



THE PURPLE NOMAD

Our Host -Schoemanpark Golf Club



New Members

Henry Johnson

Guests

Theo van Tonder

Klasie Viljoen

Prospective Members

Gerhard Meyer

Gordon van Wyk



“Middle of Centre” Keep your head down!!! - Mok Lazaro

We were blessed with some good rains in the last couple of days in our area. And the mood was pretty much good at the registration tables. Thank you to Herman [Main Starter], Peter Rodgers [Number 1] and Garth Leech [Number 10]; the trio got everybody off on time without any fanfare.

We are sorting some disciplinary issues on one hand and then the other bad aspects start to creep into our club; a couple of guys were no shows on Sunday and it is rude to expect Margie to be running around and moving people around to accommodate irresponsible members. No shows are definitely not acceptable, and we will throw the rules book at the offenders.

I had a great fourball with my playing partner, and later fines master, Jean Khouri; it is a pity he just could not focus until the last few shots. Jean had 38 points on the last hole. His drive left him with hardly 130m into the 18th green. The way he was playing no one in our group would have bet against Jean walking away with a par but being the good fellow, he is, he contrived to make a double bogey; go figure. It was still a fruitful tandem effort as we were the best playing pair making 71 points.

Pierre and Ralph completed our four ball. Pierre did everything right but putt; we lost count of the number of putts he left way short of the cup; But it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. As they say in golf, when you get older, the first thing that goes is your putting; but it was a once off Pierre. Free State Nomads will be in good hands when Pierre takes over in April. Ralph was drilling those 300m drives down fairways in such wet conditions; Speaking of Ralph I must confess to owing him a big thank you for the way he has stepped back into Equipment office after the incumbent Heinrich couldn't play as he is busy sorting out some personal setbacks. Ralph is a steady hand and our prize giving is more the better for it. Thank you mate.

I live in hope that one day my playing partner will make the magical 40 points; in 2016 in Erinvale, JP le Roux [Boland] walked away with 38 points after making a bogey on the last whole and in December Choggies made 39 points after missing a birdie on the last hole.

It seems the wet conditions suited the returning nomad Henry Johnson who made 39 points. Only if he could focus as well. Welcome back Henry, I needed my white driver. And I hope to see you take a more visible role in the club in the near future; we can use all your business contacts to get more players and sponsors into our club.

It was a privilege to award the following milestones; incoming Captain Pierre, 15 years tie, incoming National Chairman 15 years tie as well and Riaan Bester his 5 years tie. Well done gentlemen.

We put in place a disciplinary committee made out of former captains; Peter Rogers, Riaan Ahrens and Jean Khouri, to deal with the very poor incident after our January game at Bloemfontein Golf Club. All the three gentlemen who had been fingered showed remorse and the sanctions were duly proffered out accordingly. Remember gentlemen no one is bigger than the Nomads brand. It should not have to come to this, but it is what it is 'everyone has to fit into the Nomads values and etiquette or try next door'.

We thank the National Sponsors, without whose support it would be very expensive to hold a monthly game; SAB Ltd. Stella Artois, Imperial Auto, MFC a division of the green Nedbank, Taylormade, Glenbrynth the finest scotch whisky by far, Europcar and Konica Minolta. Please let us make concerted effort to support our sponsors.

Margs and Melly thank you once again for keeping it together in Esta's absence. At least Herman was also on hand to help out as he is still not yet playing.

Please send those great pictures of Nomads in action to our Newsletter editor Riaan Bester!

Two more to go; March game is our AGM and then Nationals and then its handover in April. It was unbelievably so quick.



Monthly Winners



(From the left). Joe de Beer and Hennie Labuschagne. Absent were John Blair and Brent Holmes. They came in on 107 points, compared to the best playing fourball (below left) on 131 points. It must be mentioned that Brent Holmes arrived the morning from the Midmar Mile and at least had an excuse. They are as follow - Peter Rogers, Emiel Jonker, Theo van Tonder (guest) and Ike Heyns Hendry Johnson also took home the best playing pair prize with 71 points between the two of them. I see Henry is now down to a 4 handicap.

Runners-up



Longest Day (Altar Bunnies)



Henry Johnson (above) was the winner of the Leech Blinds over 55 trophy with a 39 pointer. This was still not good enough and the Young Guns took the Lincon Construction Trophy (30.14 vs 19.14)

Best Playing Fourball



Peter Rogers, Emil Jonker, Theo van Tonder and Ike Heyns.

Whisky Draw



Greg Balmer, Leon Jordaan and Vernon York were the winners of the Glenbrynth Whisky draw.



I have never seen our captain this happy after winning the Glenbrynth Special Reserve.



The long hitters, Allan Flanagan (C), Ferdi Wesso (A) and Stuart Leech (B) with the longest putt by Ralph Olivier (Below)



Achievements

(Left) Pierre Goosen and Neels Bezuidenhout (15 years with Riaan Bester (5 years). Congratulations gentleman! (Below) We also re-inducted a former Nomad, Henry Johnson. Welcome back.



On a more serious note

In January we received feedback on the 2018 survey, and it is important that all our members take time to read this report as it gives critical feedback from our own members. 45 members participated in the survey. This is only 69%, the third lowest of all the clubs. Free State is currently seen as one of the low performing clubs and the survey results must be used to improve our standing in the Nomads community, and to do this we need the input from all our members. The following is an extract from the report highlighting some of the concerns;

Some proactive and integrated suggestions that will support the Club to continue to build and develop its profile locally and nationally are:

- Retain older members and stalwarts
- Recruit selectively in the 45 years and younger age groups
- Targeted presence building and membership expansion in the province
- Redo the Club Website
- Address excessive on-course drinking and discipline
- Experiment to find ways of speeding up play
- Improve prize-giving discipline and speed
- Find ways of providing more value to sponsors
- Get balance of course selection right for monthly games
- Actively promote and build the image and Nomads Brand in the province

The full report is available to all the members and it will be good to get feedback on the way forward.

Nomads Bowls

A day of bowls was organised by Pierre Goosen at Bloemfontein Bowls Club on the 22nd of February. More than 45 players pitched for the event. Gary Lindeque was the DJ for the evening, and he got vibe going among the players. It was truly a family event with all the wife's and children in attendance. Only one Nomad made it to the winner's circle.





The winners were Unbelievabowls, ITEC, Tweespruit and Skillie

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