

ZULULAND NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Chairman

Leon Graaff

Cell No : 0716088886

Email : info@graaffenkies.co.za

Vice Chairman

Jackie Joseph

Cell No : 0731404098

Email : josephjackie@gmail.com

Secretary

George van Wyk

Cell No : 0782208638

Email : acse@telkomsa.net

Treasurer

Burt Porteous

Cell No : 0848513942

Email : burt@mpecomms.co.za

Dear Sages

Herewith our newsletter for February 2026 :

We would like to welcome all the following new Sages members to our Zululand Branch. They are : **Greg Duncan; Graeme & Louwaine Swarts; Jenny Hughes; Frans & Petro Erasmus; Burt Porteous** and a warm welcome back to ex Sages member, **Warren Thackway**.



Rozy de Vos - 01 Feb

Peter de Klerk - 06 Feb

Kevin Potter - 13 Feb

Rudolf Prinsloo - 16 Feb

Gary Collum - 17 Feb

Wilhelm Jansen van Rensburg - 20 Feb

Freddie Fairman - 21 Feb

Thomas Swartz - 22 Feb

Tracy Coetzer - 24 Feb

Hugo du Preez - 25 Feb

Louwaine Swarts - 26 Feb

GOLF - THE GAME WE ALL LOVE

"Golf : the art of turning a good walk into a scavenger hunt for lost balls."

"I don't need therapy, I just need fewer double bogeys."

"Swing hard... in case you hit it."

"Golf is 90% mental... and the other 10% is finding your ball."

The following are the full results of our 4BBBS at Empangeni Golf Club, 01 February 2026 :

- 1st - John Ngema; Hugo du Preez; Jackie Joseph & Magnus Oosthuizen - 142 points
2nd - Des Millin; Peet Strydom; Warren Thackwray & George van Wyk - 138 points
3rd - Brian Conway; Greg Duncan; Wilhelm Janse van Rensburg & Bradley Sander - 136 points
4th - Jenny Hughes; Apie Hughes; Koos Mouton & Teresa Wickham - 131 points
5th - Dawn Swartz; Tom Swartz; Jeanette de Klerk & Peter de Klerk - 128 points
6th - Johan Meeding; Douw Ferreira; Burt Porteous & Dawie Pretorius - 122 points
*** Marina Graaff; Leon Graaff; Chris Howcroft & James Lloyd - 146 points (DQ)

Most Golf : Rozy de Vos; Pieter Cloete; Jeff Hunter & John MacFarlane - 105 points

Nearest to pin - No 9 : Wilhelm Jansen van Rensburg

Nearest to pin - No 17 - Johan Meeding

Birdies shot on the day : John Ngema x 1; Apie Hughes x 1; Warren Thackwray x 1; Tom Swartz x 1
Johan Meeding x 2

Whiskey Draw - Dawn Swartz



First : Hugo du Preez; Magnus Oosthuizen; John Ngema & Jackie Josef *Chairman Leon Graaf (Left)





**2nd : Peet Strydom; Warren Thackway;
Des Millin & George van Wyk (Absent)**



**3rd : Bradley Sander; Wilhelm J v Rensburg;
Brian Conway & Greg Duncan**



**Nearest to pin : No 9
Wilhelm Jansen van Rensburg**

**Nearest to pin : No 17
Johan Meeding (Absent)**



**Birdies on the day : Apie Hughes; Tom Swartz;
Warren Thackway; John Ngema & Johan Meeding**



**Whiskey Winner :
Dawn Swartz with Chairman, Leon Graaff**

“Golf is a game in which a ball is placed upon a spot of grass, and a human being attempts to hit it with an iron rod into a small hole. There is no other known sport where the equipment is more mismatched to the objective.”

- Dave Barry -



**Sages Zululand welcomes two new members :
Warren Thackway (Simbithi Golf Club) & Greg Duncan (Kwambonambi)**



**Nothing beats a good braai after a long day
James Lloyd & Bradley Sander stoking the fire**



**Best dress couple on the day !
Apie & Jenny Hughes with Chairman Leon Graaff**



**Some Committee members taking a "STRAFDOP" in their stride.
James Lloyd; Marina Graaff, Leon Graaff & Burt Porteous**

Three Apocryphal golfing tales

1. The Identity parade

In a club knockout match some years ago, my opponent and I played seemingly good shots to the par-3 4th hole, with both balls flying high and straight towards the pin. But, as it's a raised green, it wasn't possible to see how the shots had finished. When we made the climb to the putting surface only one ball was visible, just a couple of feet shy of the pin. My opponent crept up towards the hole and let out a shout of excitement upon seeing the other ball lying in the cup.

It was at this point we realised we were playing exactly the same model of ball, with the same number and with no discernible markings. It was impossible to be absolutely certain which was whose, so we were forced to declare both balls lost and march back down the hill to play three off the tee.

I now mark my balls up very carefully.

Marvin Berry

Upper Goddleswick GC

2. A true story

Playing in the English Amateur Championship of 1974 at [Moortown Golf Club](#) in Leeds, Nigel Denham was a little bold, and a touch left, with his approach shot to the 18th hole. His ball bounced off a path and flew through an open door at the side of the clubhouse.

At that time the clubhouse was not deemed out of bounds so Denham went to look for his ball. He just followed the shouts, as it had ricocheted off a wall and into the bar, where it had come to rest under a table. With numerous drinkers egging him on, Denham looked at the situation and wondered if a shot might be possible. He moved the table and chairs and saw he could make a swing. He opened one of the windows overlooking the 18th green and played a delicate chip off the carpet, his ball snuck through the window and landed on the green. It rolled up to within five feet of the hole and, of course, he holed the putt for a miraculous par four.

3. Crossed wires

I was playing in the Saturday Medal when my playing partner [sliced his ball](#) wildly from the second tee, out of bounds, over the wall surrounding the course and into a neighbouring garage forecourt. We both winced as we heard an ear-splitting shattering sound. His Titleist had gone straight through the windscreen of a parked car. As we made our way tentatively down the fairway, a rather square looking fellow vaulted the wall and began walking purposefully in our direction, holding a golf ball up in the air.

"Your bleeping ball just smashed my windshield," he shouted.

"My goodness, I'm terribly sorry," said my playing partner. "I just hit a horrible slice."

"Well, what are you going to do about it?" Raged the man.

"I suppose I'll try strengthening my grip a little," he replied, without a hint of sarcasm.

Ingemar Hawkins-Bellhop

Biddlesthwaite GC

"Golf is a puzzle without an answer. I've played the game for 50 years and I still haven't the slightest idea of how to play."

Gary Player

"Golf... is the infallible test. The man who can go into a patch of rough alone, with the knowledge that only God is watching him, and play his ball where it lies, is the man who will serve you faithfully and well."

- P.G. Wodehouse -

INFORMATION FOR OUR NEW MEMBERS

What is Sages?

Sages Senior Golfers, the short form of the name being Sages, is a **golfing society** for senior golfers. Members of golf clubs who have reached the age of 50 are eligible to join their nearest branch. Branches arrange tournaments at different golf clubs within its area one or more times per month. Sages enjoy the opportunity of fellowship with other senior golfers, and the opportunity to play with Sages at different courses all over the country.

A brief history of Sages :

Sages started in 1974 as a result of an increasing demand from senior golfers who felt the need for an organisation that would meet their requirements. The first branch, Rand Central (now called [Jimmy Gowans branch](#)), was formed in 1974 under the chairmanship of founder member Jimmy Gowans.

The other branches followed in quick succession, with the first **Sages National Champion** being crowned in 1978.

By 2012 there were 29 branches with a total of about 3000 plus members.

How do I join Sages (sageseniorgolfers.co.za)

1. If you are 50 or over and a member in good standing at a recognised golf club, you can apply to join **SAGES**.

SAGES BRANCHES

CAPE	CENTRAL	NATAL	NORTHERN
1. Boland	1. Eastern Free State	1. Central	1. Eats Rand
2. Border	2. Free State	2. Drakensberg	2. Far North
3. Eastern Province	3. Northern Free State	3. Lower South Coast	3. Highveld
4. Kouga	4. North West	4. Metropolitan	4. Jacaranda
5. Langeberg	5. Vaal River	5. Midlands	5. Jimmy Gowans
6. Outeniqua		6. Zululand	6. Lowveld
7. Overberg			7. South Rand
8. South Cape			8. Waterberg
9. Western Province			9. West Rand

“My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same, Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game. It Rules My Mind For Hours On End, A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend. It Has Made Me Yell, Curse And Cry, I Hate Myself And Want To Die. It Promises A Thing Called Par, If I Can Hit It Straight And Far. To Master Such A Tiny Ball, Should Not Be Very Hard At All. But My Desires The Ball Refuses, And Does Exactly As It Chooses. It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup, And Swear That I Will Give It Up. And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow, But The Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back Tomorrow.”

Zululand Sages

Remaining Branch Fixtures - 2026

DATE	VENUE	FORMAT
10 Feb	Inter Club - Princes Grant	4BBBS
01 March	Eshowe	4BBBS Scramble Drive
16-20 March	Sages Nationals	Randburg
12 April	Umfolozi	4 Ball Alliance (Best 2)
17 May	Richards Bay	IPS
07 Jun	Kwambonambi	Tombstone/Flagstick
12 July	Mtunzini	Ryder Cup
18 July	Pongola	4BBBS
15 Aug	Richards Bay	Cansa Open Day (IPS)
06 Sept	Kwambonambi	IPS
5 & 6 Oct	Dundee	KZN Regionals
11 Oct	Monzi	Hidden Partner (IPS)
01 Nov	Empangeni	Club Champs
21 Nov	RBCC / Sages Open Day	4BBBS
06 Dec	Kwambonambi	Committee Revenge Game ** Prize Awards



WHISKEY DONATIONS – 2026

** Whisky donations are welcome !!

Please post your name & month you want to donate.



Best regards
George van Wyk
Secretary
Zululand Sages
078 220 8638
acse@telkomsa.net

