

SOUTH AFRICAN BLIND GOLF ASSOCIATION (SABGA)

SABGA Committee visit to Worcester – 2015

The members of the SABGA committee (Johan Kotze, Ernst Conradie, Leon Strydom and Garrett Slattery) went to Worcester at the end of June to promote the sport of golf for the visually impaired.

On a very cold and wet Friday afternoon Johan, Ernst, Leon and Garrett met with six very keen visually impaired Worcester golfers at the Riverside driving range. The six all work at the Institute for the Blind, and have been coached by Oom Kulk Martinus. The committee was very impressed with the dedication of the players as well as that of Oom Kulk – who all stuck it out to get in their weekly practice despite the inclement weather.

So impressed were the committee members with the enthusiasm that two of the golfers, Johan Henning and Johan Steyn, have been invited to participate in the upcoming SA Blind Golf Open which is to take place in mid-September at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club.



SABGA Committee with golfers from the Institute for the Blind and helpers

Saturday morning saw the committee heading to the Pioneer School for the Blind. Rain forced the gathering into the school hall, but the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 11 teenagers who turned up to learn about how blind and partially sighted people can play the game of golf.

After the committee told the youngsters their stories, they were split into small groups and were all given the opportunity to try out some putting. The morning went well, and the learners went away having learned about another sporting option for them and with enthusiasm to try this again. Mr Ryk van Schoor from the Pioneer School, himself a very good golfer, may be able to investigate what can be done to further encourage the learners.



Learners from the Pioneer School for the Blind

The SABGA committee members feel this was an extremely worthwhile visit, and would like to express their sincere thanks to their sponsors for this event – Wiesenhof, Dulcé Café and the International Blind Golf Association – without whom this would not have been possible.

More pictures will be put in the Gallery on our website, at:
www.southafricanblindgolf.co.za