

Gowrie Farm

NOTTINGHAM ROAD

From the chair...

11th March 2010

Dear members and homeowners

It is hard to believe that we are already into March and this is our first communication with you. This year is moving so much faster than last year! I confirm that we shall no longer be publishing our electronic newsletter, as the Board believes that the cost is not warranted. So, we shall be dropping you a newsletter in this format on a bi-monthly basis. These newsletters will also be posted directly onto the website.

ESTATE NEWS

We are pleased to welcome three more families to the estate; Brian and Barbara Dingley, Peter and Gill Bergs and George and Marion Clarke. All have completed their homes and are now living at Gowrie Farm. This brings the number of permanent residents on Gowrie Farm to seven families.

This year has also seen the approval of three sets of plans. The Mooi River Cattle Company, which owns 19 sites, also intend commencing building on most of their properties, which shall be an exciting development.

At the last AGM, we were given the authority to start landscaping the public areas. However, with the very wet and cold conditions which we have experienced over the last three and a half months, the team has not managed to get on top of their normal work program and have accordingly been unable to implement the planting program. Commencing the landscaping as we start going into winter is not a good idea. We have therefore arranged with a local nursery to hold all the stock we purchased until spring. During October and November, we will commence with this major planting program. The first areas to be dealt with will be the area overlooking Island Dam, the valley leading from Waterford Road to Island Dam, as well as the lower part of the hillside below Hillside Road. We will also be planting the banks below the Dingley's house with indigenous grasses, so as to ensure that they blend in. We appeal to all those who build in this area of pristine grassland to use primary indigenous planting and to use synoden for lawns, as this will complement the existing grasslands.

The swimming pool is progressing well and we believe it shall be a wonderful asset for the estate, especially with a number of homeowners and children being keen swimmers. On this note, we would like to congratulate Andy and Michael Fenn, Dylan Rice and the Whiting family (Michael, Brenda, Gina, Christopher and Emily) who all entered the Midmar Mile. A special congratulations to Christopher Whiting, who, at age 14, completed the 8 mile event! Well done.

The Charles Smythe Cottage has now been completed and will be leased out by the Club. This venue incorporates a 24 seater conference centre and we hope that it will generate more traffic through Gowrie Farm during midweek. We will be focussing on executive conferences, so please think of us should you require a venue for a small conference or planning session. For more details, visit our website.



We have had numerous requests for the Clubhouse to be made available as a wedding venue - all of which we have turned down. However, we have now agreed with the golf committee to allow one wedding per month on days which we will determine. People who book the facility for a wedding will be obliged to not only pay the booking fee, but will also have to book two thirds of the golf field for the afternoon. In the case of members and homeowners, this will not apply. So if you are considering a wedding or major function and would like to use the Clubhouse as your venue of choice, please contact Clive on 033-266 6294.

GOLF NEWS

Welcome to Kevin Wood, our new greenkeeper. Kevin spent a year with us before going to Sakabula, where he worked as a greenkeeper and did an outstanding job on a limited budget. We will be retaining Dennis Schmidt as a consultant - initially for three days a week and later for one day a week. Dennis will be moving from Gowrie Village to Howick in the first week of April. We would like to express our gratitude for the tremendous job that he has done for us at Gowrie Farm. His effort has ensured that Gowrie Farm has been one of the best conditioned courses in Natal. Dennis' experience and input has been largely responsible for this achievement.

The Friendship Cup shall be held at the end of April, 2010. This golf event is a four day golf competition ending with the Friendship Ball on the evening of Saturday, 1st of May. The Ball is to be a black-tie event which we hope most of you will be able to attend. Bookings may be made through Deborah Price on 033-266 6348. The Friendship Cup shall be played over the 28th of April to the 1st of May and shall be hosted jointly by Gowrie Farm and Bosch Hoek. Members of either Gowrie Farm or Bosch Hoek will be required to play with a friend (who is not a member of either club). All teams are required to play two rounds of golf to qualify; one at Gowrie Farm and one at Bosch Hoek. The purpose of this event is to introduce friends of members to the Midlands and in particular, to these two golf courses, which are now South Africa's premier 9-hole courses.

Last week, we were fortunate enough to have Jeff Clause from St Francis Links with us. Jeff was previously the Golf Director at Fancourt and Pezulu and is considered by many to be South Africa's leading Club Pro and Golf Director. Jeff spent two days with us, sharing his expertise and knowledge, which was inspiring. We are certain it will assist us in improving the golf experience at Gowrie Farm.

This month we will also be visited by Sue de Swart - previously the greenkeeper at Leopard Creek. Sue is now recognised as one of South Africa's leading greenkeeping consultants and she will be working with us to try and assist us in achieving our objective as being recognised as the best conditioned course in the province.

At Gowrie Farm we are now going into the finest three months with regard to the weather. We hope to see more of you enjoying the course in the near future. Although this is very late, the Gowrie Farm Board and I wish you all a great 2010 and hopefully, Bafana Bafana will surprise us all.

Kind regards

Guy Smith
GOWRIE FARM

