

# HOUGHTON golf club newsletter



AUGUST 2021

A look into your club this month

## From our CEO

The game of golf is growing and one of those growth centers is here in Gauteng. As a recognized golf club, we maintain the environment, bring families together, and support our colleagues. One round of golf is about 11.000 steps and burns about 2.000 calories. Sounds good, doesn't it? In today's environment, golf is definitely one of the best ways to keep fit, enjoy the outdoors, laugh, and enjoy time with your friends, and on the odd occasion shoot the lights out on our 18 hole golf course.

We have seen a significant increase in member rounds played and this goes to show the way we live our lives have changed and in my opinion, will continue for quite some time. If we carry on our present trajectory of rounds played until the end of the year, we will see an increase of 5.000 rounds played compared to 2019.

I'm really proud of the works being carried out on the course and despite the fact that the end of winter never does us any favors as far as course conditioning is concerned, it is plain to see that the new bunker shapes can only improve the visual aspect as well as the playability of our course. There is obviously a period of growth in all changes made and I'm very excited to see the end result.

Also very happy to announce that we managed to have all of our eligible staff & caddies vaccinated with their first Pfizer jab here at the Golf Club. The 2nd jabs will be done on the 22nd of September. We are also now in the process of arranging the same for any staff & caddie member under the age of 35. Many thanks to Dr. Waseem Seedat who helped us arrange this programme for the club.

So as we move into Spring, stay strong, stay safe and see you on the course soon.

**ROBBY RICHARDSON**  
**CEO**

# The Course

Besides the August chills and winds, I always like to think of it as the “new spring” with blossoms starting, willows sprouting and grass starting to thaw out.

The Bunker revamp is well on its way with different teams doing different tasks from sand removal, drainage, lifting bases, reshaping, washing, sieving, and sand installation which collectively are all part of the greater plan. You will notice the maintenance team has top-dressed all sods that have been lifted around the bunkers with the aim to encourage some growth so that the sods establish quicker, thus will withstand foot traffic on it.

The 12th green complex has been completed and I am now busy with the grow-in, with the expected warmer weather the grass will respond accordingly, I have given the green a good fertilizer and have top-dressed it twice already Top dressing will ensure a smoother putting surface. Once top-dressed a drag matt is pulled over the green to move the sand from any highs and deposits sand into any lows further ensuring a better surface.



# The Course

My spring treatment this year will be a bit different from previous years, there is lots on the go and several factors at play. I am aerovating fairways and may very well do tee tops as well. The fairways as well as tees have all been cut down. I am also cutting the rough a tad lower but no huge scarifying this year. The main task is to complete the remaining bunkers. The Greens Committee has also decided to do our yearly tine earlier than usual. Instead of January, I will start tining on Monday the 30th August. Due to the great condition of our greens at the moment, I will be using a very small tine which will still do the necessary to ensure green condition over the summer months.

Due to our lack of water holding capacity, I have found that watering the course earlier in the season allows for some moisture to settle into the ground. Evaporation is next to nothing this time of year so don't be at all surprised if you happen to see the dams dropping.

Other than that, it's business as usual for the maintenance teams working hard now to ensure the course will be spectacular for the up-and-coming months.



**STUART ROSS**  
**GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT**

# From the Captains

Just when we thought we had seen the last of the cold snaps in July, August said “Hold my beer”. But that hasn’t stopped the Houghton Ladies from showing up in full force on a Saturday and Thursday morning. We are slowly seeing our regulars trickle back in as the temperatures rise and the Third Wave abates.

Ladies League has recommenced in earnest and with two teams entered in each of the Weekday and Sunday Leagues, Houghton is strongly represented.

Congratulations to Anne Hofmann’s Sunday team who are currently tied for second place in their division. Elaine Ruben’s weekday league team is also in a three-way tie for second place, with a couple of games in hand, so everything to play for!

The Ladies’ section at Houghton is a close-knit community and 2021 has proven to be a challenging year for us. We bid farewell to the late Dolly Mokgatlhe at the beginning of the year. Two of our long-standing members have decided to start the adventure of a lifetime, Anita Sumares in Portugal and Arnie van Opstal a little closer to home in Mosselbay. We will miss you both dearly and wish you nothing but the best in this new chapter of your lives.

The Houghton Ladies’ Open, under the leadership of Elaine Rubens is thriving! COVID caused a few bumps in the road, but our Ladies Opens have once again become permanent fixtures in many a golfer’s diary.

Given our success with the Ladies Opens, there are plans underfoot to revive the Mixed Opens. So watch this space and if you need a playing partner, let us know!

**STACY MOGALE  
LADIES CAPTAIN**

# From the Captains

This month brought the culmination of the extended, stop-start 2020-2021 Houghton Golf Club Major Season.

After navigating six majors over the course of the season, Khumbulani Gumede, Waseem Seedat, Kirit Daya, and Tracey Petersen topped The Race to Steyn City standings. They will be representing the club at the annual Jack Nicklaus Champion of Champions event and of course, we all look forward to the team bringing back the Golden Bear. Good luck guys!

Congratulations to Cansin Borek who staged a late comeback to capture the Houghton Hunt. Further to this, the top 10 received some great prizes which were all well-deserved after their consistent performance throughout the last 18 months. Thanks to all our members for taking part in the Hunt season and know that the Golf Committee is already hard at work planning for the 2021-2022 calendar and we anticipate some exciting events.

I have a feeling I wasn't alone in thinking that it took forever to par the tiny temporary Par 3 12th! The restructuring of the 12th green complex has been completed and now requires until the end of October to knit together. We have received some positive feedback so next time you are on your way to the 13th tee, go check it out. We are past the halfway stage on the bunker project (around five weeks left) and with the unforgiving weather conditions, we thank Stuart and his team for their hard work in finishing up the winter program.

It is encouraging to note that we have a lot of new members that have joined HGC since the onset of the pandemic across various categories. Let us all welcome them and help them integrate into the club.

I would also like to take time to extend my condolences to those of you that have lost loved ones over the last few months and best wishes for a speedy recovery to any of you currently with the virus. Spring is no doubt around the corner and we are looking forward to some warmer weather and we can't wait to see you on the fairways!

**MATTHEW ROSEN**  
**MEN'S CAPTAIN**

# Snaps of the Month

Show off your photography skills and send through your pictures to  
Crystal at [events@houghton.co.za](mailto:events@houghton.co.za) or 063 700 6185



# Golf

Well done and congratulations to all of the winners in the Houghton Hunt Finals!

## **Men's Houghton Hunt Final**

- 1st Cansin Borek
- 2nd Frank Levenberg
- 3rd Doron Traube
- 4th Jignesh Dave
- 5th Gerald Kay
- 6th Mervyn Ossip
- 7th Daniel Bersiks
- 8th Rasheed Amod
- 9th Warren Zwick
- 10th Josh Lasker

## **Ladies Houghton Hunt Final**

- 1st Susan Vyvyan-Day
- 2nd Pam Pokroy
- 3rd Sue Cogswell
- 4th Dudu Hlatshwayo

## **Race to Steyn City Winners**

- 1st Khumbulani Gumede 146pts
- 2nd Waseem Seedat 144pts
- 3rd Kiritkumar Daya 143pts
- 4th Tracey Petersen 143pts

## **Internal Away Trip**

The internal away trip will be played on the 25th, 26th, and the 27th of November on three magnificent courses namely Steyn City, Blair Atholl, and Houghton Golf Club. There are only a few spots left so if you have not booked yet, do so quickly!

Congratulations and well done to Costanza Trussoni for winning the Central Gauteng Regional Professional Golfers Association award for Best Coach in Gauteng.

## **Score Capture**

It is a great scoring system that the club is currently using to record scoring for club competitions, and I would definitely recommend downloading the app. With the handicap allowance coming into effect, score capture has made it easier for the club to do the weekly scoring as the system automatically pulls your handicap from HNA and it calculates the allowance on the day. The club will capture your scores onto the system but we need important information from the player on their scorecard. Please write neatly so the scorer can read what is written. Please fill in your full name and surname (no nicknames). Please fill in your Course Handicap and Playing Handicap on the card. Most importantly please fill in the course you are playing (yellow, white, blue, or red) then just record your score and we will load it up on the system where it will be added up and your competition points allocated accordingly.

## Tag marshal

Many players have seen that most fourballs on the weekend receive a tag in a little green bag.

The tags have been programmed with a maximum time of 4 hours 37 minutes that is allowed for a round of golf at Houghton Golf Club. This data has been collected from over 8 months' worth of rounds played by our members as well as the average time it takes to play each hole whether you are walking or riding in a cart. Below is an example of when everyone is playing on pace our computer screen lights up with green tag numbers.



When your fourball is out of position as per the picture below, your tag will show a magenta colour, and the fourballs that you are holding up, their tags will go yellow. This is how we know when your fourball is out of position. Each tag also tells us how many minutes you are ahead or behind in time.



## ***What can we do to improve the pace of play?***

### **Pace of Play**

A few points have been taken from the rule book regarding rule 5.6b.

Prompt Pace of Play.

A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace.

Each player should recognize that his or her pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their rounds, including both those in the player's own group and those in the following groups.

Players are encouraged to allow faster groups to play through.

A player should prepare in advance for the next stroke and be ready to play when it is his or her turn.

It is recommended that the player makes the stroke in no more than 40 seconds.

Playing out of turn to help pace of play "Ready Golf".

"In golf, the customs and etiquette and decorum are as important as the rules of play" Bobby Jones

**LETITIA ROESTOFF**  
**GOLF DIRECTOR**

## Food & Beverage

The lift in the alcohol ban was most welcome and we saw an increase in Food & Beverage sales. As the cold winter spells near to an end and with warmer weather going forward it will encourage more people to go out resulting in our restaurant getting busier. We did a Portuguese theme lunch on Sunday the 8th of August and had a very good turnout and we received very good reviews from our guests. I was extremely proud of Alpheus our Head Chef and his team for doing a fantastic job and always improving the standard of food served at our Club!

We are cooking up an Indian-themed lunch this Sunday the 22nd of August 2021. The 9th of August was Women's Day and my 7-year-old son insisted on going to the shops to buy his Mum and Sister some flowers and as we shopped around, I noticed a buzz from men frantically shopping for the women in their lives and I wondered about our ladies that had to work that day. Would they be receiving anything in appreciation for being a pillar of hope, some of them no. We decided to get them chocolates. The smile behind the mask says it all!



**JON PILLAY**  
**FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER**



DO YOU DARE GO VINDALOO?

# Sunday Lunch

22nd Curry, spice & everything nice  
**Indian specialties**

AUGUST

12pm - 3pm

**BOOK NOW**

reception@houghton.co.za



# Kappy's Korner

## Tip of the month

Often we're showing golfers stuff in the shop, or chatting swing technique amongst ourselves when things are a bit quiet, so here's something we chat about often. The difference at impact when there's compression of the ball versus a lack of it.

In the left pic - the not-so-lekker position - my weight is flat, maybe even leaning back a bit, my hands are behind and the clubface is rising up at impact against the counter. This leads to chunky/fat shots as well as topping it. The divot starts before the ball too.

In the other pic, my weight is now distinctly on the front foot - you can see the position of my right knee/leg moving forwards - my hands are either over the ball or even more ideally slightly ahead of it, and now I'm hitting down on the ball and compressing it much better. The divot will then start at the ball, not before it.

#hitdowndammit

**RICHARD KAPLAN**  
**HEAD PROFESSIONAL**



# Membership

With the month of August celebrating all of the beautiful ladies out there, we also celebrated a very special staff members' 60th Birthday! Happy Birthday, Floyd!



The celebration doesn't end there. We had three members get a Hole in One this month! Well done gents.

Frank Levenberg on hole 7  
Aryeh Da Costa on hole 12  
Mervyn Goldsmith on hole 7

Congratulations to Nico for achieving an upgrade to Class AA status of his membership with the Professional Golfers Association South Africa!

Well done to Letitia for passing a Level 2 examination in the Rules of Golf by attending an R&A Level 2 Rules Seminar which was conducted by GolfRSA.

## ***Have you referred a family member or friend to Houghton Golf Club?***

Members get a referral incentive if they introduce a new member to the club. The incentive is limited to certain membership categories and it excludes Junior, Country, 9 Hole, Social, and Sunday afternoon memberships.

Our membership special is still running; pay for 12 months membership and an unlimited playing card and get the remaining months of 2021 free! Terms and conditions apply.

## **ROYALTY ACCOUNT:**

A reminder to all members; you have 4 and a half months to use the funds in your royalties account. All funds will expire on the 31st of December 2021. This account is only topped up by Houghton. Happy spending!

## ***How do I get Royalties?***

Members that renewed and paid their subs early the year before, paying social members, and members that have referred new members will have money in this account, and it can only be used for 'Club Spend' that includes food and beverage, golf carts, and green fee purchases only. It is on a 'use it or lose it' basis.

## **CRYSTAL PALFRAMAN EVENTS & MEMBERSHIP**

# The Team

## **CEO**

Robby Richardson | robby@houghton.co.za

## **FINANCIAL MANAGER**

Maria Heneke | maria@houghton.co.za

## **MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS**

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## **GOLF DIRECTOR**

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## **GOLF OPERATIONS**

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## **GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT**

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## **FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER**

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## **ASSISTANT FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER**

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## **HEAD CHEF**

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## **HEAD PROFESSIONAL**

Richard Kaplan | kappy@houghton.co.za

## **HIGH-PERFORMANCE PROFESSIONAL**

Costanza Trussoni | costi@costanzagolf.com

## **HIGH-PERFORMANCE PROFESSIONAL**

Ricki Dembo | rickidembo96@gmail.com

## Board

R. Rottanburg (President), A. Diamond (Vice President), D. Kangisser (Treasurer), M. Rosen (Captain), M. Kuzwayo (Vice-Captain), S. Mogale (Lady Captain), J. Joffe, G. Buskin, R. Sacks, G. Josset, R. Kaplan

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*As we continue to step into the extraordinary and ensure our members receive the full Houghton experience, we greatly appreciate any feedback.*

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