furniture upgrade is set to be rolled out in the coming months and this will better activate the area and naturally increase footfall through the area. The lower bar area has massive potential to create a new dinner eatery that we hope to embark on in the near future, bringing an exciting new concept to life. Halfway house has been consistent in delivering an evolving menu that is enjoyed by our members and guests.

Throughout the year, corporate events and functions remain a major revenue stream. We have demonstrated adaptability in meeting the needs of our patrons in everything we do and then surpassing expectations.

The Old Oak has been a massive drawcard in regard to wedding enquiries. The venue in itself requires minimal décor if any as well as the versatility of a blank canvas in creating the perfect spaces within spaces.

The Old Oak Restaurant and Family Center has performed considerably well in year 1 according to the budget. The exposure through social media has seen a steady increase in new guests as well as the retention of quite a few regulars. With the launch of the new food menu as well as wine list, it is evident that there is a spark of interest once again. Dan Nicholl events are on the rise, hosting a myriad of corporates and high profiled guests indulging in fine wine and food. The Chef's Tables have been successful in creating a demand for wine makers in specific for special releases of their wines into the Joburg market. The experience has been unrivalled in the Johannesburg area and we are proud that it has built a reputation of elegance to epicureans in the industry.

Based on the statistics pulled from our Dineplan platform we have reached the following conclusions with regards to The Old Oak Restaurant and Family Centre. We have served roughly 27 500 guests in the last financial year with 11 front of house personnel, translating to 2 500 guests per staff member. Based on our Clubmaster sales on food items, we served a total of 61 807 plates of food from the Old Oak kitchen with a total of 13 chefs. Translating to 4754 plates per chef, these staggering results are a testament to the amazing staff complement that we have been surrounded by.

The current financial year is looking promising and we have no doubt that the results budgeted will be achieved and surpassed by our team.



By exposing our craft to diners and fellow partners in the industry, our synergies and offerings have continued to intrigue and spark interest within other establishments or organizations. We continue to establish a footprint outside the parameters of the Club in executing dinners and events for high profiled guests.

The venue in itself requires minimal décor if any as well as the versatility of a blank canvas in creating the perfect spaces within spaces.

Our next step in driving revenue but more importantly in sharing our story, we will successfully release the Old Oak Chenin Blanc and Old Oak Pinotage to Norman Good Fellows. Releasing our house wine into the retail space allows for a new revenue stream but also exposes us to a different market that will hopefully be beneficial to attracting new patrons to our Club.

It's evident that the past year marked a period of remarkable achievement, and we eagerly anticipate the upcoming year with optimism and excitement. The potential that lies ahead is promising, and our food and beverage team is fully committed to delivering outstanding outcomes consistently over the next couple of months.

*Ransley Pietersen*









# Custodian Members

## Honorary Life

Ashleigh Buhai  
Denis Hutchinson  
David Stratton  
John Saker  
Desmond Arnold  
Haydn Thomson  
Ross Grainger  
Bill Urmson  
Gavan Levenson  
Barry Karg  
Martin Mealin  
Olaf Holtung  
Olliver Ransome  
David Mitchell  
Lindsay Morrison  
Ian Hancock  
Julie McWilliam

## Honorary

A T Makhado  
Alexandra Barbosa  
Craig Millar  
Dale Hayes  
David Nagle  
Derek Speight  
Gary Player  
Gavin Sklar-Chik  
Gerhard Du Plooy  
Gillian Lee  
Gregory Tait  
Johnny Brown  
Lawrence Smith  
Lindiwe Maseko  
M R Botha

Mark Spyker  
Martin Pohlmann  
Mavela Dlamini  
Mpho Parks Tau  
Neil Meyer  
Nkosiyaakhe Masondo  
Oliver Carey  
Patricia Ciro  
Peter Lee  
Ricci Davidoff  
Robin Beek  
Sam Shilowa  
Sibongile Mokaba  
Tim Kloeck  
Z Zwelithini

## Life

Frank Rosslee  
Tim Middleton  
Ramsay Brierley  
Robin Davis  
Peter Young  
Gordon Munro  
Barry Senior  
Gordon Drummond  
Gavin Soll  
John Pascoe  
Craig Cloete  
Andrew Smith  
Glen Witte  
Nicholas Oppenheimer  
Russell Bruton  
Barry Bruton  
Joey Coetzee  
Craig Rivett  
Terry Eyles

Mark Surtees  
John Lewis  
Peter Arthur  
Martin Skeen  
John Ludwig  
Edward Southey  
Richard Clowes  
John Turner  
Graeme King  
Gordon Odgers  
Andrew Kenneth. Miller  
Stathy Diamandis  
Graham Twaddle  
Ray White  
John Ridgard  
John Faber  
Verdun Peter Pardini  
Dawn Worsdale  
Elizabeth Faber

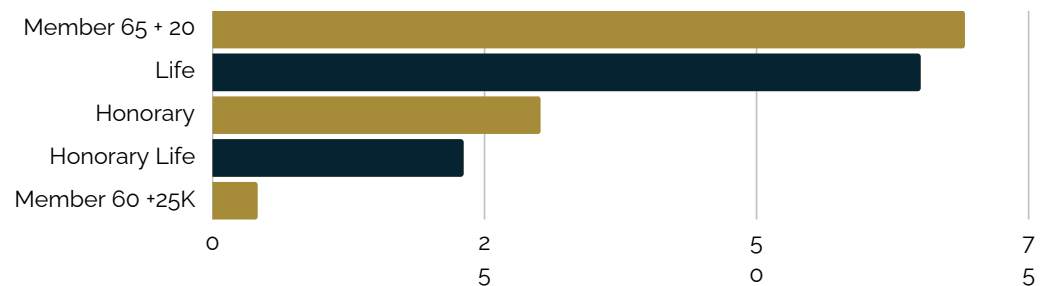
Basil Pearson  
Michael Ryan  
Grant Thomas  
Rob Girdwood  
Ivan Austin  
John Fell  
Terry Davidson  
Gill Huddy  
Peter Thomas  
Michael Dix  
Peter Faber  
Gordon Huddy  
Douglas Du Bourg  
Michael John Renwick  
Bobby Johnston  
David Mackenzie  
Henri Kuiper  
David Geeringh

Robert Hoar  
Bruce Sutherland  
Terry Sutherland  
Jim Begbie  
Spencer Farren  
Mike Peterkin  
Joy Blair  
Desmond Sacco  
Peter Volck  
Graham Volck  
John McWilliam  
Chris Huddy  
Rennie Airth  
Edward Steyn  
Brian Wilson  
Margaret Summerley  
Pearl Cochrane

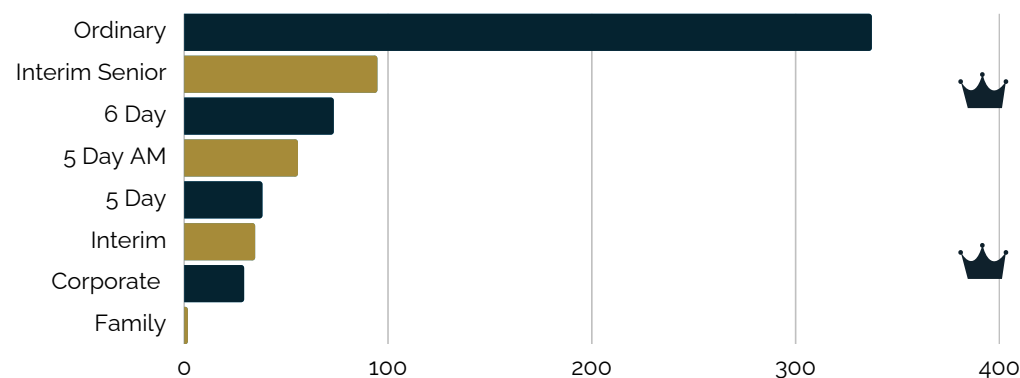


# Membership

## Platinum



## Gold



Men

1362

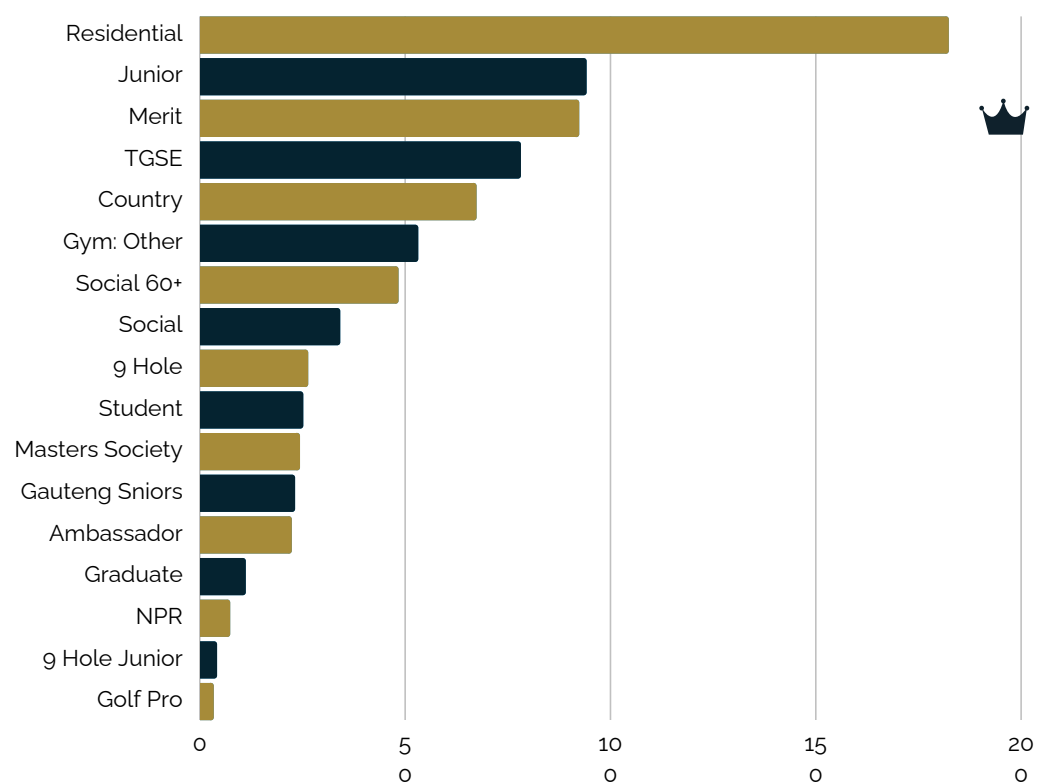


Ladies

257



## Silver



Juniors

156









# Past Chairmen

## Royal Johannesburg Golf Club

1985 Olaf Holtung  
1986 Martin Mealin  
1987 Randolph Nourse  
1988 David Mitchell  
1989 William Urmson  
1990 Barry Karg  
1991 R Morris  
1992 A Mackenzie  
1993 Haydn Thomson  
1994 Ian Hancock  
1995 Desmond Arnold  
1996 Lindsay Morrison  
1997 Colin Sass  
1998 Ross Grainger  
1999 Ross Grainger

## Kensington Golf Club

1985 Ian Head  
1986 Graham Aldridge  
1987 Graham Aldridge  
1988 Gordon Odgers  
1989 Gordon Odgers  
1990 Roly Humphrey  
1991 Roly Humphrey  
1992 Brian Cook  
1993 Brian Cook  
1994 Gordon Drummond  
1995 Graham Aldridge  
1996 Graham Aldridge  
1997 Graham Aldridge  
1998 Ian Head  
1999 Ian Head

## Royal Johannesburg

2000 Ian Head  
2001 Oliver Ransome  
2002 Oliver Ransome  
2003 Russell Bruton  
2004 John Saker  
2005 David Stratton  
2006 David Stratton  
2007 Vince Ryan  
2008 Vince Ryan  
2009 Graham Twaddle  
2010 Graham Twaddle  
2011 Richard Pollock

2012 Richard Pollock  
2013 Richard Pollock  
2014 Gordon Odgers  
2015 Gordon Odgers  
2016 Gordon Odgers  
2017 John Hare  
2018 Alan Field  
2019 Alan Field  
2020 Alan Field  
2021 Gordon Odgers  
2022 Gordon Odgers  
2023 Chandru Wadhwani



# Employee Awards

## *Congratulations*

*Employee of the year 2022*

*Kwanele Matutu*

## *Congratulations*

*Team of the year 2022*

*Food and Beverage (Front and Back of House)*



## Employee of the year - by department & category

Course Department	Carrington (Kapuwa) Kubayi	Most Improved Employees	Immaculate Maguwa
Food & Beverage	Sandisile Bhebhe		Clayton Dube
	Leigh-Ann Knipe	Junior Manager	Siobhan Bersiks
Club Operations	Sonia Mabaso (Junior)		Shaun Carter
	Jenene Bernhardt (Senior)	Senior Manager	Hennie Bredenhann
Housekeeping	Meshack Zondo	Leadership Awards	Ransley Pietersen
Outsourced	Poland Mdluli		Erik Brakhoven
Maintenance	Walter Muchadziya	Employee of the year	Kwanele Matutu

## Customer Service Awards

Vinelle Botha  
 Ruhan Dunvenage  
 Liam Brown  
 Mosa Mokgoera  
 Ayanda Ngwenya  
 Kenny Dube

## Certificate of Appreciation

Rumbi Ndlovu  
 Nesbert Bwititi  
 Wendy Huddy  
 Owen Moshabe  
 Beatrice Ncube  
 Marcelle Fourie  
 Sonia Mabaso  
 John Bailey

Jerry Steyn  
 NJ van der Walt  
 Kenny Dube  
 Greg Jacobs  
 Martin Briedé  
 Gavan Levenson  
 Jayde Rademeyer  
 Charlotte De Jong

## Long Service Awards

Emmanuel Ngobeni 10  
 Meshack Zondo 10  
 Arone Baloyi 15  
 Dimakatso Mogoboya 15  
 Patrick Mabilu 15  
 Enock Mamabolo 15  
 Ronald Makhado 35





- Westlake Golf Club
- Bloemfontein Golf Club
- East London Golf Club
- Humewood Golf Club
- Inanda Club
- Kloof Golf Club
- Prince's Grant, Durban
- Pretoria Country Club
- Zebula Country Club & Spa
- Royal Cape Golf Club
- Royal Durban Golf Club
- Royal Port Alfred Golf Club
- Pecanwood Estate Golf Club
- Rustenburg Golf Club
- The Victoria Club, Pietermaritzburg
- Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe
- Chapman Golf Club, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Windsor Golf & Country Club, Kenya
- Omeya Golf Estate, Windhoek Namibia
- Phakalane Golf Estate Botswana
- Denman Golf Club, England
- Royal Ascot Golf Club, England
- Royal Clinique Ports Golf Club, England
- Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, England
- Royal Dublin Golf Club, Ireland
- Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Scotland
- Hong Kong Golf Club, China
- Mission Hills, China
- Killara Golf Club, Australia
- Royal Perth Golf Club, Australia
- Royal Queensland Golf Club, Australia
- Auckland Golf Club, New Zealand
- Royal Wellington Golf Club, New Zealand
- Real Sociedad, Spain
- Royal Colwood Golf Club, Canada
- Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Canada



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This publication is dedicated to the members of Royal Johannesburg and to those who we have lost over the past year.  
We hope you have thoroughly enjoyed the stories, reports and memories.

Our sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the success of this years edition.

“

We thank you for all the game of golf has taught us,  
The self-discipline when a good shot ends up in an unplayable lie,  
The honesty when we have to referee our own game,  
The resignation when the weather is bad,  
We thank you for the Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club,

For the strong friendships made over long years and for the years  
of dedicated service given in the best interests of the Club

For the feeling of acceptance we get here,  
For the readiness of the best players,  
To play with the worst,  
And, as always we thank you;  
For the skill enough to hit a ball,  
For the strength enough to play a course,  
for grace enough to keep our friends.

*Rev. Granville Morgan (1965)*

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