



ZULULAND NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

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Dear Sages

Herewith our newsletter for OCTOBER 2025



Johan van der Walt - 02 October

Willie Steyn - 07 October

Michelle Ferreira - 13 October

Boetie van Tonder - 15 October

George van Wyk - 18 October

Beryl Dafel - 27 October

Results of our game at MONZI (Hidden partner) on Sunday, 12 October 2025 :

POS	PAIRING	POINTS
1	Hugo du Preez & Kim Swift	76 Points
2	Jeff Hunter & Apie Hughes	75 Points
3	Colin Anger & Bradley Sander	67 Points
4	Johan Meeding & Burt Porteous	67 Points
5	Leon Graaff & George van Wyk	65 Points
6	Chris Howcroft & Brian Swift	63 points
7	Peter de Klerk & Wilhelm Jansen v Rensburg	55 Points
8	Dawie Pretorius & Willie Steyn	54 Points
9	Brian Conway & Fafs van der Merwe	52 Points
10	Jackie Joseph & Pieter Cloete	49 Points
11	Marina Graaff & Eddie Smith	49 Points
12	James Lloyd & Freddie Fairman	44 Points



1ST Position : Hugo du Preez & visitor, Kim Swift



2nd Position : Jeff Hunter (left) & Apie Hughes



3rd Position : Colin Anger (left) & Bradley Sander (right)



Most Golf : Freddie Fairman & James Lloyd



Nearest to pin : George van Wyk



Whisky winner : Dawie Pretorius



Birdie winners: Apie Hughes; Johan Meeding; Jeff Hunter & Wilhelm Jansen van Rensburg

ALL PRIZES WERE HANDED OUT BY CHAIRMAN LEON GRAAFF



Mauritz Woeke
Hole in one at the Felixton Club Champs

The “Invisible” Hole-In-One

This one’s for the books! A beginner once stepped up to the tee, eyes locked on the hole in the distance. With a determined swing, they sent the ball flying—but it wasn’t until after walking to the green that they realized... it went straight into the hole. No one saw it go in, not even the player! They spent a good 10 minutes searching for the ball, convinced it was hiding somewhere on the course. It took another few moments for them to realize it was already safely in the cup. Oops! A hole-in-one that no one could believe—especially the golfer ! - **MAURITZ ??**

The Sand Trap Surprise

One beginner golfer thought they’d mastered the art of the sand trap, but when it came time to get the ball out of the bunker, things didn’t go as planned. The first swing was so far off that the ball didn’t even leave the trap. The second attempt ? Well, the ball shot straight up into the air...” only to come right back down and land directly behind them, knocking their hat off ! There’s no doubt about it - sometimes the sand trap is more of an adventure than a hazard !

Why You Should Mark Your Golf Ball

The main question surrounding golf ball marking is ‘does it really matter?’ And ultimately, the answer is yes, it does. Many casual golfers may be oblivious to the harsh reality of the rule book, but should you hit the wrong ball during a golf tournament you can incur penalty strokes, or even a total disqualification – not forgetting the awkward conversation that follows. Adding any kind of marking to your ball to make it easier to identify can be much more important than you think!

The Rules Around Marking Your Ball

The R&A and The USGA both want to **make it easy for you to identify your balls in a competition**, so there are minimal rules around what you can and can’t do when marking your ball. You must, however, ensure that you do not do anything that could impact the flight and performance of your ball. A marker on the surface of the ball is well within the laws, but any thick paint or ink that may fill in the dimples, or stickers that will smoothen the ball's surface are a big no-go. It is also best advised that the marking is kept clean and inoffensive, as to avoid distracting any of your playing partners.

When it comes to the specific rules, markings applied with a felt-tip pen are not contrary to [Rule 4.2a](#), and [Rule 6.3a](#) actually encourages players to add an identification mark to their ball to help with identification during a round. There are no restrictions on what kind of markings you can make or how many, as long as the ball’s original manufacturer markings remain visible. This is also reinforced in [Rule 7.2](#), which refers to identifying your ball by seeing your personal mark on it.

How the Pros Mark Their Golf Balls

Professional golfers have their own unique habits and superstitions when it comes to marking their balls.

Sergio García often stamps a green “17” on his ball to commemorate his Masters win in 2017.

Scottie Scheffler doesn’t mark his balls at all; he simply requests numbers six, seven, and eight, as they’re rarely used by others.

Matt Fitzpatrick lets his wife mark his balls before competition.

Tiger Woods has his first name printed on his golf balls for instant recognition. Ultimately, pro players are no different to us when it comes to ball markings, they each have their own preference.

The Psychology Behind Marking Your Ball

Marking your ball can seem like such a small and minor detail, but you’d be surprised by the psychological effects it can have over your game. Not to forget increasing pace of play on the course and helping with your ball alignment. Many pros have their own signature design that they’ve stuck with throughout their career, as well as funny superstitions that helps them out on the course.

Final Thoughts

Marking your golf balls is about more than avoiding penalties - it’s about confidence, consistency, and personality. Whether you use initials, dots, or a custom stamp, **the right mark helps you stand out and stay sharp on the course. So, with all that said, how do you mark your golf balls ? Are you a player of tradition, or a player of superstition ?**

What makes the Zululand Sages Branch successful ?

We are fortunate to have been able to grow our membership number from **35 members to 62 members since 2024**. Last year 18 new members joined us and **11 new members so far in 2025**. The positive growth in our membership number can be ascribed to a few things eg:

1. We introduced a **LIV Golf competition** to our existing fixture list, played once a month on a Saturday. The teams must have at least 3 Sages players and then we allow one player per team that must be 48 years and older. Currently we have 7 teams playing with funky names and colourful shirts. The idea is to get these new players to join Sages when they reach the age of 50 and several players have already joined so far.
2. We try to incorporate different formats with each fixture to make it more interesting from the normal IPS, 4BBBS & scramble drive games to a Tombstone game; Chairman's revenge & Ryder Cup games. It proved to be very popular.
3. Players get paired randomly at most games so that they can get to know each other and form new relationships.
4. We try and support all our golf clubs in our area as far as Eshowe & Monzi to promote the Sages name.
5. Regular newsletters with member news & feed back on all our games and interesting golf news keep our members engaged.
6. We further have an active committee with a good working relationship. We also have regular branch meetings every month.
7. Our Whatsapp group has strict rules for communication and is managed well.
8. We have an annual Prize Award function where we award our players in 13 categories for their efforts during the year.
9. We also allocate or own honorary awards for active players 70 years and older in 3 different categories - Bronze (70 - 74 years) Silver (75 - 79 years) & Gold (80 years plus)

**“Although golf was originally restricted to wealthy, overweight Protestants,
today it's open to anybody who owns hideous clothing.”**

- Dave Berry -

REMAINING WHISKY DONATIONS – 2025

NOVEMBER	BRIAN CONWAY
DECEMBER	MARINA GRAAFF

SAGES LIV GOLF FIXTURES - 2025

DATE	VENUE	FORMAT
25 October	Empangeni	4 Ball Alliance (3 Scores to Count)
29 November	Kwambonambi	4 Ball Alliance (3 Scores to Count)
06 December	Felixton	4 Ball Alliance (3 Scores to Count)

Zululand BRANCH FIXTURES - 2025

DATE	VENUE	FORMAT
09 November	Empangeni	Club Champs
22 Novovember	Richards Bay	Sages Open Golf Day (4BBBS)
07 December	Kwambonambi	Committee Revenge Game Christmas Game (Awards)



Best regards
GF van Wyk
Secretary/Zululand Sages

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