

Good Times

July 2024 | Issue 7

THE MONTHLY NEWS OF ROYAL JOHANNESBURG

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From outside the Clocktower

By Candice Humphrey

Chilly mornings and cool evenings have characterized the past month, but there is little else to complain about. July has blessed us with some exceptional winter weather, which I'm sure all the golfers can appreciate. The crisp air and mild temperatures create the perfect conditions for a round of golf. Whether you're an early riser catching the first light or prefer the serene calm of twilight, this season has provided ample opportunity for everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

In a dominant fashion, Xander Schauffele emerged as the 152nd Open Championship winner, finishing with a phenomenal final round and finishing two strokes clear of Justin Rose and Billy Horschel. This victory, marked by exceptional skill and composure, will undoubtedly be remembered for years to come.

Next, attention turned to the LIV Golf UK event held at the JCB Golf & Country Club, where our previous CEO, Chris Bentley, played a pivotal role in organizing the event. The tournament featured top-notch performances, with John Rahm clinching the win, showcasing his remarkable talent and competitive spirit.

As we shift our focus, we eagerly anticipate the Olympic Games, where we'll have the pleasure of watching our very own Ashleigh Buhai represent South Africa in golf. Her participation promises to add to the excitement and pride to all at the Club.

The Club has completed its' preparations for the annual financial audit, taking place this week. The financial year was certainly a story of two halves and as forecasted, the preliminary results for the year ending, 30 June 2024, reflect the expected operating loss (pre audit), primarily due to the exorbitant fuel bills, the solar installation, patio furniture upgrade and new course equipment.

The Club closed its financial year with 69 864 rounds of golf played and a 4% increase in membership (1750) including residential members. The new budget and financial forecast for the upcoming year appear highly promising, signalling a period of growth and achievement for our organisation. With strategic planning, we anticipate seeing numerous initiatives and projects come to fruition. This forward-looking approach not only aims to enhance our financial stability but also fosters innovation and development across various departments. By capitalizing on opportunities and optimising resource allocation, the collective efforts of our dedicated team shows we are committed to sustainable growth.



We are pleased to announce that the driving range upgrade is progressing smoothly and on schedule. Our dedicated team is working diligently to meet the timeline we have set out. We are excited to inform you that the driving range will be open for hitting off mats only starting Friday, August 16th, while the newly levelled tee box undergoes its grow-in period. The full official opening of the driving range, including the revamped putting and chipping greens, is scheduled for November 1, 2024. We would like to thank members for their patience and support during this time and we look forward to welcoming you to our improved facilities.

Continuing with course projects, the cart path on the 12th East has been completed, providing a smoother and more enjoyable experience for all players. Additionally, the gardens in this area have been rejuvenated, adding a touch of natural beauty and colour. On the 13th East, dredging operations are underway at the dam to enhance water flow and storage capacity, ensuring better course conditions. Lastly, the construction of the retainer wall on the 16th East is in full swing. This addition will not only enhance the visual appeal of the hole but also help manage erosion around the edge. We appreciate your patience and look forward to seeing you enjoy these enhancements.



The Club now progresses with the preparations for the 133rd Annual General Meeting, and the date will be communicated once confirmed. Nominations to serve on the Board will close 10 days prior to the AGM and the Royal Review publication (Annual report/e-mag) will be distributed one week prior to the AGM. Any member wishing to advertise or contribute to this year's publication, please email marketing@royaljhb.co.za.

In closing, we are delighted to officially welcome our new CEO, Mr. Jason Bird to our Club. Some of you may have already had the pleasure of meeting him in and around the clubhouse this week. We extend our best wishes to Jason as he hits the ground running, especially with the Q2 Board meeting scheduled for next week. Here's to a successful and dynamic future under his leadership.





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Happy Golfing

By, Tiaan Van Wyk | Golf Manager



BOOK YOUR SPOT FOR WINTER CLUB CHAMPS

It has been 8 years and some, since my last workday at Royal Johannesburg. I return with optimism in assisting the already astute team in making the life of you, the member, a touch easier in dealing with your day to day golfing requirements. As we try to provide the best offerings to all our high-end member base, we, the golf department, are here for you. We look forward to making your time at Royal Johannesburg the best it can possibly be.

Looking forward to meeting all the new members and catching up with the old members.

*"Golf is the closest game to the game we call life.
You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots—
but you have to play the ball where it lies." -
Bobby Jones*

Upcoming Events

Winter Club Championships are approaching quickly, Entries will be closing soon, so if you have not entered and want to participate on 10 & 11 August 2024, please get those entries in as soon as possible. We are looking forward to hosting another incredible event this year - bring those mittens as well.

League

Scratch League 1st Team – Currently Leading the A Division.

Scratch League 2nd Team – Currently in T2 in the C Division.

Mixed Betterball League – Currently in 3rd position

East Team – Currently in T3 in the B Division

West Team – Currently in 9th position in the C Division

Mid Am league – Currently in 1st place in the A Division.

Junior league – Currently in T1 in the B Division, chasing down Promotion into the A Division.

Dates to diarise:

Saturday 10 August and Sunday 11 August	2024 Winter Club Championships
Saturday 24 August	3rd Round Interschools Challenge
Saturday 31 August	Heritage Championships

Get to know the golf department is a new addition to the newsletter when we plan to introduce you to all our golf operations staff members. We will start with the first installment with our youngest team member, our Assistant Golf Director Tiaan van Wyk - his responses to the questions are below.

GOLF OPERATIONS

TIAAN VAN WYK

Designation	Age:	Zodiac Sign:	Handicap Index
Assistant Golf Director	22 years old	Cancer	3.1



WHAT INITIALLY DREW YOU TO WORK AT THIS GOLF CLUB?

I was a member of Royal Johannesburg during my time at BSI and the more I played golf at the Club, the more I understood and appreciated the ethos, tradition and culture within the Club. Whilst the bricks and mortar of Royal are impressive, the unbelievable staff drew me to want to work at this incredible Club.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY OR EXPERIENCE FROM WORKING HERE SO FAR?

My favorite memory / experience at Royal so far would be our 2024 Club Championship – the early mornings and late nights with the team was definitely a memorable experience! The member appreciation also made the event all the more special.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

I enjoy making people feel recognized and appreciated – working in the golf industry allows me to achieve this by offering people a world-class golfing experience with the help of the awesome team at Royal Johannesburg.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE GOLF COURSE OR TOURNAMENT THAT YOU’VE PLAYED IN OR WATCHED?

My favorite tournament would be The Masters, mainly because they’ve always maintained their tradition of excellence by upholding their standards and have always offered a consistent and high-quality experience.

OUTSIDE OF WORK, WHAT HOBBIES OR INTERESTS DO YOU PURSUE?

My favorite memory / experience at Royal so far would be our 2024 Club Championship – the early mornings and late nights with the team was definitely a memorable experience! The member appreciation also made the event all the more special.

5 Royals at Port Alfred

By, Chris Campbell

This annual competition has been held at Royal Port Alfred since 1985 and is played between members of the 5 Southern African Royal Clubs, Cape, Durban, Harare, Johannesburg, and Port Alfred.

The clubs take it turn at acting as host and the competition is played over 3 days as a betterball with a twist. Each pairing is made up of a player from a different club and at the end of each day the scores of each club are averaged. As Johannesburg had the smallest team with only 12 players, all our scores counted each day. The club with the fewest representatives determines the number of scores to count from each team. A secret random draw to decide the players from clubs with higher numbers is held prior to the start of Friday's play (3 draws for each team). The other players therefore don't know if they will count towards the team score or not.

Registration is completed on Thursday evening followed by a social gathering with informal food and drink. The competition starts on Friday with a flag raising ceremony by the 5 captains.

Each day starts with breakfast in the clubhouse and this year the format changed to a shotgun start. This enabled everyone to finish at approximately the same time. At the end of each day's play, there is an excellent social scene in the clubhouse with a buffet meal or a braai served each night. The weather was sunny but windy during the competition and the course was in excellent condition.

The main prizegiving is held on Sunday evening with a number of trophies and prizes for teams and individual pairs. As the scores are averaged for each team, the result is usually very close and the lead changes each day. This year Royal Port Alfred emerged the winners on Sunday evening, but everyone celebrated in the clubhouse with the closing stages of The Open on the TVs.

Royal Johannesburg used to field a large number of players but unfortunately, we have been represented by a very small team in the last few years which makes it harder to compete against the others. It is a wonderful weekend that can also be extended to take in the courses in PE or East London.





August

2024

Thursday 1st August	Ladies Weekday League
Saturday 3rd August	Betterball Stableford
Sunday 4th August	Alliance 2 scores to count Mens Betterball League R8
Monday 5th August	East Course Closed
Tuesday 6th August	Ladies Comp - Individual Draw
Wednesday 7th August	Individual Stableford
Friday 9th August	Pubic Holiday - Womens Day
Saturday 10th August	Individual Stableford Winter Club Championships
Sunday 11th August	Betterball Medal Winter Club Championships Junior League Rnd 5
Monday 12th August	East Course Closed
Tuesday 13th August	Ladies Comp - Fourball alliance
Wednesday 14th August	Club Comp - Betterball Stableford
Saturday 17th August	Alliance 2 Scores to Count
Sunday 18th August	Individual Stableford Ladies Sunday League Rnd 7
Monday 19th August	West Course Closed
Tuesday 20th August	Ladies Comp - Betterball Stableford
Wednesday 21st August	Betterball Bonus Bogey
Saturday 24th August	Betterball Stableford Interschools Round 3
Sunday 25th August	Betterball Stableford Men's Scratch League Rnd 5
Monday 26th August	East Course Closed
Tuesday 27th August	Ladies Comp - 3 Ball Alliance (Anstey Trophy)
Wednesday 28th August	Golf Directors Surprise
Saturday 31st August	Heritage Champs - Betterball stableford Mid-AM League Rnd 7

Please note dates are subject to change, please confirm with the Club. Additional events will be added as confirmed



the Heritage Golf



CHAMPIONSHIPS



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Ladies Golf

By, Wendy Huddy | Ladies Golf Manager

And yet another Ladies Open day had to be cancelled due to the cold weather and this time it was the Ladies Wimbledon Open Day on Tuesday 9 July! The temperature in the morning was – 5 and although it did get a bit warmer, the day would have been miserable from the start. We had 92 ladies in the field for that day and it is hoped that all 92 will return on Tuesday 1st October when we will attempt to have the day again – Wimbledon and all!!

As in most months, we have had mixed fortunes with our ladies league teams but all things considered, all three teams are doing well. Our weekday 1 team lie in second position in the A division, our weekday 2 team lie in fourth position in the C division and our Sunday team lie in 4th position in the Sunday league A division. With three matches left in the season for all our teams, there is still much to play for. Good luck ladies.

Congratulations to Lauren van der Merwe who will be representing CGGU at the upcoming Mid Am IPT to be held at Irene Country Club from 4 to 8 August. Lauren is no stranger to provincial golf and has represented CGGU and North West Province for many years - wishing Lauren much luck in this Interprovincial.

August is Olympics time and we can all look forward to watching Ashleigh Buhai competing against 59 other lady golfers for the gold medal from August 7th to 10th in France. Good luck to both Ash and South Africa's other lady qualifier, Paula Reto and we hope both ladies have an enjoyable and successful Olympic campaign.

It's always lovely to end a report on a happy note so sincere congratulations to one of our lady members, Kirsty Chamberlain and her husband Gareth, on the safe arrival of their little girl, mid-July. The ladies at Royal look forward to having you back at the Club soon Kirsty and meeting our newest 'lady' member!

I look forward to introducing you all to our new C.E.O., Mr Jason Bird, as he starts his Royal journey on 1 August and trust that you will all give him a warm welcome to our wonderful Club.

Keep well ladies and see you all around the Clubhouse.





.....★ ★ ★.....

GOLF

On Women's Day

.....★ ★ ★.....

.....

FRIDAY

9 August 2024

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I am extremely excited to welcome our newest member of the golf shop team, Luca Harding.

Luca loves his golf and hits it a country mile! He has a wonderful, friendly demeanour and will make a fantastic addition to our golf shop team.

This time of year we go on sale! All shirts, jerseys and jackets are less 30% for the month of August.

To compliment this sale, FJ shoes are all less 20% and if you like black we'll give you a further 5%!

The new Titleist GT driver launches at the end of the month. If you get your orders in early I may be able to get you the driver before the launch! As an opening special, all pre-orders will be less 10%.

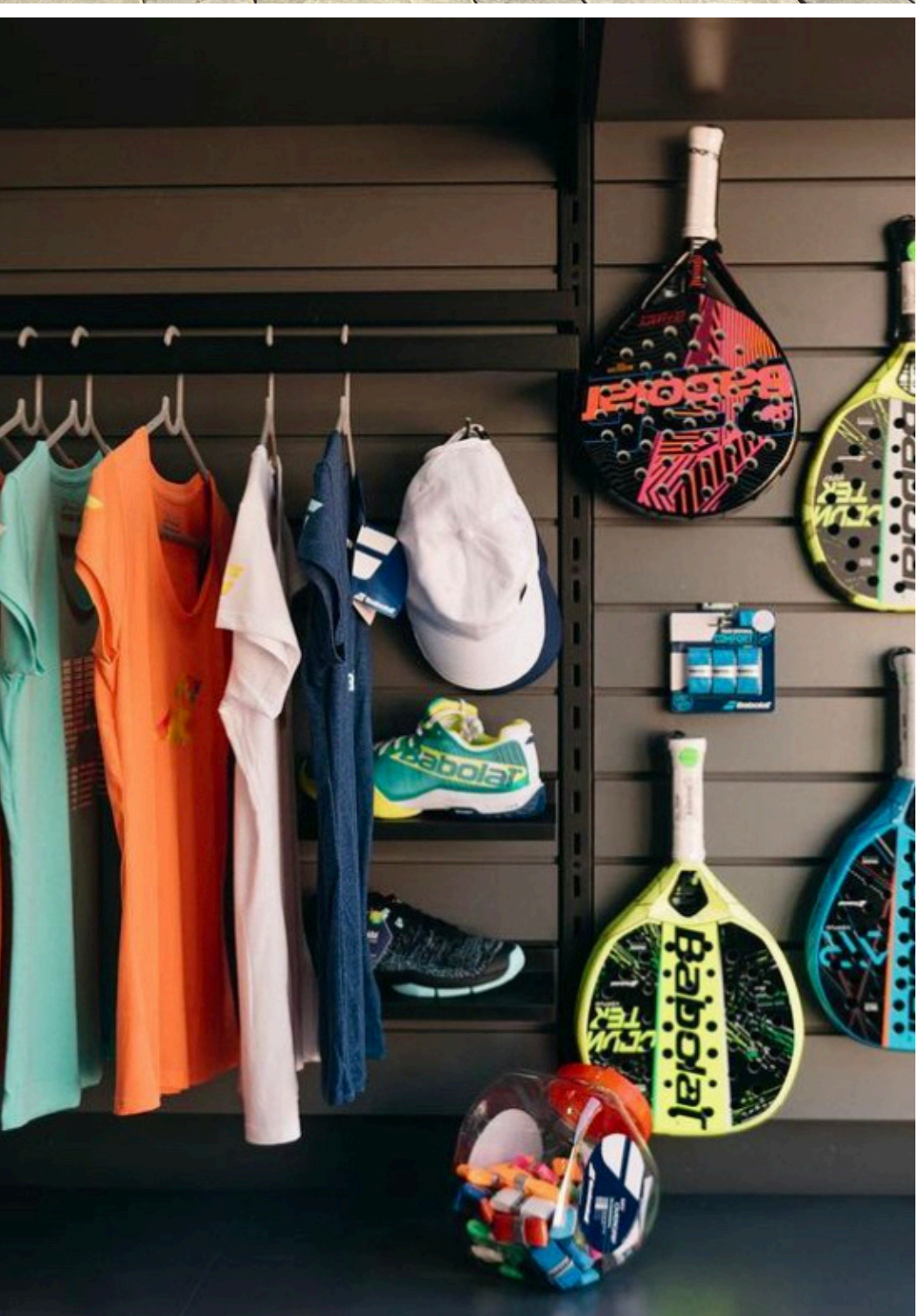




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From East to West

By, Jerry Steyn | Course Manager



W i n t e r p r o j e c t s p r o g r e s s i n g s w i f t l y

July was no slow start for us. We have started with three projects during the month and we aim to have them completed mid-August. We started with the dredging of the 13th East dam as this tee has been silted up to a point where water flow is restricted to only the left side, causing flooding of the 11th fairway during storms. The dredging will also assist us in storing more water. We are also busy building a new retainer wall on the 16th East dam as we have had erosion of the bank over the past years to a point where it is threatening the green and surrounds. This wall will run 105m from the 17th path by the tee to the front of the 16th tee and the wall will be clad with rock and become a beautiful aesthetic feature similar to the 11th East.

July also saw the completion of the 12th East tee complex new path and compliments to Hennie and his team for the immaculate work done on the new path. As soon as all the tie-ins have grown, it will become another beautiful part of the course. We will soon be installing drainage on the side of the paths to collect storm water to run off into the waterway and not collect like before.



The biggest project of them all is the driving range upgrade. We started this project on 1 July and aim to have the concrete mats open by mid-August. The range now has one tier level tee and no longer the three tier tee. The top tee was used as cut and fill to level out the whole complex and we will be laser levelling this tee with the topsoil stockpiled in the last week of July. Sprigs from the scarify clippings will be used to grow in this new 2700sqm tee box. Excess fill was used to build up the four target greens set out on the driving range. During the last week of July, we will work on the G5 base material for final preparations of the greens and install the synthetic turf the first week of August - final sodding of banks and target greens surrounds will also be done the first week of August. Phase one of the range upgrades is still well within our budget and we are excited to open this new practice facility.

With spring only a month away for us, we are starting our annual spring treatments on 5 August on the West course - deep verti cutting will be taking place to remove all the dead kikuyu and allow the new sprouts to shoot out as the temperatures start picking up. We will start on the West course and proceed to the East as soon as the West is done. We apologise for the dusty two months approaching but this is a crucial treatment that will setup the courses to be in immaculate conditions come November.

We look forward to the completion of the projects and seeing all the golfers out there. Enjoy the last bit of cold and the windy conditions - spring is around the corner.



Reminder

Course Maintenance

FAIRWAY SCARIFYING
EAST TO WEST

5TH AUGUST - 14TH SEPTEMBER

HOLLOW TINING
EAST COURSE

2ND - 6TH SEPTEMBER

Tip of the Month

By, Martin Briedé | Head Teaching Pro



The range project is progressing nicely and is set to reopen on the 16th of August. Have a look at the attached video to see the progress and get a preview of what it will look like.

My tip this month is how to use our new range to practice more efficiently. The target greens are a Dave Pelz design - as they get closer, the smaller they get so the shorter the shot, the more precise it trains you to be. The new range will be perfect for practicing precise wedges.



Often I hear the complaint from students, that they hit the ball much better on the range than on the course or describe themselves as a range “pro”. The solution to taking your range game onto the course is to practice more like you play by picking precise targets like our new target greens, by making sure you are aiming correctly by using alignment sticks and by using your same pre shot routine as on the course.

I would also suggest changing clubs and targets more often, mimicking the different shots and distances you have to hit on the golf course. This is referred to as “random” practice rather than “block” practice, which is hitting the same shot to the same target over and over again.

The new range is designed to be the best environment to hone your game and I'm really excited for the reopening.

Martin Briede 084 503 5477 | Gavan Levenson 082 990 7186 | Ricki Dembo 071 381 8715





Player	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4	Score 5
CONNOR Pat	81	75	156		
CONNOR Peter	75	70	145	73	81
SULLIVAN	75	73	148	71	68
ES, D	77	75	152		
WELL, D	74	75	149		
FERRITT, P	84	82	166		
EWART, V	70	77	147	72	7
UHY, R	77	81	158		
ALLACE, KP	74	72	146	72	
MAN, H	69	72	141	73	
HOLME, C	75	73	148	70	
D					
E PG					
B					

Club Competition Results

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Winter Club Championships

10 & 11 August 2024



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The Chefs Table

By, Ransley Pietersen | Executive Chef

Food for thought

We don't have a farm-to-table food safety system. I keep saying this. It came as a big surprise to the FDA that tomatoes were being grown in the United States, sent to Mexico for packing, and then sent back. I mean, they had no idea that our food chain worked like this. - Marion Nestle

In bridging the gap between farmers and restaurants we are on the brink of embarking on an exciting new project that will give birth to an expansion of Rumbi's Garden. The very limited and plain yet functional garden that we have introduced in the surroundings of The Old Oak will soon be supplemented by an array of new herbs and crops that we plan on seeding throughout the month of August. This will help us manage the overexploitation and harvesting in the same areas mitigating the risk of diminishing the crop to a point where it will become unsalvageable.

We are taking this approach to better align our philosophy of farm to table as well as focus on upskilling chefs and waiters in the process. A feeder garden will be incorporated at the nursery that our Course Manager, Jerry Steyn, has been getting ready for some time. In turn there are multiple ways we benefit from this sort of approach such as curbing costs of fine herbs and garnishes for our dishes, ensuring the ultimate freshness, preservation of flavour, maximum nutritional value and most importantly becoming more sustainable.

What a fitting time to tie in mother nature and celebrate all the powerful women in our lives. Pop into The Old Oak or Champions Retreat for a complimentary Mimosa on Women's Day, 9 August 2024. For the month of August we will be featuring two extraordinary winemakers, Catherine Marshall & Samantha G. O'Keefe. We will pair selected wines with inspirational dishes curated by our female chefs to pay tribute and acknowledge their unwavering dedication to our industry.

Smoke Stories in partnership with Pernod Ricard and Jameson is set for the 30th of August, an evening filled with whisky, cocktails, open fire cooking and the stories of smoke and sophistication. Booking opening soon, very limited seats available.





THE OLD OAK

Restaurant & Family Centre

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@ The Old Oak

Friday 30 August 2024 | 18h00

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Hello Honey

By, Clinton Duncan | Royals Bee Guy



The only award winning honey produced off a golf facility in South Africa.

The winter season has brought with it some extremely cold mornings and evenings. The winter period plays a pivotal role at Royal Johannesburg with area maintenance around the hives which includes grass cutting. An assessment will be done on the general health of all bee colonies in August as we prepare to add the honey supers onto the newly established bee hives. At this moment, there are eight hives along both courses. The final apiary site will be prepared along the West course. Swarm catchment areas have been identified for the spring/summer period and will be set up for proactive swarm catchments during the 2024/2025 season. Royal has seen large amount of swarms during the spring season due to the ongoing developments in the surrounding areas.

The biggest areas for hive formations have been identified which are valve boxes, propolis trees and bushwillow trees.

The Royal Honey has created a buzz amongst members and guests as well as being the only award winning honey produced off a golf facility in South Africa. Producing top quality honey takes time and patience during the spring nectar flow period and we can expect a top quality harvest in November 2024. The Royal Honey will be submitted for the 2024 Honey Stewards Guild of South Africa awards as we try and get the top award for the Gauteng region this year.

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D I S T A N C E : W E A L L W A N T I T !

There is no doubt that distance has been the buzz word in golf and golf fitness over the past 5 years. The purists in golf have been calling for a rollback of the golf ball to protect the golf courses as professionals are hitting it longer and longer. The irony is that the vast majority of people in golf are hitting the golf ball the same distance or shorter than we always have. In fact, the worldwide average driving distance across all ages and genders is 219 yards (just under 200m)! According to an article on distance on www.golfwrx.com the average male driving distance has actually decreased from 226.4 yards in 2018, to 225.9 yards in 2022, while women's driving distance has also decreased from 179 yards in 2018 to 177 yards in 2022.

There are many reasons why this decrease in distance is present, but rather than focussing on the reasons why people hit it shorter, I am going to cover a few topics over the next few months around things you can do in the gym to increase speed and distance.

Movement Efficiency:

One of the most important elements of distance is efficiency. Ever notice how a professional seems to hit the golf ball so effortlessly and yet the golf ball rockets off the Strength: In order for more speed to be created, a greater orce has to be exerted, which requires more muscle. Tiger, Rory, Bryson and even the recent Open Champion Xander Schauffele have all added strength training into their fitness regimes to help not only increase speed, but also control it.

Strength:

In order for more speed to be created, a greater force has to be exerted, which requires more muscle. Tiger, Rory, Bryson and even the recent Open Champion Xander Schauffele have all added strength training into their fitness regimes to help not only increase speed, but also control it.

Power:

Strength is all good and well, but if you can't exert that strength in a fast, explosive movement, you will struggle to see a change in your distance. Power moves often involve olympic lifts, where speed is added to a movement.



WATCH NOW

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Now this isn't an exhaustive list, but there are some great tips we can extract out of each of the above-mentioned points, which I will cover in the newsletters to come. One of the most important points I do need to stress though is that each of the points above cannot be worked on in isolation, in other words, you can't just work on strength in the gym without making sure your mobility is addressed, or only do speed stuff in the gym without having a strength base.

I am looking forward to sharing some ideas and tips with you around distance and using the gym to help you gain those much needed yards!

If you would like to chat to me about a tailored training program, or book your golf fitness assessment, you can do it on my website (www.gavingrovestraining.co.za) or email: fitness@royaljhb.co.za



HOME SWEAT HOME

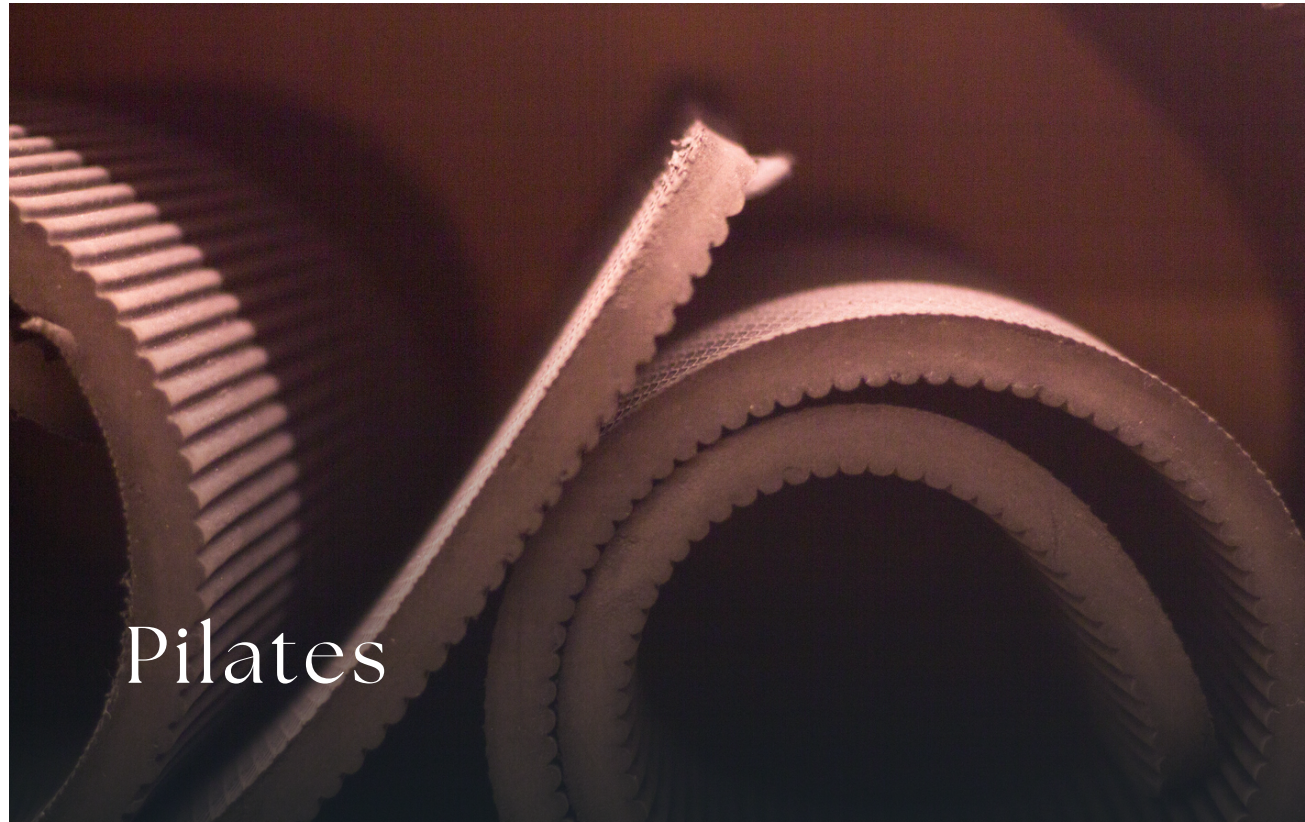
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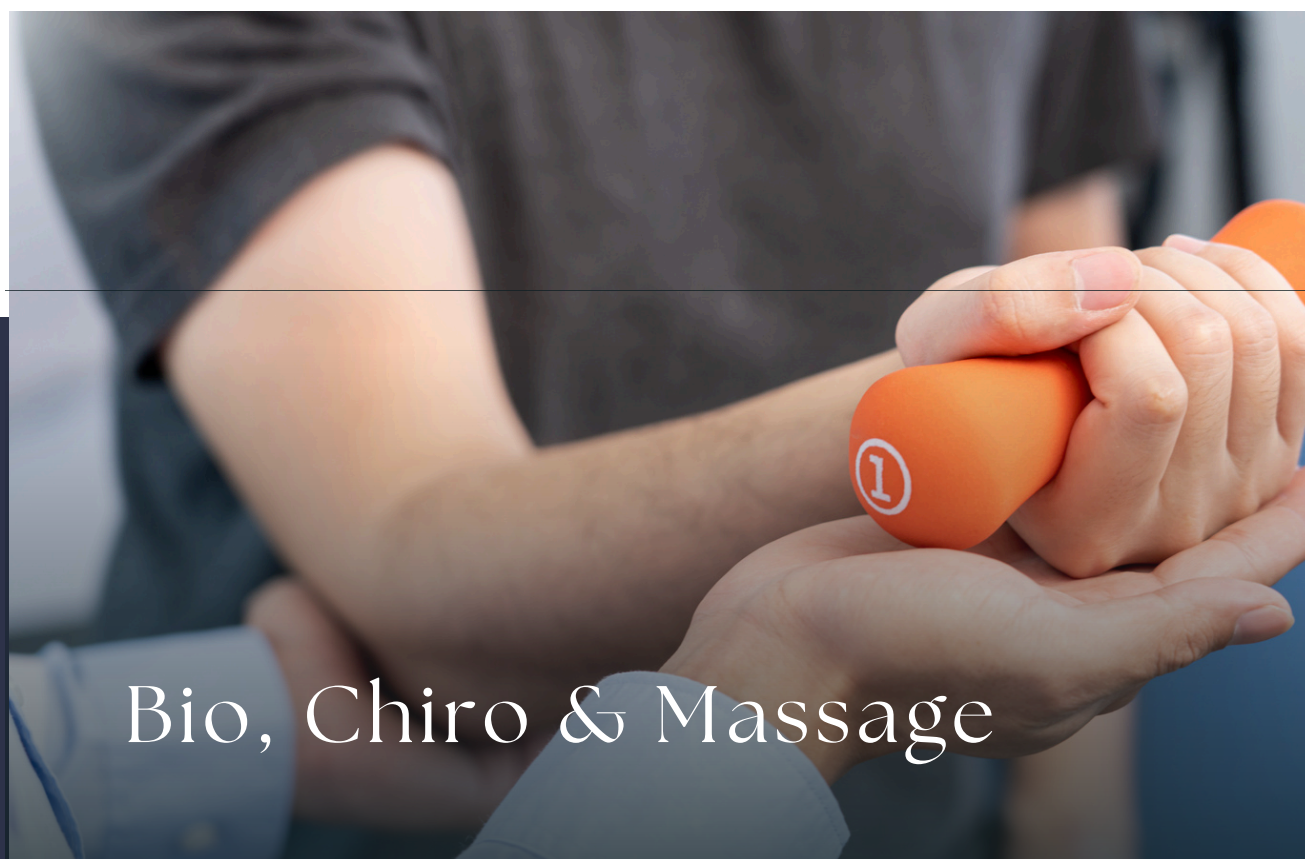
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Pilates



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'Get fit' Classes

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AimPoint

Sandra van den Bergh

Certified level 3 AimPoint Instructor

PGA Women's Cup in the USA

I had the privilege of teaching the AimPoint Green Reading system to the Women's team of South Africa competing in October in the PGA CUP in the USA. The team comprising of Nicole van Pletzen, Julie Bruyns, Crizelda Terblanche, Liezl Klotz and Rachel Howard really experienced a complete change in their green reading process with great results. All the best ladies and go #makeeverything.

Junior Golfer, Sion Atterbury recently left for the USA to compete in his first US Kids Golf World Championship 1-3 August 2024 at Pinehurst. Young talented golfer and wishing him all the best.

He had his first AimPoint lesson with me in July with great results – see you when you back Sion!



E: sandra@royalretreat.co.za

C: 0832911183

Twitter: @svdberghgolf

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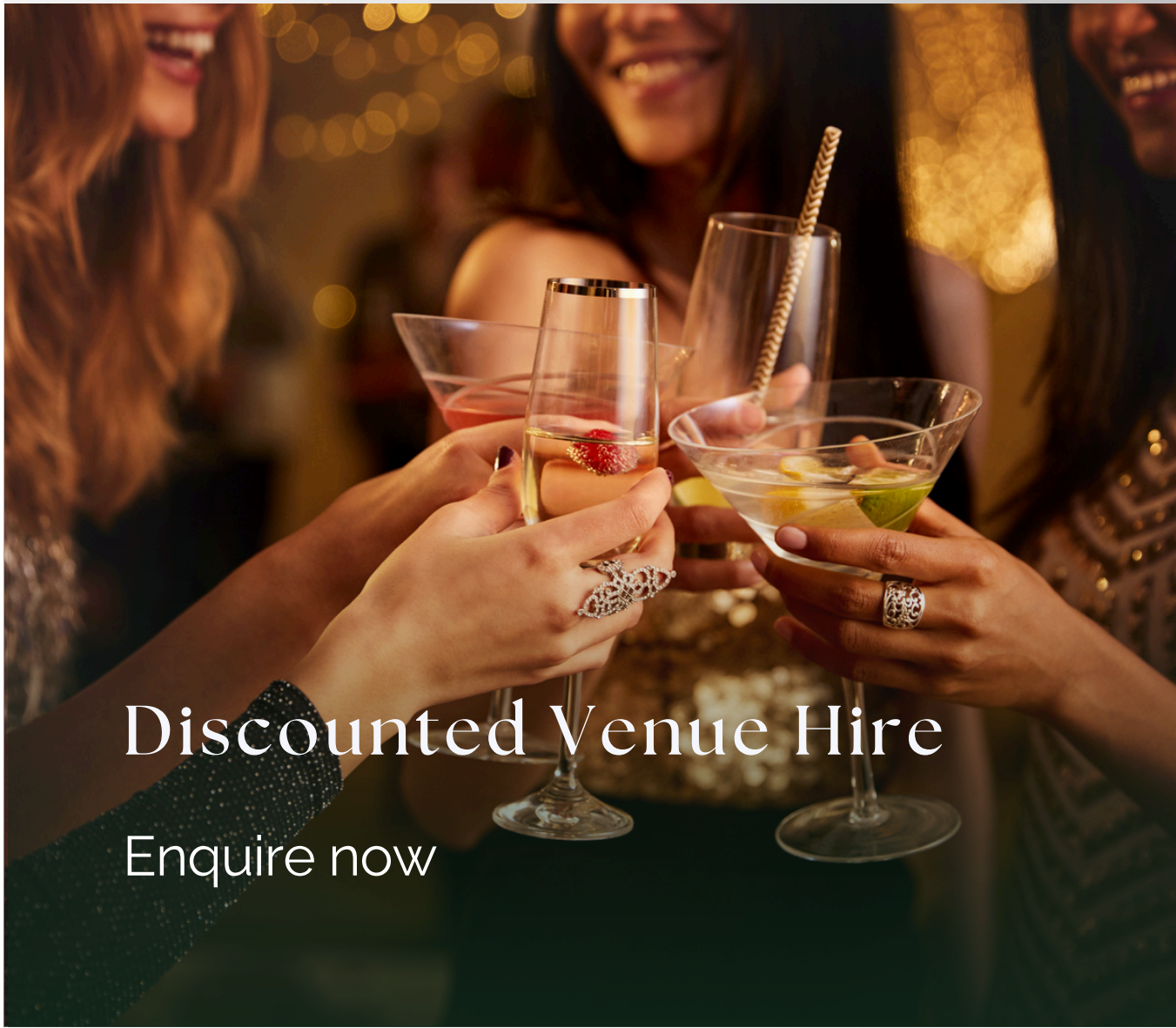
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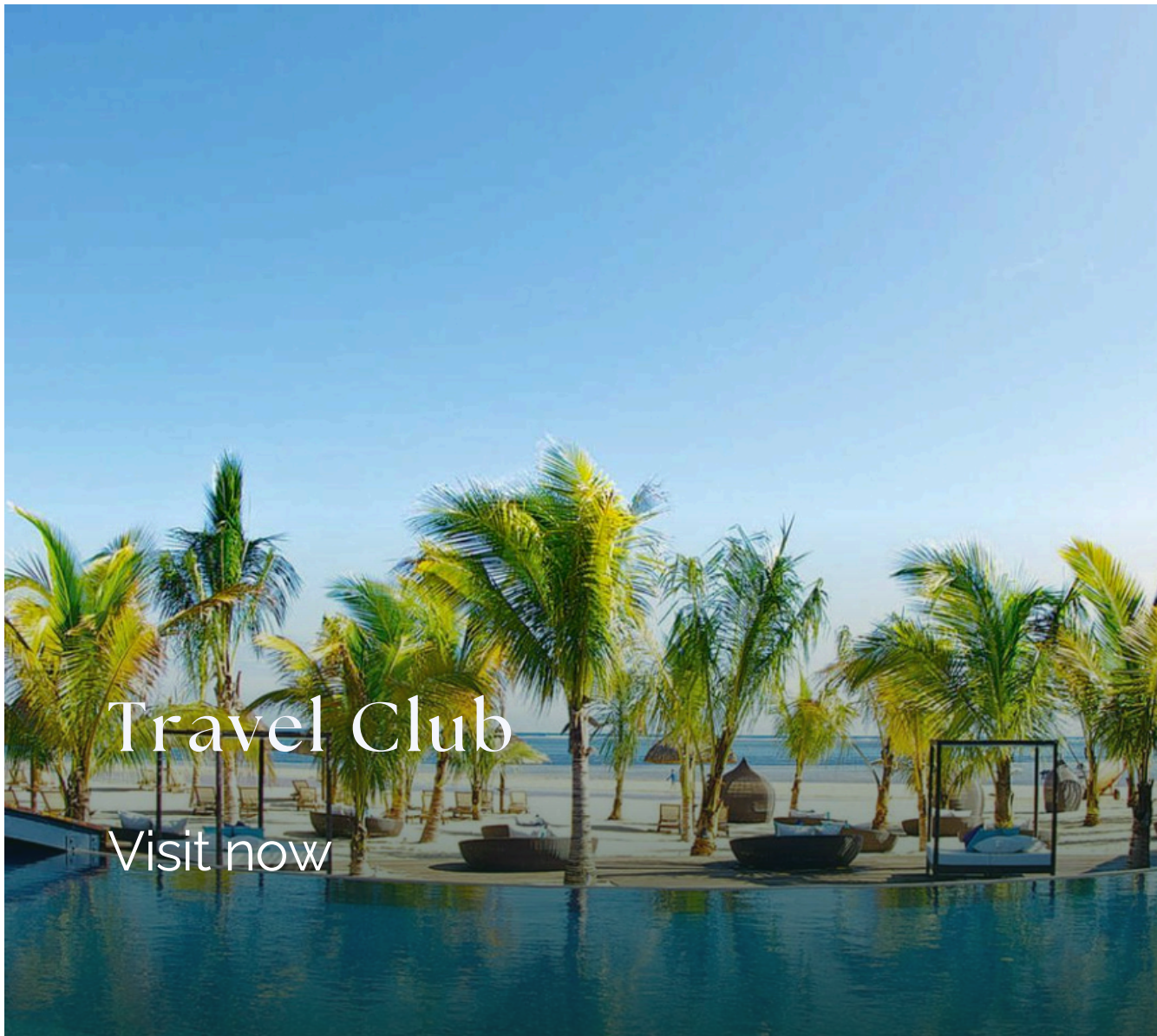
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TIAAN VAN WYK - GOLFMAN1@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA
GREG JACOBS PROSHOP@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA
ELEANORA GALLETTI - GOLFEVENTS@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP MANAGER
CANDICE HUMPHREY MARKETING@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

CLUB OPERATIONS
ERIK BRAKHOVEN FB@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

FUNCTIONS & EVENTS
MARCELLE ROLT FUNCTIONS@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

INFRASTRUCTURE
HENNIE BREDENHANN MAINTENANCE@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

FINANCIAL MANAGER
SIOBHAN BERSIKS FM@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

FINANCE ASSISTANT
MARIETTE BLYTH FINASST@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

COURSE MANAGER
JERRY STEYN COURSEMANAGER@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

CEO
JASON BIRD CEO@ROYALJHB.CO.ZA

ROYAL JOHANNESBURG
NO. 1 ON FAIRWAY AVENUE
LINKSFIELD NORTH JOHANNESBURG

PHONE: 011 640 3021
WHATSAPP: 076 392 2495

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www.royaljhb.co.za
royal@royaljhb.co.za

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