



20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Valued Members,

I trust that this letter finds you all well, as we move closer and closer towards the end of what has been an extremely tough year for us all in so many different ways. With Covid Level 1 now in place, it seems as though there is some light at the end of the tunnel as long as a second wave does not hit us! The good news is that the doors are open and we have most of our sports back in action, with the bad news being that there still remains so much uncertainty as to what is still to come... Please ensure that you read **"POINT 8"** at the bottom of this letter as it does affect how we are trying to remain open as a club in being compliant with Covid Regulations.

### ***"So What Is The Latest At The Club"***

#### **1. 'OUR' Staff:**

Our staff are still unfortunately not back on a full-time basis. We have a schedule whereby we have staff back for certain hours of the day, and are rotating these hours around so as to give all of our staff members some form of work - meaning some income. We have appointed a part time HR Expert in Mr. John Povey, to come in and to help us over the coming months with all of our HR related issues and concerns – so that currently and down the line we are in a position to make clear cut calls in the best interests of the Staff and Club.

#### **2. 'OUR' Sections:**

Our sports sections are all pretty much now back up and operating at the Club – other than our Hockey section who are out of season. It is indeed great to be able to see our Bowls, Cricket and Soccer members back in action again – as well as our sporting tenants in Fast Sport Fusion, Rand Athletic Club, Touch Rugby and all the Gym Tenants (Trainers, Bio's, Physios) all up and running again. They are all ensuring that the various Covid Protocols are in place as per the regulations, and so we ask you all to abide by such if you are a member in that section.

#### **3. 'OUR' MANCO & EXCO:**

Your Executive and Management Committees continue to forge ahead as best as possible, so much so that we have managed to have one or two face to face (with social distancing) meetings. Having to try to communicate and manage the club over the last 7 months or so via Zoom and or WhatsApp's etc. has been really challenging – yet our Committees and ultimately the people who serve on such have been superbly supportive and proactive. Thank you again 'TEAM' – without you all of you the club just may not have made it as long as what we have to date...

(PS: Please pencil in the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 18h00 as the Clubs AGM)

#### **4. 'OUR' Finances:**

Nothing much has changed in terms of things remaining really tight! Again the coming months will tell us a lot in terms of whether or not we will be able to continue as normal, or if we will need to make some big changes and calls. The following key aspects will prove to be key over the coming months:

a) The Covid damage and ongoing repercussions.

This is still ever changing and so is really tough to manage in terms of running a sports club. We have been severely affected financially, but are luckily showing small signs of coming through the worst. We will only know the exact extent of damage however down the line and so in the mean-time ask you all to please as much as possible keep support your club.

b) Membership support and sign up.

The new Membership Fees were finalized and are published on our website. We apologise for the slight delay in getting the figures and invoices out last month – but it has been really

tough in these times to forecast spends and budgets etc. Our Club Treasurer in Birgit Lategan, Club Manager in Lizette Driescher, the Membership Sub Committee and our own Sports Section Chairmen deserve sincere thanks for managing to put together these final fees. I am hopeful that you will be pleasantly surprised at how in these 'tough times' we have managed to keep the fees pretty much in check with little or no increase in most areas. We have done our best during these times and so ask you all to please support the club by paying up your membership fees as soon as possible.

- c) The outcome of our High Court Application with the City of Johannesburg (COJ), in relation to our 'Rates Bill and Status'.

Our final High Court papers were lodged just last month via our Attorneys (Schindlers). This matter is by far the biggest cloud hanging over the Clubs and the Associations future, and has in fact been so for many years - but has perhaps not been tackled head on before like this current committee has had to get done. We all wait with bated breath and with many prayers...as we do believe we have a good case and that we have done the right thing for the long term future of the club.

##### **5. 'OUR' Property Development:**

For those who have missed all the latest news over the last month – there has been BIG and EXCITING progress in this area and we are all very excited about some positive news in amongst all of our other challenges...

- a) The Trustees of the Old Parktonians Association, the Council of the Old Parktonians Association and the Old Parks Sports Club Executive Committee have unanimously on 29<sup>th</sup> September agreed to and rubber stamped the 'Clubs Property Development Sub Committees' proposal.
- b) On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October we also held a well-publicized 'Members Meeting' at the Club and also on Zoom for those who could not make it – where we presented the plans and took questions and comments from the floor and online. The interaction was superb and we valued many good ideas and much enthusiasm as we presented and explained this new opportunity.
- c) For those who were not able to make the meeting, please see an overview of the offer and deal which still has some way to go in terms of various due diligence milestones from the developers and also ourselves.

##### **"The New Property Development"**

- 'The Association and the Clubs Property Development Sub Committee' have been hard at work for many years (since 2014), and have explored just about every angle of the clubs property, every deal and opportunity offered and have finally in tough times found a developer that is symbiotic and also cares for club life.
- In the past we have not been able to conclude deals with a Gym (Virgin Active), a College (AdvTech / Vega) and a School (Nova Pioneer). All three of these opportunities saw either the developers or ourselves unfortunately withdrawing at the final hurdle. All three of these were 90 lease opportunities.
- The newly approved opportunity is a land sale deal whereby the developers plan to develop 'High End Apartments' in the same area as all of the previous deals (on the tennis and 5-A-Sdie Soccer courts running along towards the cricket nets). This new deal will be only 11000 square metres where some of the other options in the past were 20000 square metres.
- The developers are a 'Joint Venture' made up of an expert Property Management & Development company (Profica Pty Ltd), a local company who develops properties in Craighall Park and surrounds (Colonial Concepts Pty Ltd), and an well-established nationwide construction company (Tri-Star Construction Pty Ltd).
- The new deal will benefit the club in terms of a cash amount, a unit ownership agreement and down the line plenty more benefits such as more foot traffic for the club and our tenants.
- The presentation and deal details are available to paid up members who seek more clarity via the office.

All in all and if the various due diligence aspects go well, your Committees believe that this deal will benefit the club and will go a long way in allowing us with some prudent use and investment to sustain and to retain our beautiful green belt club well into the future.

## 6. 'OUR' Fund Raising Efforts:

### a) Joker Jackpot =

The Joker Jackpot continues to operate each Friday and has been great. Apart from raising some much needed cash for the Club, it has also kept a bit of a vibe going and allowed for you as members to remain engaged. Please go to [www.oldparks.co.za](http://www.oldparks.co.za) and buy a ticket – or get down to the Club on Friday afternoon before 17h00 where Gavin Taylor and Conn O'Donoghue can assist you to buy one before the draw... Lastly, THANKS to Gavin, Conn, Lizette, Terry and Kirsten for their efforts in making this happen!

### b) Staff & Club Welfare Fund =

The 'Staff & Club Welfare Fund' remains open for donations at this stage – but will be closed off at the end of December, as for now we do believe that it has served its purpose. At the moment our fund is running rather low – but we are hopeful that we will be able to give our staff something small out if over the December period. PLEASE if you can – make one last contribution, as we all hope we never go back into a total lockdown...

*Please EFT your donation into the following Old Parks Account:*

Name: Old Parktonian Sports Club  
Bank: Standard Bank of SA Ltd.  
Account No: 022286349  
Branch Code: 006605  
SWIFT Code: SBZAZAJJ  
Email POP: [lizette@oldparks.co.za](mailto:lizette@oldparks.co.za)  
Reference: STAFF WELFARE

*\*\* (Anyone needing a Section 18 (a) Certificate for tax purposes can email [Lizette@oldparks.co.za](mailto:Lizette@oldparks.co.za) to simply request such)*

*\*\* (All such 'donations' will be formally acknowledged)*

*\*\* (Any amount deposited without a POP Email will be taken as an anonymous 'donation')*

## 7. 'OUR' Tenants:

All of our wonderful tenants are now back up and running at full steam. Your support of them and the spreading of their wonderful offerings will all please go a long way in ensuring that we all get through this Covid Period as best as possible...

Please SUPPORT:

- Michael Conlin's – "Rustic Café"
- Marc Van Der Sluys & Alistair Silma's – "Fast Sports Fusion 5-A-Side Soccer"
- Dick Welch's – "Rand Athletic Club – RAC"
- Gavin Horton's – "Biokineticists"
- Robbie McIntosh's – "Fitness Centre"
- Parys Edwards – "Physiotherapists"

**\*\*PS = New tenants coming to OPSC – look out for such in hopefully early 2021**

## 8. 'OUR' COVID Regulations:

**IMPORTANT INFO** - The Clubhouse and Sports Sections have been open under 'Lockdown Level 1' for quite a while now, and unfortunately it seems as if 'some' are not adhering to the strict protocols and 'we' have not had strict enough interventions which our government requires us to have in place. We do not wish to risk the club in terms of being closed or even worse being fined – and due to various complaints and concerns we have no choice other than to implement certain protocols with immediate effect:

- Full screening protocols across the property.
- Masks will be compulsory except when drinking or playing sport.

- All cars will be stopped at the gate for occupants of the cars temperatures to be screened, as well as for hand sanitizing.
- Online 'declaration forms' will be required to be filled in DAILY if you wish to enter the premises – these are available at [www.oldparks.co.za](http://www.oldparks.co.za) – and are simple and easy to submit as part of our 'track and trace' protocols.  
\*\*PLEASE NOTE – Declaration Forms are compulsory and will be monitored, so please ensure that this is done. QR CODES will also be available at the gate and on the premises so that one can use their phones to link directly and to complete.
- Gate 2 will be used for ENTRY only, with one being able to also exit through it at certain times of the day.
- Gate 1 (main gate) will be used for EXIT's only, but will only be used during peak times.
- At Gate 2, once the screening has been done – you will be issued with a coloured sticker to wear which indicates that you have been screened. Please make sure you get one of these as unfortunately the policy will be - NO STICKER = NO BAR SERVICE. Each day will have a different coloured sticker – so please assist us in being compliant.
- On exiting our Guards and Staff will randomly ask cars to stop their car, to turn off their engine and to re-start to be able to leave – as part of our security and safety controls.
- Sports Sections will be required to ensure they temperature screen their players and opposition teams again and not just at the gate, whilst ensuring that a full register of names and details are kept on records in date order. They will also be totally responsible for any other and all protocols as directed by their mother bodies.

The reason we have had to implement this rather strict regime is first and foremost for ALL OF OUR OWN SAFETY (Incl. Our Valued Staff), but as above we have also had a few complaints re the lack of attention to such, and so we have willingly as an Executive Committee escalated our regimes as we wish to remain complaint.

In closing, apologies again for the rather lengthily letter – but as always I am trying to keep everyone in the loop as to what is happening at OUR Club and for you to get a real feel for where OUR Club stands in these tough times. We are still fighting to keep going and so ask you to please at every opportunity to keep fighting with us. We are all in this together and we all want to come out on the other end... Have an awesome month ahead – and to those who celebrate Christmas have a wonderful festive season!

Yours faithfully,

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