

SAGES



Committee

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Dion van Rooyen
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Vice Chairman & Newsletter:

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Treasurer:

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Tournament Directors:

Home Games

Anton Dicks
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Away Games:

Petra van der Merwe
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Clothing:

Petra van der Merwe
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Trophy's, Flags & Handicaps

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PAR~TEE NEWS/NUUS April 2025

From the Editor's desk

Please take some time to study the national SAGES website at www.sagesseniorgolfers.co.za for more information regarding other country wide events. We also encourage our members to visit the Vaal Sages Facebook page for the latest information from our branch. See [Sages Vaal | Facebook](#)

This month we had the monthly at Vaal de Grace and the Regional Tournament at Bethlehem. Regional tournaments is also an opportunity for the National Management Council to meet with representatives of the branch committees to discuss status and progress at branch level. This year the NMC also asked the branches for feedback/ideas how to grow the numbers in the Sages community. The average age in the community is increasing with the result that the numbers are coming down as members are becoming less active in participation due to age, illness and injury, that leads to retirement from golf. We as the Vaal River committee prepared a branch status report with some feedback on our successes. See report below.

Vaal Sages Branch Status Report as on 1 April 2025

Compliance to Constitution and Rules

Fully compliant:

- Fully functional committee
- Regular reporting to NMC
- Sound financial base
- Participating members
- Positive relationship with golf clubs in the region.
- Maintaining dress code regulations

Financial Status:

- Designated treasurer
- Annual budget.
- Annual financial independent audit.
- Acceptable capital reserve.
- Dual control over expenses paid.
- Finance feedback at every committee meeting.

Administration:

- Designated secretary.
- Monthly feedback to NMC.
- Timely distribution of all correspondence including those for the annual AGM.
- Acting as second overview over expenses.
- Maintaining minutes of all meetings.
- Regular newsletters to members.

Operations:

- Two designated tournament directors. One for Away Games and one for all Home Games.
- Annual planning for all games with negotiation with the respective golf clubs for best possible rates.
- Clothing portfolio effectively managed.
- Flags and Trophies well managed.

Herewith our feedback related to the NMC Secretary's request, for input into better management of a Sages branch.

1. Success starts at the top. A stable committee with a possible pipeline of individuals prepared to serve. Important for the committee to adhere to the National Sages constitution and operational rules. The NMC maybe have a role to play when recognising when a new inexperienced committee is elected to meet with them and explain all the drills required to run a successful branch.
2. Building a welcoming environment that would harness comradery and building relationships. We start that by embroidering each members name on their shirt. Always possible to call one by first name. We discourage clicks and try to set up the playing draw sheets in a way to give people opportunity to play with different people.
 - Different formats of play are used to keep the games interesting
 - There are Better Ball knock-out and Singles knock-out competitions that are very well supported and enjoyed by the members.

- There are also a few prestige trophy events honouring past members who were influential in the region, that usually draw a great deal of support
- We have an annual Christmas competition where fun dress code is encouraged to add to the fun aspect.
- We have a year-end competition that used to be followed by formal dinner with full Sages battle dress, that is also the awards evening where all the trophy winners are celebrated. Sadly since Covid and the further deterioration of the road network and other security related issues when driving at night, we had to call for an alternative. We still have the function, but now immediately after the game and less formal.
- Affordability is important and very competitive rates are negotiated when planning the annual calendar. Same applies to meals, if and when provided during games.
- Knowledge and know-how of the operation of the branch is important to eliminate misunderstandings and frustration amongst members. We have found it necessary to draft an Orientation/Induction document that spreads a common message to all our members. ***This is very Vaal specific but we gladly attach a copy for distribution.***
- We maintain a formal merit list that recognises a member's loyalty through participation as well as his or her ability through results achieved during our competitions. This list is consulted when we only have a selected number allocations at the away games, i.e. Regionals and Nationals. Still not a Bible for selection, but at least a communicated mechanism that has received majority support.
- Vaal also try to create a value add environment with fund raising initiatives for justified causes. Participating in these also improve the emotion of belonging for our members.
- Adding to the previous point is a formal opening of all our games with prayer. It sets the environment for a good start and encourage members to be on time.
- These are the main identifying values/criteria applied at Vaal and the results below should be an indication of the element of success achieved over the last three years.

Vaal Sages performance numbers 2022-2024

	2022	2023	2024
Number of members	105	119	136
Number of tournamens/games	17	17	19
Rounds of golf	941	960	1273
Average no. rounds/member	8,96	8,07	9,36

Report drafted by:

Jan Lategan
Vice Chairman

Signed off by:

Dion van Rooyen
Chairman

Monthly Game @ Vaal de Grace on 1 April 2025

At Vaal de Grace under early autumn's glorious early morning sun, 83 players are ready to jump the gun. Play for glory and for fun.

But little did we know as we played on with gee, that the clouds are gathering for a storm to be.

Dark clouds converged, the wind began to sway. And then in an instant the rains come pouring down to stay.

Papnat, Water spat. Almal soek skuiling. Hemelse krane vol oopgedraai..Wat "n spektakel.n Nuwe storie om te vertel.

Nevertheless everyone still enjoyed this crazy day.

Good golf we're played and prizes were won.

The joker draw is still a highlight at all Sages golf days and again the wrong card was drawn No winnings today.

Weereens dankie aan ons komitee vir al die reëlins vir die dag.

Dankie ook aan die komitee en baan bestuur van Vaal de Grace vir die ekstra moeite om die baan in 'n perfekte toestand te kry, na erge reen die vorige dag.

Selfs by die "halfway* heers 'n feestelike atmosfeer .Musiek wat die voete laat jeuk het.

Weereens 'n dag om te onthou.

Marietjie Emslie



Another unsuccessful
Joker draw. Sorry Johan



1st Prize on 46 points:
 Skroef Schröder and Dion v Rooyen
 Skroef made 43 on his own,
 Dion (spare wheel)



2nd Prize on 44 points:
 Camm Dixon and Jooste Coetzee



3rd Prize on 44 points k/o
 Vic Scrooby and Joe Alexandre



4th Prize on 43 points:
 Shaun Bailey and Chris Louw



5th Prize on 43 points k/o:
 Jonas Ragetsi and Anton Dicks



Charles Emslie
Longest drive from Blue



Jan Vorster
Longest drive
from White



Sonja Botes:
Longest drive from Red.

Everyone just having a good time after the game



All the closest to PINs:

Vic Scrooby,

Jonas Ragestsi

Pieter Olën

Bonnie Jordaan



Don't worry the meal is on the way. Nice Lasagne served by the caterers!!

Regional Tournament @ Bethlehem 14th and 15th April 2025



The venue and the team (at least the ones we could gather together for the photo)

Another extremely successful tournament has been ticked off. Eastern Free State hosted the regionals. Ons Vaal Sages word oral herken, erken en gersepekteer. Waarom??? Ons goeie gesindheid ten alle tye, goeie gholf, en so ook onverwagse kolhoue.. "hole in one"

Baie geluk daarmee Dalene. Vaal het 32 spelers gestuur.

VYF STREKE het deel geneem.

120 spelers in totaal het die jaar se Regionals verteenwoordig

Oos Vrystaat het die voordeel wat hulle gehad het gebruik om tuis te speel, die toernooi gewen..

Golf's addiction is in the passion for life and the possibility for that perfect shot, birdie or hole in one.

Marietjie Emslie

Several of our members attended the formal dinner on Day 1





Dion provided the following feedback from the branches meeting with the NMC:

Golf carts for National Tournament at Bloemfontein:
The branches was requested to collect the cart fees from their Players and pay over to the club in advance. Trying to organise and pay for the carts before the tournament would create chaos.

There was great support for the Vaal initiative to embroider the members' names on their shirts by the branches present, some have committed to start doing the same.

There was also recognition for number of ladies in the Vaal team and the other branches are also going to make effort in increasing their lady membership.

The NMC is also upgrading the current website at www.sagesseniorgolfers.co.za

It was reported that the finances are sound and the amount collected for Cansa was an improvement on the previous year.

The status update report of Vaal also received appreciation for the effort that went into the detail of the feedback.



We didn't leave the tournament empty handed and Resa, Marietjie and Dalene collected prizes for closest To PINs with Dalene's perfect shot on Hole 6, Par 3 Stroke 4

Special Vaal mentions:

Best 4 Ball Teams –

6th Place @ 155 points

Chris & Julie Horn with Jan Vorster and Hardus Visagie

9th Place @ 153 points

Rassie Erasmus & Colin Bekker with
Pieter Olen and Martin Scheepers

Best Better Ball teams:

Day 1

Ivor and Bonnie Jordaan - 42 points 7th place

Jan Vorster and Hardus Visagie – 41 points 11th place

Day 2 same pairs.

Ivor & Bonnie 41 points in 8th place

Jan & Hardus 41 points in 7th place

Day 1 + Day 2

Ivor & Bonnie 83 points in 5th place

Jan & Hardus 82 points in 6th place



Well done to the Vaal team. Bethlehem is quite a technical course and knowledge of all the nooks and crannies are important in order to score well. Many of us did much better the second day, but for these pairs to have scored more than 40 on both days is exceptional.

Northern Pentagonal @ Ebotse on 23rd April 2025

This is an annual event between Vaal River, Jimmy Gowans, Jakaranda, East Rand and West Rand. Our team arrived full of expectation since the weather forecast only indicated rain from later in the day. Sadly it was not like that, and the game was postponed until the 13th of August. The team at least had 'n bit of a "kuier" and had breakfast together.





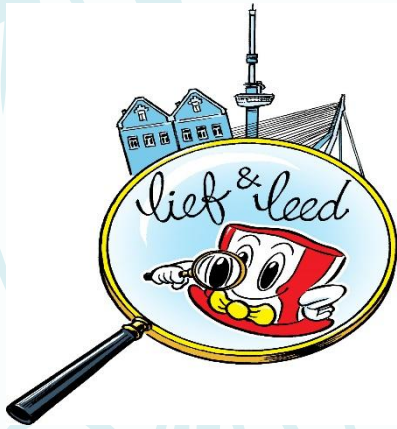
**"YEAH, MAYBE THE COURSE
IS STILL A LITTLE TOO
WET TO PLAY ON!"**



**"If I ever get a hole in one I
want it on video!"**

"Golf is a compromise between what your ego wants you to do, what experience tells you to do, and what your nerves let you do." – Bruce Compton

Lief en Leed



Eddie Simmonds One of these days!!

Mike Beukes still out due to his injuries

Sampie van Rooyen's shoulder is doing well and rehabilitation is on schedule.

Dave Fourie is recovering from his knee replacement.

Toelie Swart is back home after discharging himself from the hospital. He is much better since using medication work out the flued in his body.

Eddie Hohls is not playing yet. He is still struggling with his back at the moment.

Please let us know if there are other members struggling, and our prayers are for speedy recovery for all.

Bye bye's

None



Hello

Louis Malherbe



Louis het SAGES baie deeglik nagevors en toe met behulp van Winnie en Christa sy besluit geneem. Hy het vandag die water kom toets by ons en daar en dan aangesluit. Baie welkom Louis by ons Vaal Sages groep.

Verjaarsdae



Johan	Kleinhaus	11	May
Victor	Scrooby	12	May
Charlie	Van Houten	14	May
Wynand	De Lange	15	May
Christo	Steyn	15	May
Karene	Beaurain	18	May
Mynrich	van Niekerk	18	May
Kobie	Bester	19	May
Mike	Beukes	19	May
Eddie	Hohls	19	May
Franscois	Engels	26	May
Tulie	Le Roux	27	May
Jimma	Wood	27	May
Richard	Walsh	28	May
Rodney	Moseley	2	June
Arnold	Bothma	6	June
Johan	Greyling	7	June
Colin	Clifford	9	June
Dave	Daniels	10	June
George	Inkster	11	June
John	Maine	11	June
Chris	Heynie	20	June
Erick	De Beer	28	June
Robby	Lodetti	29	June
Chris	Louw Jnr	29	June
Liki	Moletsane	29	June

Date 2025	Competition	Venue	Host
21 Jan	Spike Bootha	Maccauvlei	VR
4 Feb	Tom Mullen	Parys	VR AGM
10 & 11 Mar	Club Champs	Heron Banks	VR
1 Apr	Monthly	Vaal de Grace	VR
14 & 15 April	Regionals	Bethlehem	EFS
23 Apr	Pentagonal	Rescheduled 13 Aug	ER
12 - 16 May	Nationals	Bloem/ Shoeman P	Cent FS
20 May	Charlie van Houten	Heron Banks	VR
10 Jun	Hannes Burke	Vaal de Grace	NW
8 Jul	George Potgieter	Maccauvlei	VR
13 Aug	Pentagonal	Ebotse	ER
21 Aug	3 Corners	Reading	ER
26 Aug	Monthly	Emfuleni	VR
9 Sep	5 Corners	Reading	SR
30 Sep	CANSA	Heron Banks	VR
14 Oct	John Lockley	Vaal de Grace	NFS
4 Nov	Monthly	Meyerton	VR
18 Nov	Year End	Emfuleni	VR
2 Dec	Christmas Comp	Parys	VR
Merit list selection because of limited player allocation			

Members missing out on playing currently, due to past illness, injuries, other medical, or family commitments.

Charlie van Houten, Robby Lodetti, Pat Cochrane, Richard Evans, Dave Hoy (Business), Hennie Alberts.

