

SAGES Senior Golfers

LAEVELD / LOWVELD



NEWSLETTER / NUUSBRIEF

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Rumours are spreading on social media that this golf course and The Royal Hotel are for sale and could mean the end of a long-standing heritage. Untrue! Tenders have up to the end of May 2026 to submit investment possibilities. It is a lie that this is the end. The golf members and management are adamant that the golf course will still be operating as usual. Dit noop my om te herhaal wat ek twaalf jaar gelede in 'n nuusbrieff geskryf het, party het al daarvan vergeet, ander was nog nie met ons nie. I am compelled to repeat what I wrote twelve years ago about Pilgrim's Rest.

Pilgrim's Rest was not what it says it is. In 1873, Alec Wheelbarrow Patterson came over the mountains pushing a 'kruiswa' with mining tools. He panned in the riverbed and found gold. News spread and with other fortune seekers a William Trafford arrived here and when he also found this glittering treasure, shouted out, echoing through the hills; "at last Pilgrim at rest" and a town got its name. Pilgrim's Rest. I do not know whether Trafford was a real pilgrim searching for his shrine and then rested. I doubt it. And I also do not know whether Wheelbarrow Alec could have been a proper pilgrim either. What I think and what I've read can be two completely different truths. With 15000 eager optimistic gold diggers flocking to this new village, one needs a Pilgrim or a preaching Pastor. Because, for every ten or so miner's tents there was one bar tent. The gold was exchanged for liquor. Times were tough and the living was hard and rough. So, even the self-appointed pilgrim could have been a prospector, a picker, a preacher, a pastor, a poet, a pleaser and certainly a problem when stone drunk!

Van die genoemde inligting is die reine waarheid, ander is spekulasie en 'n bietjie is 'n ware lieg storie. Wat absoluut die waarheid is, is dat Pelgrimsrus se GHOLFBAAN meer as 'n honderd jaar gelede gebou is en dat Cobus Beetge, Kobus Hugo, Deon Badenhorst en Faan Strydom van die kontrei, sorg vir die instandhouding van hierdie pragtige plek. Van hulle kom oor die berge deur Rowerspas. Die skoonvelde is netjies, die versteekte verassende 'water

hazards' is uitdagend en die waterstroom wat kronkel deur die baan is die helderste. Die karaktervolle klubhuis het nie sy gelyke nie. Hierdie gebou is die presiese skoolgebou wat op Lindleyspoort gestaan het. Hy is daar in die Verre Wes-Transvaal gesloop, elke baksteen is genommer en aangery Pelgrimsrus toe, herbou tot in sy oorspronklike glorie om te kom pronk op hierdie myndorpie. Merkwaardig.

Wie sou kon dink dat die baan destyds met twee osse en 'n sleeptipe grassnyer (soos 'n byderwedse haarkapper se knipper) die gras in toom moes hou. Dit is n waarheid. Die osse het gholfskoene aan hul hoewe gehad sodat die setperke nie beskadig word nie, maar dis 'n ware liegstorie want die diere het alewig die skoene uitgeskop. Die osse se name was Par en Bogey en laasgenoemde het telkens buiteperke toe geneuk. Ag, dis ook 'n ware onwaar storie, want my bron is onbewysbaar, verdag. What ever!

29 spelers het opgedaag. Die wat lyf skaars gehou het, jammer vir julle want dit was 'n baie aangename byeenkoms. Four of our most respected senior members, Pieter, Alec, Jakes and George, where there notwithstanding or in spite of the narrow road and the looming bad weather. Die vier Pelgrims Sages musketiers het uit hul pad gegaan om dit vir ons wat daar was lekker te maak.

- **BESOEKERS:**

Geen besoekers nie.

- **VERSKONINGS:**

Bob, Dave, Len, Louis R, Louis R, Hennie, Jan, Japie, Sandy, Robert, Gert, Philip, Sys, Loks, Gerrie, Pieter, Flip, Patrick, Leon W, Lappies, Danie, Piet, Mxolisi, Rudi, Cas, Jurgens, Johan, Dennie, Daleen, Christo, Paul, Schalk, Zelna, Okkie, Dawie, en 'n ander dertig spraaklose litte!

- **BEDANKINGS:**

Pelgrims Rust se bestuur vir die gebruik van fasiliteite.

De Vine vir die lekker kos.

Cobus Beetge, Kobus Hugo, Deon Badenhorst en Faan Strydom vir alles ingesluit, die uitstekende vooraf se eetgoed en koffie, die gasvryheid en die goeie pryse daarna.

- **MEI VERJAARSDAE:**

Rodney Sproule 13/40, Jakes Labuschagne 14/42, Alec King 15/44, Zonja Labuschagne 24/69, Danie du Toit 30/56 *70.

In case you forgot.

So then we rocked up to Pilgrims Rest. Senior golfers in blue well dressed ... from far afield to enjoy a day of sport. Grey haired guys and bald men, of every sort took on this hundred 'n twelve-year course, with great expectations, humble, no remorse!

The ball was struck, but went so slow, it seldom reached the pin and hole.

Off the fairways I saw men slicing, duffing, for an agonizing six or seven, just worth nothing. But still dear friends, for all who came, for everyone the course, was all the same! I have to ask this question straight and bold...how would you have been, if you were a putting green, who is more than a hundred summers old?

Hy's gebou in die dae van die ou Transvaal, langs die spoor van eeu ou ossewa, dis 'n baie ou baan... oom, sê net ja... en los jou maars vir wanneer jy verjaar!

- **PERSONALIA:**

Ons is dankbaar en bly saam met Cobus Beetge vir sy herstel na 'n lang en moeilike gesondheids toestand. Bert Griesel gaan vroeg in Meimaand vir 'n operasie. Sterkte word hom toegebid.

- **WINNERS:**

Today's Comp. IPS

Winners: 1st Chris Koch 36 pts.

2nd Faan Strydom 33 pts.

3rd Danie du Toit 32 pts

Two clubs: Japie Maritz, Nico Koen, Archie Smuts.

Nearest to pin: Jannie Liebenberg

Langste dryf: Jannie Liebenberg and Chris Koch

Quantity Golf: Dawie v/d Merwe

Nico Koen neem die vlag om vir Barberton te gee.

- **ALGEMEEN:**

Our Sages NMC invites us every year to take part in our weeklong Nationals. Our allocation is normally eight players. We have a point system in place to determine and reward members who play regularly in our branch tournaments and who support Sages and the purpose of it:

Previous year's record to be used:

10 Games played - 6 pts.

9 games - 5 pts

8 games - 4 pts.

6 games - 3 pts.

5 games - 2 pts.

4 games - nil pts.

Regional Games played: 3 pts. per game.

Serving on the committee - 2 pts.

If scores are tied, the average points scored with monthly games played to be used as a count out. If scores are still tied, age will benefit the older player. The first 2 positions available is reserved for the Chairman and Treasurer who attends the AGM at the Nationals and Mini Nationals. Other committee members may stand in for these two positions if the need arises. By the way, if need be, we always ask for more allocations.

The 2027 Nationals will be held in the George/Mosselbay area in the Outeniqua Branch.

NEXT MEETING:

Our next meeting will be held in Barberton on 21st Mei 2026.

I will go anywhere as long as it is forward, and what I look at does not matter, what I see counts.

Looking forward to see you next time,

Leon du Plessis