

PUTTING IT TO YOU

OFFICIAL MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE RPAGC

ISSUE 12

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This issue contains great news with respect to the **Land deal**, the encumbrance that has held the club in its ugly grip for over four years.

Sadly, it also contains the obituary of one of our club's most stalwart and popular members, the late Frank Gardner, who sadly passed away after a long illness.

The last of the wildlife appendices, this one on **Springbok**, is also attached. (In future these will be replaced with short notes on "*Celebrated RPAGC Members, Present and Past*", people whom, we hope, should interest our readers. The first will be on founder member Dr. Cecil Edward Jones-Phillipson, the first of 4 generations of Jones-Phillipson members at the RPAGC)

Please note that there will be a **Mixed Better-Ball Stableford** competition on the 16th June, a public holiday, in order to raise funds for the Junior Section. The **Founders' Cup** will be run concomitantly. Whilst the competition teams can be any mix of male/male, male/female or female/female, only mixed couples will be eligible to win the Founders' Cup as per the rules for this trophy.

Nothing more to it than to read on, so enjoy....

CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

Colin Howard: Well at last I am able to report that after many glitches, hiccups (you name them, we've had them all), the land deal has finally gone through and the funds have been safely deposited in the club's bank account. This will certainly ease the RPAGC's interest burden which we have been carrying for the past four years.

Our grateful thanks must go out to Noel Stötter. Noel has been involved in this project since the problem initially emerged. In so doing he has had to attend many frustrating meetings, make time-consuming phone calls and has written reams of documentation in order to finalise the matter. Our thanks also go to all those involved at **Neave and Stötter**, to Jimmy Neave and all who in some small way or another have assisted in bringing this encumbrance to a long awaited closure.

Whilst on matters financial, the finance committee has been working extremely hard on next year's budget. We have kept increases to a minimum and budgeted for a small profit. Next year's fee structure and accounts will be mailed to members shortly. A word of thanks must go to the ladies in the accounts office, Brenda and Sally, who have been hard at work implementing systems put in place by the committee and ensuring, together with the manager, that controls are in place and figures supplied in time each month.

We were saddened by the recent passing of one of our longtime members and current vice-president Frank Gardner after a long illness. A wonderful gentleman, past committee member, captain and club champion, honorary life member and fine golfer until arthritis ended his golfing involvement, Frank still took an interest in the happenings at the club and enjoyed his weekly afternoons with the bridge club. Our condolences go to Gift and the family.

It was wonderful to host yet another successful Mad Hatter at the club during the last week of April. Our thanks go to chairman Dave Page and all his members of the 1820's Mad Hatter Committee, and to Tournament Director Dennis McElwee and his helpers for all their hard work. Our grateful thanks also go out to all those who assisted in various ways. Tim Ridden, in the absence of green-

keeper Graham Oliver, along with the Greens Committee, are also deserving of a special thank-you for preparing and maintaining the course for and during the tournament; especially after the 100 mm plus deluge that fell during the early hours of Thursday morning.

The Mens' Club Championships were held over two days this last weekend. Well done and congratulations to John Kew (gross 143) who became the RPAGC Champion for the 4th year running. He was well ahead of runners-up Moses Slavert and Leon Evans on 150. Also well done to "B" Div winner Tommy Meyer (163) and his runner-up Wollie Wolmarans (169). The "C" Div winner was Neil Menary (179) who beat Mike Hellens into second place on 184.

Thank you to Viv Jordan who kindly sponsored the event so generously, and to Tournaments Chairman Corrie van Zyl, who put in a lot of hard work in ensuring the success of the weekend. Of course also a big thank you to all the club members who supported the Champs and who perhaps played for the first time in a long while with it being held over two days.

Our appreciation to the Greens Committee, Graham Oliver and his staff for turning out such a super course over the weekend.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

Kevin Harpur: Please note that annual subscription pro-forma invoices will be posted out to all members before the end of May 2010. As in the past, full members, non-resident members (a new category) and country members will be allowed to deduct R100 from their account *so long as the account is paid by 1st July, 2010.*

Just a friendly reminder that, in terms of section 22 of the Club Constitution, and I quote, "*No member who has not paid his subscription within 3 months after it becomes due shall be entitled to continue as a member while his subscription remains unpaid.*" (I take it we can substitute "her" for "him" where applicable).

The Committee have made every effort to contain increases relating to fees and subscriptions, but as the club budgets to break even, members unfortunately have to contribute to the ever increasing costs faced by the club. The primary expenditure is, and has traditionally been, course maintenance. The cost of equipment, fertilizer and pesticides in particular, have unfortunately all rocketed over the past year.

We appeal to all members to pay their subscriptions on time and take advantage of the discount offered. As a matter of interest, many clubs are now charging interest on all amounts not paid within the subscribed period, something which the RPAGC have never done. Should there be any member who finds him or herself in financial circumstances such that he / she is unable to meet these costs, please do not hesitate to contact me (Kevin) before the fees are due in order to negotiate a satisfactory payment arrangement. Such arrangements will obviously be treated in the strictest confidence, but only exceptionally deserving cases will be considered.

We face the same rising costs that clubs all over the country face, whilst our fees remain comparatively very competitive. There has been a fall off in membership over the past few years resulting in an erosion of our base for fee collection. We would like every member's contribution as soon as possible as slow payment dramatically affects our cash flow.

I am pleased to inform you that Lindela Draai will be returning as a full time Barman as from the 1st June. Many of you will remember Lindela in the past as a friendly and efficient barman. We welcome you back, Lindela, and trust that you will have a long and happy stay with us.

Bella and Gill have ended their catering contract with us and we wish them all success in their new endeavours. Thank you to you both for your valued contribution over the past few years.

We are currently looking for new caterers and hope to make an announcement soon. The new contract will begin from the 1st July.

If you win a prize in a competition please make every effort to collect it as soon as possible as we have a large number of uncollected prizes with very little space to store them. In future, prizes that have not been collected within a reasonable time will be recycled.

I once again ask you to please insist on a receipt when making purchases at the bar. This ensures

that you have been charged for the correct items and also ensures compliance with our instructions to the barman.

Enjoy your golf and we hope to see you all at the next Club draw on the 25th June at 7.00 pm. You never know your luck, so please join us.

LEAGUE RESULTS

Ladies: The second round of the Monday League was played on Monday 24th May at Humewood Golf Club. A strong westerly wind blew all day and the Humewood Links course is not user-friendly in such conditions. Our matches were against PEGC and St Francis GC and we did well scoring 16 out of a possible 24 points. Nine teams are competing and after two rounds the RPAGC is in lying 4th.

The next round will take place on July 26th against The Hill and Country Disticts at Uitenhage.

Gents: Its not been a great season for the Port Alfred league sides. Both "A" and "B" teams are playing in the 2nd league containing six teams. The "As" are lying fourth with 9 points and the "Bs" are languishing at the bottom with 3. The "A" team played the "B" team on Sunday at the RPAGC, beating them 14 to 4.

The last round of the season will be played on 6th June. The A side will play Jeffrey's Bay and the PEGC at Walmer, and the B side against Shark River and Uitenhage at Shark River.

COURSE AND GREENS

Cecil Jones-Phillipson informs us: At last a wonderful deluge of more than 140 mm fell just before the end of April. Unfortunately, a blocked storm-water drain diverted a considerable amount of water away from our bottom dam, but nevertheless we were still able to pump water up and half fill the top dam. At present the water situation is still looking good.

Our fairways have made a remarkable recovery, but there are large areas which will only properly cover after we receive Spring rain which should fall in August / September. Hold thumbs! The greens are in good condition considering we were unable to water them for more than a month. We will continue to verticut them every week. All fairways and greens have been fertilized and all greens are being irrigated at 50% of normal capacity. The greens will be de-thatched in early Spring.

We received soil sample analyses recently and 17 greens are as they should be with respect to nitrogen, phosphate, potassium and all the necessary trace elements. The exception is the 14th green which is showing excessive sodium. It is possible that this is the reason that we have been experiencing so many problems with this green. We will be taking the necessary action to rectify the problem.

We will be paving roads in June which should make many of the Golf car users happy. We have purchased a second hand *side-winder mower* which will greatly assist us when mowing the sides of tee-boxes and behind the Greens. Paths have been trimmed and patched after wash-away caused by the recent heavy deluge.

We have observed that the long drought has had a detrimental effect on the bush on the Course. In addition to the drought, many new paths have appeared, probably made by ball-collectors and others walking in the bush. I should like to recommend that all ball collection in the bushy areas be prohibited and will put this proposal to the Full Committee Meeting on 31st May.

Our boundary fence needs to be replaced, but course staff do not have sufficient time to do this job. This will possibly necessitate hiring fencers. This will go hand in hand with the protection of our indigenous species in the bush, namely bushbuck, blue duiker and grysbok. We realize that the banning of everyone entering the bush would be difficult to control, but at least anyone found in the bush would be trespassing and liable for prosecution. After the heavy downpour the *reverse osmosis plant* and drilling of boreholes has been put on the back burner, but will still remain on our "*wish list*". We need to make serious decisions to enable us to ensure sufficient water in the future for our

course. We have experienced a number of break-downs of our machinery during the past month, not unexpected when considering its age. Replacement of such will be another item on our *wish list*!

I should like to thank Graham Oliver and his staff for continuing to keep our course in such good condition despite the drought we have been experiencing. Special thanks to Tim Ridden for doing a great job whilst Graham was on leave and especially during the hectically busy week of the Mad Hatter Tournament. My grateful thanks to Bob Shaw for his assistance and valuable advice.

LADIES' SECTION

Dee Jones-Phillipson writes: The weather during April and May is normally good as a rule, with fewer windy days. We have enjoyed better golfing weather of late. Our fields have averaged around 30 ladies.

On 20th April we played a 3-Ball Alliance for the Sybil Trophy. In 2008 Gale Brakenridge donated the trophy which is in the form of a large 'silver' lady golfer. As Greg and Gale have relocated to the Plettenberg Bay area and are no longer members of the RPAGC, Gale very kindly provided the prizes for the competition, a most generous farewell gift and very much appreciated by the Ladies' Section.

On Saturday, 15th May, 13 RPAGC ladies played in the Grahamstown G. C. Ladies Open. The weather was very good by Grahamstown Golf Days' standards and the day was greatly enjoyed by all. The Grahamstown Ladies were most appreciative for the support from all their visitors.

Our Rosehill Superspar 36 hole Strokeplay Championships will be played over two afternoons, Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will enjoy good golfing weather on both afternoons.

WILDLIFE MATTERS

Geoff Broom informs us: The rain which has fallen over the past month has done wonders for the golf course as well as our wildlife, which are all in excellent condition once more.

A wide variety of palatable herbage species are once again on offer and in abundance and our wildlife are thriving in these very favourable conditions. This is particularly wonderful to see after the prolonged drought experienced throughout this area in recent times.

While I am entirely happy with the conditions on offer for our "open area" grazing animals, I am disturbed by the very low and infrequent number of "sightings" made on our "small, thick vegetation" species such as *Duiker* and *Grysbok*. I am wondering whether the continual human disturbance factor caused by people hunting for golf balls in the areas of thick bush is not having an adverse effect on these species. I will be paying particularly careful attention to this over the coming months!

Five Impala have been captured recently and are at present being offered for sale to game farmers. The capture operation was successful and I am pleased to say that no animals were damaged or hurt in any way.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Ladies Competitions:

1 st June:	1 st Round of the Ruth Kelly Matchplay Knockout
7 th / 8 th	Rosehill Super Spar 36 hole Strokeplay Championships
15 th	SANLAM Individual Stableford
16 th	Junior Golf Fund-raiser: Mixed Better-Ball-Stableford
22 nd	Woolworths Individual Stableford / Lady Graham Cup
29 th	Steers 3-Ball Alliance
6 th July:	Pick n Pay LGU and Putting
13 th	Rosehill Super Spar Better-Ball Stableford

20 th	Woolworths Individual Stableford
26 th	Monday League RPAGC versus Country Districts and The Hill at Uitenhage GC
27 th	President's Prize – Individual Stableford
3 rd August:	Pick n Pay LGU and Putting / Helyear Bowl
10 th	Rosehill Super Spar Better-Ball Stableford
14 th /15 th	EP and Border Championships at RPAGC
17 th	Homewoods 3-Ball Alliance
24 th	Highlander Bonus Bogey
29 th	SANLAM Regional Finals at Uitenhage GC
31 st	Woolworths Individual Stableford

Gents' Wednesday's Competitions:

2 nd June:	D & A Timbers Individual Medal
9 th	PSG Consult Albany 2-Ball Alliance
16 th	Junior Golf Fund-raiser: Mixed Better-Ball Stableford
23 rd	Pick 'n Pay 4-Ball Stableford Alliance
30 th	Brandhouse Individual Stableford
7 th July:	D& A Timbers Individual Medal
14 th	SAB Better-Ball Stableford
21 st	Pick 'n Pay 4-Ball Stableford Alliance
28 th	Brandhouse Individual Stableford
4 th August:	D & A Timbers Individual Medal
11 th	PSG Consult Albany 4-Ball Alliance
21 st	Sotheby's Realty Better-Ball Medal
28 th	SAB Better-Ball Stableford

Weekend Competitions:

5 th June:	Rosehill Superspar Better-Ball Medal for the Clayton Vase
12 th	SAB Better-Ball Bonus Bogey
19 th	Unique Properties 2-Ball Alliance for the J. Phillipson Cup
26 th	Sotheby's Realty Better-Ball Stableford
3 rd July:	Remax Kowie Better-Ball Stableford
10 th	Rosehill Super Spar Better-Ball Medal for the St. Andrew's Cup
17 th	SAB Better-Ball Stableford
23 rd	ROYALS COMPETITION RPAGC
24 th	ROYALS COMPETITION FISH RIVER
25 th	ROYALS COMPETITION RPAGC
31 st	GBS Mutual Bank Better-Ball-Bonus-Bogey
7 th August:	Rosehill Super Spar BetterBall Stableford for the Maltby Cup
14 th	Closed for the EP / Border Ladies Champs
15 th	Closed for the EP / Border Ladies Champs
21 st	Sotheby's Realty Better-Ball Medal
28 th	SAB 2-Ball Alliance

LIGHTER SIDE OF GOLF

Bettine Hattingh sent me a copy of the grace read by W F Brennan at a dinner held by the RPAGC to celebrate its 60th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) on the 2nd December, 1967. It had been kept by her father, Gordon Butler (same Gordon Butler who presented the cup used by the 1820s) who had attended the dinner. It has such beautiful words about our treasure that I thought you would like to share.

We thank thee, O Lord :

For the smooth rolling fairway,

*And the greens that are true,
For the breath of the ocean,
And the heavens so blue.*

*For all thy hand giveth
In nature so fair,
For the flight of the ball
As it soars through the air.*

*For the tees, and the caddies,
And the bunkers so rough,
The uphill and downhill
That have made our course tough*

*For the memories entwined
As "Time marches on"
For the joy and the laughter
Of days that are gone.*

*For these and all also
What'er betide,
We ask Thee, O Lord,
With us to abide*

APPENDIX: SPRINGBOK

Antidorcas marsupialis

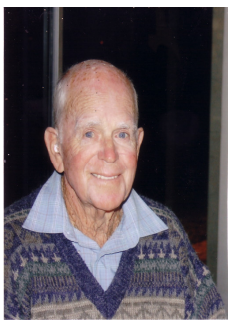


Springbok are not indigenous to this part of the Eastern Cape, but their natural habitat is not too far away to the north-west. They inhabit the grasslands of the Free State, and the shrub lands of the Little and Great Karoo. Their presence extends northwards to the southern areas of Namibia and the central and south-western Kalahari in Botswana.

Springbok belong to the gazelle family and mature animals stand between 70 – 87 cm high. The males weigh from 33 – 50 kg and the females somewhat lighter from 26 – 40 kg. They are very athletic running at speeds of up to 90 kph, leap 3.5 meters up into the air and clear distances of 15 meters.

They are tan in colour on top and white underneath with a dark brown line separating these two hues. A longitudinal ridge or flap runs across the central surface of the back. Both the sexes grow horns, the ewe's being thinner, but slightly longer than the ram's. Their average length is about 35 cm, although the trophy record is for a female at just over 49 cm. The ewe's legs also tend to be thinner than the ram's.

They are versatile in that they can eat a wide variety of grasses, leaves and shoots, including some sweet, succulent shrubs found in the Karoo. It is thought in some areas that they can survive without drinking water throughout their lives, receiving all their requirements through the food that they eat. One of the most delightful springbok activities one can witness is the act of *pronking*. *Pronking* involves the animal leaping up into the air every few paces, lifting the flap along its back and causing the white hairs under its tail to stand up in a conspicuous fan shape and releasing a strong, floral scent of sweat. It may assume this behaviour when trying to attract a mate, or when predators are present. In the latter case, it is not known whether this is an act to show its strength in relation to other members of the herd (so that the predator would chose an easier target) or to act as a warning of the imminent danger to other members in the group



OBITUARY: FRANK GARDNER – A TRUE GENTLEMAN 1927 - 2010

Steve Gardner writes: Frank was born in Alexandria where the family farmed, the Gardner family having settled in the area in 1820. (The first Gardner farm was actually what is currently known as Mosslands.) He was the third child of Victor and Eileen and has two older brothers, Earnest (86) and Des (84) plus a younger sister, Joy. Growing up on the farm, he attended local farm schools in the area before going to Kingswood College from 1941 to 1944.

After School Frank worked in and around Port Elizabeth doing plumbing, farming and dam building. In 1950 he moved to Langholm where he farmed pineapples for 13 years. He married Gift in 1955. During the last two years on the farm, Frank became involved with a live stock agency and moved to Port Alfred in 1964.

Soon after arriving in Port Alfred, he joined Tom Moore in the estate agency business and formed Moore and Gardner Estates which recently changed name first to Homenet and then to Harcourts. In 1966 Gift and Frank bought Bretton Beach Crest which they built into a successful holiday resort. They then acquired The Spinning Reel Cottages in 1969 which they further extended. In about 1974, Frank built the kiddies tidal pool in the rocks in front of these cottages, still enjoyed by holiday makers today. (No EIA then).

Next, in 1981, was the purchase of the farm Banksia near Bathurst where he farmed cattle. He won the Mangold Trophy at the Bathurst Show in 1990 for the best conserved farm.

Frank started playing golf a year or two before he left the farm, playing mainly in Grahamstown in those days. Upon arriving in Port Alfred he joined The Royal Port Alfred Golf Club and purchased Life Membership for £100.

Frank was soon elected to the committee at Royal Port Alfred. (He used to point out that in those days one had to serve on every sub-committee before one could be elected Vice-Captain). He served as Captain in 1977 and 1978 and was made a Vice-President of the club.

Frank was a great competitor. He believed in the etiquette and rules of golf. Being a single figure handicap for most of his playing career, he played in the RPAGC Kelly Foursomes' "A" side for 18 years, winning the tournament in 1973. (His partners that year were Bobbie Robbins, Chris Perold and Brian Shelper).

Frank joined Seniors in 1983 at the age of 55 and served on the Seniors Committee for about 7 years. He won the EP Seniors Championship at the Port Elizabeth Golf Club in February 1987 and went on to finish runner up in the SA Senior Championships in Durban in May of that year. These achievements led him to be elected the Port Alfred Sportsman of the Year in 1987. He also won the EP Seniors "B" Division (age 60 to 65) in 1989.

Frank had his only Hole-in-One whilst playing with the Seniors at the PE Golf Club in 1991. He also had the distinction of making four 2-clubs in one round while playing at Humewood. He represented EP Country Districts for 3 years in the late eighties.

Having been runner-up on something like 11 occasions, Frank finally won the Club Championships in 1992 at the age of 65. Remarkably, he successfully defended his title the following year with rounds of 73 and 75. At that time he was playing off a 5 h/cap which was the lowest he ever attained. He was certainly one of the finest short game players around.

Sadly, within a few years Frank had to give up golf due to arthritis in his hands. He took up bowls which he enjoyed very much and was proud to achieve an "8-badge" (equivalent to a Hole-in-One at golf).

Both Frank and Gift were elected Honorary Life Members of the RPAGC in 2002.

Frank enjoyed bridge and played both duplicate and socially for many years. He belonged to the Historical Society for many years and had a keen interest in the Gardner and Lower Albany history. He was also a member of the Probus Club. Frank was a Freemason for many years and was once Master of the Lodge in Port Alfred for one year.

Frank was married to Gift for 55 years and had three children: Lee, Stephen and Russell. **RIP**