



From left, Anthea van Bremen of EMS Golf, Met manager Marthinus Jacobs, and course super Francois Gelderblom.

CAPE TOWN'S MET IS TOP CLUB IN SOUTH AFRICA

M

METROPOLITAN GOLF CLUB in Cape Town is this year's leading club in the sixth annual John Collier Survey, for reporting on environmental compliance and good governance. Special mentions go to Leopard Creek and Royal Durban. All three clubs displayed

an acute understanding of compliance levels and how this is linked to principles of sustainability.

There was a 21 percent participation level in the 2012-13 survey, and Collier says that results continue to be disappointing. "One can speculate as to the reasons, but generally the business of golf is suffering as a result of various factors, not the least being economic pressures, legislative developments and societal change," he said.

"While there are many examples of clubs presenting symptoms of these pressures, a number are exhibiting high levels of environmental compliance and good governance, one of the shining lights being Metropolitan. What is interesting about the Met report, and reinforced by club manager Marthinus Jacobs and course superintendent Francois Gelderblom, was the underlying principle

of sustainability in everything the club undertakes when managing its environmental compliance throughout the course."

Jacobs said that while the adjoining Cape Town Stadium was being constructed, the Met benefitted from a formal landscape assessment which has been incorporated into the course design. The Collier Survey indicates that only 32 percent of clubs have carried out such an assessment. Also, only 13 percent of clubs have a formal biodiversity policy and procedures regarding fauna and flora and the protection of rare and notable species in and around their golf courses. This is an area where the Met excelled.

Anthea van Bremen of EMS Golf, who provided the Met with the technical support for their environmental compliance processes, said the club's EMS computer programme facilitated data capturing and planning of the fauna and flora in and around the club, and indicates an extraordinary diversity of plants, as well as insects, reptiles, birds and mammals and various vegetation types. ♣

JOHN COLLIER

SRIXON®

SOFT FEEL