

GOOD TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWS OF ROYAL JOHANNESBURG
YEAR END EDITION | 2023



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CHRISTMAS EVE *Feast*



Harvest table (buffet)

24 DECEMBER 2023 | 12H00 - 15H00

Starters

Cold Meats, Smoked Salmon and Spiced Quiches
Classic Salad Selection
Artisanal Breads & Spreads

Mains

Roasted Turkey stuffed with bacon & cranberry
Glazed Christmas Gammon
Succulent Spiced Sirloin
Lemon & Thyme Chicken
Pumpkin Tart
Butternut Ravioli
Selection of Traditional Vegetables

Desserts

Sweet selection of Petit Fours & Confectionery
Malava & Creme Anglaise
Red Velvet Cakes
Mince Pies and Cream

Members

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*"There's nothing quite like feasting on
delicious food and drinking good wine with
your family and friends."*



FROM THE CLOCKTOWER

CHRIS BENTLEY, CEO



‘TIS THE SEASON

The festive spirit is all around us, it's almost time to start the celebrations and enjoy making new memories with those we hold near and dear! My personal celebrations have already started with the completion of our solar project and the much anticipated re-opening of parking bays:)

Despite the ongoing backdrop and another challenging year, our commitment to excellence and driving the Club's success has not altered and this remains at the heart of everything we do.

Royal is all about premier golf and personalised service, a place where we 'make people happy', where like-minded members can make use of our two outstanding courses with unrivalled sports and recreational facilities to match. "A private members club, where visitors are welcome", as such the Club has successfully adapted to remain relevant to the modern family and the changing needs, while maintaining our rich heritage, traditions and charm.

We have accomplished an enormous amount in 2023 - never have we completed so many large projects and the combined efforts confirm how Royal remains dedicated to success and future generations.

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.

As we near the end of another turbulent year I'm delighted share some of the many highlights:

- We have continued the rollout of our new corporate identity and branding (Y1/3).
- We have successfully closed out the 5 year resolution and restored the Capital Fund to R16m (R2m over estimate).
- The Club has welcomed over 200 residents into the membership and lifestyle.
- Membership overall has increased from 1380 to 1665 (as at Nov 2023).
- The machinery replacement program for both courses is well underway.
- Our new and enhanced furniture, for the bar, patio, deck and halfway house has arrived and looks superb.
- The installation of our solar carports and establishment of reliable energy is now in place.
- Successfully implemented the water back up systems - tankers and pumps for the clubhouse.
- Launched Padel@Royal.
- Secured international tournaments for 2024.
- Approved the lodge and function venue at the 132nd AGM.

2023 ACCOLADES



World Golf Awards – Best course in SA (East).



Luxury Lifestyle Awards – Best luxury family restaurant in SA (Old Oak).



Professional Auditing – 5 Star health and safety.



Club Managers Association SA – Pillars of distinction award (top 5 SA).



Professional Golfers Association SA - Club pro of the year (Greg Jacobs).

The Club's objectives have remained unchanged and following the year end Board meeting, we are now establishing the next long term strategic plan, which will address some of the bigger challenges. 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.

There will also be further exciting enhancements to consider for the longer term, like night golf and much more.

As always, the Board will build the vision and proposals and the members will continue to decide on the best path forward for the Club's future and the next generation.

At the year end board meeting, the board also took a final decision to appoint Mr. Gordon Odgers as the Clubs permanent Treasurer fo the remainder of the term. In addition, as part of the boards succession/development planning, a decision has been taken to co-opt Mr. Snehal Desai as a Board member. Mr. Desai comes with a wealth of financial experience and we look forward to his contribution in strategy and good governance.

In closing, a note of sincere thanks to all the Club staff, who are required to have a wide range of exceptional skills, business acumen, a firm grasp on of IT systems, social media, agronomics, weather, food hygiene, data protection, equality legislation, and must be good at communication, because dealing with thousands of members and patrons all with diverse views and expectations, calls for an abundance of tact and diplomacy. In our teams I couldn't be prouder because we certainly have all that and so much more. The finest staff, serving the finest members at the finest address in golf! As 2024 rolls in, we will continue to face the macro and micro challenges, however the projects and initiatives to keep increasing the members value proposition are certainly exciting. We remain well positioned to tackle both short-term uncertainty and medium term growth and we look forward to exciting year in 2024.

On behalf of the management team and staff, we thank each and every member for your continued loyalty, trust and support. We hope we have made you proud in the way we have handled our duties and responsibilities to the Club, staff and membership through the year. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our Chairman and Board members for dedicating their time and knowledge and for assisting management with the overall delivery, vision, strategy and good governance of the Club. May you be blessed this holiday season to purely enjoy some "time out" from the world, may the spirit of the season fill your heart with peace and the opportunity to create special memories with friends and family. From my family to yours, wishing you a wonderful festive season and a prosperous new year.

My best wishes to you all and happy golfing.

Chris Bentley



ROYAL TURNS ON SOLAR

WITH SOLARISE AFRICA



Our Solar carport system is now live! and designed to produce 60% energy independence from the city and diesel grid. The PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) pays forward a 34% discount from utility costs in month 1 while the battery backup lease pays forward a further 20% saving on generator costs. The club estimates a saving of over R23million on utility costs over the PPA term. Needless to say, we once again have reliable and constant power.

Our research shows this is the first golf facility in South Africa, where a club has switched onto a solar/BESS microgrid project of this size. As one of the most prestigious and oldest golf clubs on the continent this is significant stride to ensuring sustainability of the Club, its position in the industry and the further reduction of our carbon footprint.

SPECIFICATIONS

452 LONGi 555W mono crystalline solar modules fixed on a northerly pitch. Caracal Energy cantilever structural solar carport. Fully engineered, and approved by the City of JHB. Designed with the highest structural specifications. 2 x Huawei Sun110 KTL Grid Tied inverters. Designed to produce maximum solar yield with the highest safety specifications. 2 x FreedomWon 300kwh LiPO4 battery stacks with 1 x ATESS 250kw PCS battery inverter. Fully engineered in a temperature-controlled environment with environmental sensors and fire controls. The Hooray Power engineered microgrid functions to reduce utility usage whilst providing cheap solar power and diesel reduction in large backup power requirements



HOLIDAY

SCHEDULE

Season

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1

YEAR END LEAGUE BRAAI

6

SOLAR CARPORT HANDOVER

7

JOLLY GOOD CAROLS

8

YEAR END NEWSLETTER

12

STAFF YEAR END FUNCTION

15

PH - SPRINGBOKS VICTORY

16

PH - DAY OF RECONCILIATION

24

XMAS EVE FEAST @ OLD OAK

25

ALL FACILITIES CLOSED

26

PH - BOXING DAY

14th 2024 CALENDER RELEASED

22 DEC - 2 JAN - CLUB ADMIN CLOSED

24th LAST TEE TIME 8H40AM

31th LAST TEE TIME 8H40AM

JOLLY GOOD CAROLS

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - 7 DECEMBER 2023



OPERATING

RESERVATIONS ESSENTIAL
011 640 3021

Hours



CLUBHOUSE

5h30- 21h00
24th Closed from 15h00
25th Closed
31st Closed from 15h00
1st Closed



FITNESS CENTRE

5h30- 19h00
24th Closed from 15h00
25th Closed
31st Closed from 15h00
1st Closed



AFRICA PADEL

6h00- 22h00
24th 6h00 - 18h00
25th 8h00 - 13h00
31st 6h00 - 18h00
1st 10h00 - 22h00



THE OLD OAK
RESTAURANT

8H00- 21h00
24th Closed from 16h00
18th, 19th, 25th Closed
31st Closed from 15h00
1 January Closed



EAST & WEST
GOLF COURSES

Tee Times 7h00 - 13h00
24th Last tee time 8h40
25th Closed
31st Last tee time 8h40
1 January Closed



DRIVING RANGE

6h00 - 17h00
24th Last bucket 12h00
25th Closed
31st Last bucket 12h00
1 January Closed

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THE GOLF DEPARTMENT

LIAM BROWN, DIRECTOR OF GOLF



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As we bid farewell to another fantastic year, we are thrilled to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared together. The past twelve months have been nothing short of extraordinary, filled with very successful capital projects, memorable events, great camaraderie and laughter.

From the first swing of the year to the final putt, our members have truly made every moment on the course count. Whether you were perfecting your drive, sinking that unforgettable putt, or celebrating a personal best, each round brought new challenges and triumphs.

Our Club's calendar was adorned with exclusive member events that brought out the competitive spirit and showcased the exceptional talent within our golfing community. From the Club Championships to the Inter-school Challenges, these events allowed us to celebrate the game, our fantastic facilities, while fostering lasting connections.

Speaking of Inter-schools, congratulations to 'The Royal Family' for winning the 2023 Inter-schools Challenge – the finals were held on Saturday 25 November and it was certainly the best one yet! Thank you to all the schools for supporting and thanks to our past captain, Mr. Nick Watt-Pringle (The Shaq of Dubai), who initiated this event three years ago – it has become a highlight on the members calendar and we look forward to this occasion going from strength to strength.

I would also like to extend thanks to the league players who attended the 2023 year end league braai, an initiative re-instated by our CEO, to celebrate our victories, discuss improvements and keep setting the benchmarks for league in the future. We look forward to releasing the 2024 league uniforms in January and the new policies to further enhance standards.

In closing, I have included the R&A & USGA press release regarding the 'rollback' of the golf ball, alongside a very interesting article in the months newsletter by Stuart Mclean, which provides great insight of the Golf landscape in South Africa. Most notably it would seem the supply and demand issues remain (too many courses and not enough golfers), but my goodness are we blessed with great facilities in this country.

None of these incredible moments in time would be possible without the enthusiasm and active participation of our members. As we wrap up this year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for making Royal Johannesburg the vibrant, welcoming community it is.

Liam Brown



LINGER LONGER

DALE HAYES, TONY JOHNSTON, DENIS HUTCHINSON, GAVAN LEVENSON



67 PROFESSIONAL WINS

“What a great lunch at Royal Johanneburg with a great bunch of guys. The total years of friendship between us is over 300 years. A man couldn't wish for better, more upstanding company at such a special Club”



FESTIVE *Reciprocity*

CCJ (18 DEC - 14 JAN) GREEN FEE R376	011 202 1600
HOUGHTON GC (12 DEC - 14 JAN) GREEN FEE R380	011 728 7337
GLENDOWER GC (12 DEC - 7 JAN) GREEN FEES WEEKDAY R385 WEEKEND R400	011 453 1013
JACKAL CREEK (5 DEC - 14 JAN) GREEN FEE R320	010 880 3999
KYALAMI (5 DEC - 21 JAN) GREEN FEE R315	010 594 0034
RANDPARK (4 DEC - 7 JAN) GREEN FEES WEEKDAY R380 WEEKEND R415	011 215 8600
DAINFERN (12 DEC - 14 JAN) GREEN FEES WEEKDAY R360 WEEKEND R450	011 875 0421
WANDERERS (4 DEC - 21 JAN) GREEN FEE R340	011 880 9682
KILLARNEY (5 DEC - 21 JAN) GREEN FEE R340	011 442 7411
EAGLE CANYON (12 DEC - 7 JAN) GREEN FEE R320	011 801 6600
BRYANSTON CC (18 DEC - 5 JAN) GREEN FEE R450	011 646 5400
PARKVIEW GC (12 DEC - 7 JAN) GREEN FEE WEEKDAY R370 WEEKEND R400	011 646 5400

GOLF BALL ROLLBACK

USGA & R&A - BY GOLF DIGEST



The USGA and the R&A formally announce their intention to roll back the distance golf balls can travel. The rollback goes into effect January 2028 for elite competitions and for everybody come January 2030. The decision, part of the governing bodies' Distance Insights Project, comes after some three years of "Notice and Comment" in which the USGA and R&A accepted feedback from golf's stakeholders.

"Governance is hard. And while thousands will claim that we did too much, there will be just as many who said we didn't do enough to protect the game long-term," said Mike Whan, CEO of the USGA. "But from the very beginning, we've been driven to do what is right for the game, without bias. As we've said, doing nothing is not an option—and we would be failing in our responsibility to protect the game's future if we didn't take appropriate action now."



The specifics, first reported by Golf Digest, involve the test for the Overall Distance Standard. The governing bodies are increasing the swing speed at which golf balls are tested from the current standard of 120 mph to 125 mph without changing the distance limit of 317 yards (plus a three-yard tolerance) with a launch angle of 11 degrees and 2,200 rpm of spin. In layman's terms, according to the USGA and R&A, the effect could be a distance loss of nine to 11 yards at the PGA Tour or DP World Tour level, five to seven yards for the LPGA/LET and between five yards or less for everyday players.

All golf balls submitted to the USGA for conformance during or after October 2027 will be evaluated using the new protocol. In other words, if everyday golfers want to continue using longer golf balls in 2028 and 2029, they will be older-model balls. There was no mention in the Notice of Decision how one would be able to tell what is an old conforming ball and what is a new conforming ball other than comparing it to the conforming list. However, John Spitzer, the USGA's managing director of equipment standards, said approximately one-third of balls currently on the conforming list would still be conforming under the new protocol, primarily two- and-three piece balls with ionomer covers.

The change in speed and the fact it affects all golfers are significant departures from the governing bodies previous stance. In 2022, the speed being looked at was 125 mph but that was amended in March 2023 to 127. However, also at that time the proposal was stated as a Model Local Rule impacting elite professional golfers only. Said Whan at the time, "We don't see recreational golf obsoleting golf courses any time soon."

So why the change to include everybody? The governing bodies say the move to a universal rollback was the result of feedback during the Notice and Comment period triggered in March after the announcement of the proposed MLR. In a note to all industry stakeholders, the USGA and R&A conveyed that, "While we previously proposed a targeted change to only elite golf, we have incorporated feedback from a broad range of stakeholders/players who stressed the importance of unification in the game of golf, mainly the importance of maintaining a single set of playing rules and a single set of equipment standards. This feedback clearly indicated that an across-the-game solution with deferred implementation is the preferred solution."

Exactly how much distance regular golfers will lose, however, remains a bit gray since the one to five yards mention on Wednesday by the governing bodies doesn't quite jibe with a USGA published report in June 2022. Although they stated similar numbers, there also was this on the testing of a shorter ball.

"In testing with the NP-500 ... participants reported a perceived distance reduction of about 4.9 percent (210 yards compared to a 221-yard self-reported average). This is consistent with expectations based on laboratory testing." In other words, not quite one to five yards. Still, Thomas Pagel, the USGA's chief governance officer, told Golf Digest everyday golfers should rest easy.

"It's five yards at most and likely limited to your driver," Pagel said. "I don't want to minimize people's feelings or concerns about losing even a yard. We all have those concerns. We all want that extra yard or two. But just put this in the practical senses of this would mean, you know, 222 yards instead of 225. And you do have the ability to move tees up. You do have the ability to play forward tees. I would just say trust in the process. Over the next six years, I think we'll find that the sky hasn't fallen, the game is still going to be healthy."

Perhaps just as important as the decision on golf balls, it appears the governing bodies are not quite done putting a governor on distance. Included in the note to stakeholders were two additional areas being looked at. The first is expanding testing of submitted drivers to keep tabs on "CT Creep," which is drivers getting springier over time due to use, leading to the possibility of a conforming club becoming non-conforming. This is not a change, per se, and does not impact everyday players. The next item, however, is to continue its research into the forgiveness of drivers at the elite level, which could lead to reductions in moment of inertia (which mitigates distance loss on mis-hits), driver-head size or both. Although the language was aimed solely at elite players, as we have seen with the ball rollback decision, things have a way of changing.



GOLF IN SOUTH AFRICA

2023 – BY STUART MCLEAN



The new millennium has seen a remarkable increase in the number of new courses opened for play in South Africa, a grand total of 53. As many as 43 which now have 18 holes, plus ten 9-holers. Nearly all opened in the boom years between 2000 and 2010, and the golf course design and construction industry has been comparatively inactive since then.

Yet there has also been an equivalent loss of courses in the same period, more 9-holers than those with 18. Some belonged to the mining industry, while remote locations proved problematic for costly-to-maintain 18-holers. Several city courses also shut their gates, selling up for development reasons, or bankruptcy.

Two of those 53 new courses, Legend (resort in Limpopo) and Bushman Sands (residential estate in Eastern Cape), were among the casualties. Their remote localities proved a liability, as it did for Fish River (Eastern Cape resort) and Leopard Park (residential estate in the North West). Two other remote estate courses were built and never opened for play due to the downturn in the economy after 2008. These were Nondela in Northern KwaZulu-Natal (Ernie Els design) and Tsitsikamma at Storms River in the Garden Route (Golf Data).

Speak to old-timers and they will provide you with a lengthy list of course closures over the last half-century, but the last 25 years have probably seen more than usual. An average of one a year when it comes to 18-holers.

They include some cherished standout layouts such as Kensington, King David, Fish River, Crown Mines and Hans Merensky. Fortunately the latter is likely to be revived under new ownership, which is welcome news.

Even with the addition of all these new courses, a census by SA Top 100 courses has revealed that currently 414 golf courses have affiliation to GolfRSA, a breakdown of 195 with 18 holes, and 219 with 9 holes. That includes a unique 13-hole course at Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal. The 9-holers include the extra nines at two 27-hole facilities, Hermanus and Paarl.

Not included among the 414 courses is the 18-hole Whistling Thorn Par 3 Course at Serengeti Estates in Gauteng.

There are additional courses which have no affiliation to GolfRSA, among them two 9-holers in Mpumalanga and Limpopo, and Mooipoort near Pretoria which has an 18-hole Par-60 (3 100-metre) "boutique" course, like Simbithi on the KZN North Coast, with 12 par 3s and six par 4s. Others without affiliation include the 18-hole Par 3 Course at Hazendal wine estate in the Western Cape, the 9-hole Sedge Links in the Garden Route, with a mix of par 3s and short par 4s, and 9-hole Penn Valley on the KZN South Coast.

We remain a small golfing nation in a big country, 129 118 affiliated men and women as at the end of 2022. The national 2023 figures have not yet been confirmed by GolfRSA. And that's after the Covid boost to golf, which saw affiliation jump by 5 329 from the 2020 total of 123 789. Disappointing though remains the number of women golfers, just 14 228, which is 1 500 down from 2017. There has been a notable decline in numbers at the Central Gauteng, Gauteng North and Ekurhuleni golf unions, which make up the greater Gauteng region. From 46 704 golfers in 2017 to 40 756, a drop of nearly 13% over five years. And 8 000 of those are at four clubs, CCJ, Bryanston, Randpark and Royal Johannesburg.

Central, once having the biggest membership of the 14 provincial unions, has seen its latest 2023 affiliated numbers plummet to under 20 000, which puts it a distant No 2 behind KZN, which has 26 086. This figure is somewhat misleading though. The true number of golfers who reside in KZN is considerably fewer. Two remote KZN clubs, Port Shepstone (5560 members) and Cathedral Peak (4675), have cornered the "virtual membership" market by offering cheap deals snapped up by locals countrywide and foreigners. Between them they have 10 235 members, some 8% of the total SA affiliation numbers!

In addition, two other minor KZN clubs, Drakensberg Gardens and Umfolozi, again far from any metropole, have 2 442 members. This is slightly less than the combined membership of Mount Edgecombe (948), Durban Country Club (660), Umhlali (560) and Simbithi (560), among the busiest clubs in the province.

Outside the main metropolitan areas courses are few and far between. The Eastern Cape is more than twice the size of Scotland, yet has 46 courses compared to Scotland's 550. The Northern Cape is more than twice the size of the Eastern Cape, and has 27 courses with 1 545 members. Ulco GC near Kimberley might have the smallest membership of any in SA with a course, a mere 10.

By contrast, in the greater Gauteng region, golfers have a choice of 65 18-hole courses within a 100-kilometre radius of Observatory GC, the closest course to the Johannesburg CBD. That is one-third of the total 18-holers in South Africa.

Those 53 new courses since 2000 substantially altered the landscape of the original Golf Digest Top 100 rankings. Nine of the new 18-holers have never made the Top 100 – that list includes Millvale, an exclusive private club in the North West with no wish to be ranked – but the majority of the other 34 have pushed out many respected courses that featured prominently. Plus a "9-holer" with 12 greens, Gowrie Farm, which made it into the Top 50. It is now 18, although the new holes are still growing in.

Other modern courses which began as 9-holers and added an extra 9 are Goose Valley, St Francis Bay, Seasons, Vulintaba and Millvale. Three new 18-holers, Clarens, Parys and Robertson (all estates), were built on the sites of original 9-holers without using the old holes.

Our census indicates that 50 courses are no longer with us from those counted in 2000. The split is 23 of 18 holes, and 27 of 9 holes. We lost eight Bob Grimsdell designs, four by Gary Player, and one by Peter Matkovich. One of the 18-holers to close was considered SA's absolute worst course, with sand and oil greens, in the Northern Cape near Upington, but it had one of the best names, Eureka!

There is a possibility Legend and Hans Merensky will re-open, as happened with Huddle Park in Johannesburg, where the Blue Course was restored on property which once boasted 54 holes, and Emfuleni (now back in the Top 100) and Vaal de Grace (shut during Covid).

Incidentally, three of those 50 courses lost have been rebuilt as entirely new designs – Hermanus, Houghton and Wedgewood.

We are seeing a recent trend of 18-hole courses being reduced to 9 for a variety of reasons, mostly financial. These are Durban's Beachwood (earmarked for development), Sakabula in the KZN Midlands (development again on the back nine), the Free State's Sand River and Ladybrand, Walmer CC (Eastern Cape) and Zwartkop (Gauteng North). Walmer in Port Elizabeth did close as a club, yet 14 holes remain open in poor condition, with a container as a clubhouse.

(To read the full article please visit www.satop100courses.com).

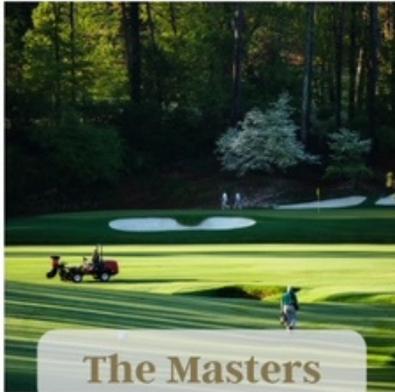


ROYAL JOHANNESBURG
EST. 1890

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

golft traveller

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requirements please visit
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CLICK HERE

ROYAL JOHANNESBURG CLUB TRIP: LIVERPOOL

10 NIGHTS | 29 MARCH - 8 APRIL 2024

ACCOMMODATION

10 Nights **B&B** at Titanic Hotel, Liverpool (4*)
Superior Corner Room

Shared & Single Occupancy Available

Upgrades available upon request

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Daily Breakfast

Clubhouse Dinners (x2)

GOLF

Royal Liverpool Golf Club

Formby Golf Club

Hillside Golf Club

Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club

Royal Birkdale Golf Club

TRANSFERS

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With Hospitality

Manchester City vs Arsenal, Etihad Stadium
General Admission

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RAHM JOINS LIV

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED - BREAKING NEWS



In a move that could reignite professional golf's civil war, Jon Rahm has signed with LIV Golf. Rahm, 29, spoke to reporters late Thursday afternoon (US) after LIV Golf disclosed what has been rumored for some time, that the two-time major winner would be joining the controversial league for the 2024 season and possibly beyond.

Contract figures were not disclosed, including the length, but it is safe to say that Rahm is getting a hefty upfront guarantee along with annual payments, as well as the opportunity to play for \$20 million purses every week along with captaining his own team—so far undisclosed—which comes with 25 percent equity. Rahm said his decision had nothing to do with any angst or displeasure with the PGA Tour and said he was unaware of the status of the "framework agreement" negotiations with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, which funds LIV Golf.

"I'm forever grateful to the PGA Tour and the platform they allowed me to be on," Rahm said. "I have nothing bad to say about them. They allowed me the opportunity to play in some great events and allowed me to make a mark."

(To read the full article please visit www.si.com)

EAST TO WEST

JERRY STEYN, COURSE MANAGER



FESTIVE GREETINGS

Spring is now officially in the past and summer has started. It has been a challenging spring with the heatwaves we have experienced thus far. We have little but sufficient rainfall, 129mm was a total recording on site for November. The West course tee's and fairways was fertilized on Monday 6 November – this concluded both courses being fertilized a bit later than normal but all in cognisance of the El Nino presence. Our water reserves have been well managed and we continue to monitor this with a close eye.

The teams are now hard at work completing all sodding of bare patches and treating thin areas with extra fertilizer and topdressing and we aim to have this recovered as soon as possible while still doing primary maintenance practices in between. The greens on both courses will be receiving their second granular fertilizer application in the first week of December as part of our agronomical program. Unfortunately, they will slow down a touch but will be back to a good pace in no time. The last bit of greens dusting has been done on the West for 2023 and we are now in the process preparing for the hollowtining of the East greens on the 8th of January 2024.

During the period from 23 December 2023 to 4 January 2024, our staff will be split into two groups to enjoy the festive season and New Year with their families so over this two-week period we will be operating on a skeleton staff for maintenance. We will continue to perform best practices to ensure that our members and visitors are not affected by this, but need to also bear in mind that staff will be hard at work when on duty during these two weeks.

Greens syringing/hand watering is a vitally important practice done to ensure best water practices and to keep them alive. Some staff have been asked to stop watering during the day by golfers. We instruct our staff to always be cognisant of players and to not impede on any golfer's experience, but in times, when the courses are packed and temperatures are in the high 30's, this might happen from time to time. This is not something that is done to upset any golfer but is part of agronomics to keep the greens in the best healthy condition year round.

Tree program update: We have successfully propagated 40 young tree's on site, all indigenous and common to the Johannesburg region. We have a total of 21 Acacia Robusta (Splendid Thorn) of which 4 is seen on the property and very rare in the whole country, 19 Acacia sieberiana (Paper-barker thorn). We have seeded a further 20 River bush-willow, 20 White Stinkwood and 20 Paper-Bark which should be germinating within the next couple of weeks. We are aiming to have a Minimum of 200-300 common indigenous tree's to be planted in August 2025. Tree's play a vital role in purifying our air, combat climate change, provide housing to millions of species and controlling erosion, having tree's propagated on site will allow us to replace any fallen tree's with indigenous tree's on site which has already been accustomed to the environment and to maintain the magnitude of our know tree's.

We wish all the members and guests and Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. If you are traveling, please be safe as we are looking forward to welcoming you back in January, if you are staying around we look forward to seeing you on the fairways.

Jerry Steyn



APPEAL TO MEMBERS

Please rake your bunkers, replace divots and repair pitch-marks



In golf, customs of etiquette and decorum are just as important as rules governing play. It is the enthusiasm, passion, respect and support of our Club members, which enables us to offer these wonderful facilities.

To offer a great experience it takes the cooperation of all patrons using the course to uphold the guidelines, culture and standards. Golf is a game of great integrity; there are no referees on the course and it's every golfer's responsibility to respect each other, the game and the facility we play. We thank you in advance for helping us and for leaving the courses in a better condition than you found it.

LIMITED PACKAGES
AVAILABLE



BUDDY MEMBERSHIP



INCENTIVISING OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE MEMBERS

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FROM

R862 PM

TS & CS APPLY

Any Member who introduces a "buddy" new member to the Club will receive a 52 round playing ticket split between two Members.
(26 FREE ROUNDS EACH)



WELLNESS



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- FREE VENUE HIRE (STA)
- 10% OFF FOOD & BEVERAGE

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- MEMBER EVENTS & LEAGUE
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LADIES GOLF

WENDY HUDDY, LADIES GOLF MANAGER



Well, she did it! Congrats to our golden girl, Ash Buhai, who successfully defended her title at the ISPS Handa Australian Open Championships played in Sydney last week. It certainly was worth waking up at 04h00 to watch Ash and although it got very tight at the end, she did it. It sounds like she is a favourite with the Aussies and she obviously enjoys playing there! Such a champion in every way Ash and Royal Johannesburg is just so proud of you.

We have managed to get golf in on every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday this month and although we haven't had any major competitions in November, it has been a very busy month.

The Tuesday ladies held their annual Christmas competition and lunch on Tuesday 5 December and a great time was had. The Christmas outfits were fabulous and everyone entered into the Christmas spirit with much enthusiasm. Our chosen 'charity' this year is the housekeeping staff at Royal and all money collected from the raffle and extra cash donations will be divided up between them. Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets – the raffle will be drawn on Saturday 9 December at the BG's Christmas competition.

The 3 ball alliance competition with many twists and turns was won by Amanda Kieser, Marian Ledingham and Liza van Wyk, counting out Lelane Straw, Sam Hudson and Adri Vorster on 45 points. Long service awards were handed out and congrats to the following ladies who received certificates and ball markers in recognition of their membership:

20 years – Aileen Wilmot, Lynn Gardner and Claire Griffin.

30 years – Shirley Hubbard, Sue van der Riet and Lynne Yammin.

40 years – Mellony Maxwell, Bev Claassens, Charmain Partridge and Wendy Huddy.

As mentioned, the BG's will be having their Christmas competition and lunch on the 9th and the Tuesday ladies will be having their last 'organised' game on Tuesday 12 December. The Club is open every day of the holidays, except Christmas Day, so please book your times and support the Club if you are staying in Johannesburg for the holiday period.

To those of you travelling, please travel safely wherever you are going. Our lady captain, Ina Sanders, joins me in wishing you all a happy and peaceful festive season wherever and however you celebrate it and we look forward to seeing you all back at the Club in 2024.

Wendy Huddy



FESTIVE

Specials



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THIS FESTIVE SEASON

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Terms & conditions apply
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Subject to availability at the time of booking
Excluding club competitions

Playing Tickets

1 DECEMBER 2023 - 30 JUNE 2024

PLAY MORE - PAY LESS

At the start of the Clubs financial year (1 July 2023), several members opted to purchase less rounds of golf up front and now require more:

Top up now, until the end of our financial year (30 June 2024) email: membership@royaljhb.co.za.

26 Rounds (R310 per round)	R8060
12 Rounds (R325 per round)	R3900
Pay as you play - 18 holes	R350
Pay as you play - 9 holes	R190

SPECIAL OFFER

Purchase a playing ticket in the month of December and receive a 20% discount voucher to the Old Oak Restaurant.
30% inclusive of member discount when you're not a member of the Club.

T's & C's apply (Valid Wednesday - Friday) subject to availability.

MEMBERS ONLY

CHEFS TABLE

RANSLEY PIETERSEN, EXECUTIVE CHEF



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly." Andy Rooney

As another year draws to a close and the festive spirit dawns on us, we would like to take this time to wish all our members and patrons a joyous & safe festive season filled with gratitude and fellowship. May your travels be filled with lifelong memories and the time spent around your dinner tables nothing short of nostalgic and reminiscent tales enchanted with Christmas cheer. The time of year when we have Michael Buble on repeat for weeks and Christmas lights decorating the streets, a time when days are way too short and nights way too long. The countdown to Christmas begins and the Christmas feast couldn't have come sooner.

My favourite part of the messy aftermath of a Christmas spread would have to be the dishes created from the left overs. There is nothing better than toasted gammon sarmies with a little honey mustard dip on the beach on boxing day. Or a vibrant turkey salad served during a family soccer day. The possibilities are endless and so are the leftovers that never seem to disappear no matter how many dishes you create with them.

To make your life a little easier, our team has put together a wonderful menu with gifting ideas for your loved ones, sharing a little piece of the special place you call home. Be sure to place your orders well in advance to avoid disappointment as stock is limited.

In closing, a special note of thanks to all our members for your support throughout the year. Wishing you a wonderful festive season and i look forward to serving you again soon.

Ransley Pietersen



THE BEE JOURNAL

CLINTON DUNCAN, BEEKEEPER



HELLO HONEY

The start of the honey production season has begun with over 15 months of continuous daily work to see the first honey produced from the facility. This is a major milestone for the club showing the potential for the stocking of honey produced from the Royal grounds. 60 magical 250g jars were poured to enhance the members experience with more members and guests being able to get a glimpse of this unique product which was a major success. There are plans for a secondary harvest at the end of the year 2023 with 500g jars being poured. These jars will be highly limited and will be sold out within a day. Please keep an eye out on the club's social media for when the honey product will be available. I'm glad to announce the Royal Honey won 3rd place in Gauteng at the recent Honey Judges and Stewards Guild South Africa awards which is a major accomplishment being the first entrant from a golf course facility.

The complete honey frame has also been used at the old oak restaurant for chefs tables as we showcase our incredible product to guests as they dine at the award winning restaurant.

Empty catch boxes were installed bringing the total swarm catch count to 9, plans are in place to safely remove a couple more wild colonies with conservation practices and the protecting of all habitats as well. We have successfully caught 4 swarms for this season and plan to catch many more due to the high volumes of bees in the area. There are approximately 17/25 wild colonies per square km in the Johannesburg precinct showing good population numbers of wild colonies excluding managed bee hives. We can't stop bees but we can try and prevent their movements into weird and wonderful obstacles by offering them a home.

In conjunction with the Royal team, I would like to propose a tree drive in 2024 for the planting of indigenous trees in areas where trees have been lost from the 2022/2023 rains and for sustainability growth at our facility. I would also like to propose the protection of areas within the facility once more for environmental conservation under the BeeLIEVE banner with management of those areas.

A hamper will be created with the 2023/2024 harvests and a raffle hosted to raise those funds for as many trees as possible. All money raised from the hamper will go towards the 2024 program and further conservation plans for Royal Johannesburg.

I would like to host an introduction course to bees at our facility. If anyone is interested, please send Candice an email titled Bee course at Royal so we can get numbers for what is a great weekend of learning and networking.

I would like to thank the staff and members for their continued support throughout the year as we keep growing the awareness around bees and the benefits of having a professional bee management program at our incredible facility. I have seen an increase in golf courses trying to copy the initiative plan but to no success. To Jerry and the ground staff team for their increased participation in wanting to learn about the bees and wanting to be more involved in the program. May you all have a safe and festive holiday season and I hope to see everyone back with more beautiful and sweeter scores in 2024.



BEST EMPLOYEES

Of The Month



BONGANI MPOFU

Front of house



NKOSANA DLAMINI

Back of house



ROYAL JOHANNESBURG
EST. 1890

FROM THE PROS

MARTIN BRIEDE, HEAD TEACHING PROFESSIONAL



MERRY MERRY

Another year nearly done and I'm sure you are all looking forward to some rest during the holiday season.

The driving range will be open from 6am till 5pm during the holiday season. On the 24th and 31st of December, we will be closing at midday and we will be closed on the 25th of December and the 1st of January. Members and guests are encouraged to come along and hit some balls on the range during the festive season and don't worry, we have a selection of cold drinks to keep you hydrated on our hot summer days.

I will be running a holiday programme for our juniors from Monday the 11th until Wednesday the 13th of December. The programme runs from 9am until 11am and we will be doing activities on the range as well as the course. The cost will be R900 for the 3 days or R350 per day. You can book via WhatsApp on 084 503 5477 or email martinbriede@me.com

Our ladies clinics have been very popular, so next year we will be hosting regular Monthly Ladies Clinics. The next clinic will be on Wednesday the 24th of January 2024. The clinics include an hour on the range and pizza and wine afterwards. The way to book is via WhatsApp 084 503 5477. The cost is R150 pp.

[Click here to book your spot on the WhatsApp](#)

All that's left is to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a blessed festive season, from me, Gavan, Albert and Joe. Travel safely and those of you that are staying in Johannesburg, I hope to see you on the golf course and driving range. Check my tip below on how to create a trigger movement to start your golf swing.

Martin Briede

Head Teaching Professional

084 503 4577

YOUR TIP OF THE MONTH





SANTAS LIL' *Helpers*



Junior Golf Holiday Clinic

Hosted at Royal Johannesburg, this event spans three days of enjoyment and instruction led by Martin Briedé, named PGA Coach of the Year, and his proficient team. Participants will be exposed to the newest coaching methodologies from the Titleist Institute in America, a program that the children thoroughly enjoy!

Date: Monday 11th to Wednesday 13th December 2023

Time: 9 am to 11 am daily

R900 per child for the entire week or R350 per day.

BOOK NOW by calling Martin at 084 503 5477 or emailing martinbriede@me.com



SHOTS OF THE MONTH

TREVOR BARNETT, RESIDENT PHOTOGRAPHER



ITS A WRAP! MEMBER GALLERY











GREGS SHOP

GREG JACOBS, HEAD PROFESSIONAL



JUST FOR YOU

As always I'm all about our members and this promotion is just that. I've been thinking out the box to save you money on all your golf equipment purchases during the course of the year. I want to charge our members cost price on all goods in the shop from golf balls to jerseys to drivers and everything in-between.

Let me give you a couple of examples of the savings you will enjoy. The new Titleist TSR driver that retails for R10 000 can be purchased for R5 250 plus VAT. A Scott Cameron putter that retails for R7 000 you would only pay R4 350 plus VAT. An electric cart that retails for R17 999 you can get for R12 500 plus VAT. Now, consider the savings on golf balls and gloves during the course of the year. You'll reach "buy-in" in no time.

The cost to the member is a once-off fee of R10000.00. This promotion runs for the calendar year. Should you take up this promotion you can enjoy the month of December as well – just in time for Christmas!

As with everything, there are T&C's but I will discuss in length with anyone purchasing the promotion. There will be limitations on what can be purchased and each deal is for the individual only- no sharing!

Greg Jacobs



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New Year

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WELLNESS

SANDRA VAN DEN BERG, ROYAL RETREAT



Ending 2023 on a high note. What a month November has been for AimPointers!

The Nedbank Golf Challenge

I had the privilege of following the 2023 winner of the Nedbank Golf Challenge, Max Homa at Sun City. Max used the AimPoint green reading technique very successfully and sinking pretty long putts.

PGA Tour

AimPointer Erik van Rooyen wins in Mexico, his second win on the PGA Tour!

Making a 16-foot eagle putt on the par-five closing hole to win the PGA Tour's World Wide Technology Championship on 6 Nov. An **unbelievable** back nine 28.

Sunshine Tour

Neil Schietekat and his Caddy Christian Thiart took the AimPoint lesson with me in early September.

After a challenging few weeks in which he battled with an injury, Neil was rewarded with a 2-stroke victory at Pezula in the Vodacom Origins of Golf Final at Pezula on 5 November. Well done to Neil, a Royal Ambassador.

AimPoint Christmas Vouchers now available at Royal JHB

Sandra Van den berg

How to Start the Year with Golf Fitness in Mind

Starting the year off with a focus on golf fitness is a great way to set the tone for improved performance on the course. Here are some tips to help you kick off your golf fitness routine:

1. Assess Your Current Fitness Level:
 - Before diving into a new fitness routine, assess your current fitness level. Identify strengths and weaknesses, areas for improvement, and any physical limitations you may have.
2. Set Specific Goals:
 - Establish clear and achievable fitness goals. These could include improving flexibility, increasing strength, enhancing endurance, or addressing specific areas of your game that need improvement.
3. Warm-Up Routine:
 - Develop a comprehensive warm-up routine that includes dynamic stretches to increase flexibility and mobility. Warming up is crucial for preventing injuries and optimizing performance.
4. Strength Training:
 - Incorporate strength training exercises that target the muscles used in the golf swing. Focus on core strength, leg strength, and overall stability. Compound exercises like squats, deadlifts, and lunges can be beneficial.
5. Mobility Training:
 - Improve your mobility with targeted strength and flexibility exercises. Pay attention to areas such as the hips, shoulders, and thoracic spine, as these are key for a fluid golf swing. Yoga and Pilates can also be valuable for enhancing flexibility and stability.
6. Cardiovascular Fitness:
 - Include cardiovascular exercises to improve overall endurance. Activities like brisk walking, jogging, cycling, or elliptical training can help enhance your cardiovascular fitness, which is essential for walking the course without fatigue.
7. Balance and Stability Exercises:
 - Golf requires good balance and stability. Incorporate exercises that challenge your balance, such as single-leg exercises, stability ball exercises, and balance board drills.
8. Golf-Specific Drills:
 - Practice golf-specific drills that mimic the motions of the golf swing. This can help you build muscle memory and improve the coordination of your movements.
9. Seek Professional Guidance:
 - Consider consulting with a fitness professional or a golf fitness trainer. They can assess your individual needs, provide personalized guidance, and ensure that your fitness routine aligns with your golf goals.
10. Stay Consistent:
 - Consistency is key in any fitness program. Create a schedule that allows you to consistently engage in your golf fitness routine. Whether it's a few times a week or daily, sticking to your plan will yield better results over time.

Remember to listen to your body, and if you have any existing health conditions or concerns, consult with a healthcare professional before starting a new fitness program.

Dale Ebell

HOME SWEAT HOME

BUILD YOUR OWN GYM





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HAPPY

SCHEDULE

New Year

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

8 - 12 JANUARY
EAST COURSE HOLLOWTINING

1

ALL FACILITIES CLOSED

2

CLUB ADMIN RE OPENS

8

EAST COURSE HOLLOWTINING

8

BACK TO NORMAL TRADE

17

PVT SCHOOLS OPEN

17

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN

29

SA AMATEUR PREP (FEB)



GUEST RELATIONS & BOOKINGS
RECEPTION@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA
BOOKINGS@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

GOLF
LIAM BROWN GOLFDIRECTOR1@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA
GREG JACOBS PROSHOP@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA
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As our newsletter continues to evolve, we are looking to make it even more useful and interesting for our members. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us.



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