



30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Valued Members,

It has now been just 10 days since my last Chairman's Letter to you – and in this short space of time just so much has already changed. I sincerely do hope that you are all safe and looking after yourselves – as we do worry about you our members who I am sure are all going through your own challenges.

Last week Monday we took our final decision as an Executive (EXCO) and Management (MANCO) Committee to close the Club doors until further notice. It was a tough decision but the right decision, in terms of everybody's own safety and the wider concerns as shared by the President of South Africa. This decision meant sitting down with our staff to explain to them where things were, and immediately putting getting ready so that we could safely lock up the Club to only return when hopefully Covid-19 is done and dusted. Luckily as a Club, we had been communicating with our staff for a few weeks already – and so we were also mostly prepared for when such a decision had to be made. In saying this, it was a traumatic time for all as together we started to work through all the ramifications and knock on effects which I am sure is still being felt.



***“Lockdown Thursday”***  
*(The Day We Locked the Doors)*

Looking ahead – I remain positive that we WILL ALL SURVIVE and come out stronger on the other side. I have always said that “The Club is bigger than anyone or anything” – and so am quietly confident that with all of your support and care down the line we will together ‘ARISE’ from this torrid period.

In saying the above, practically your MANCO have been hard at work behind the scenes along with our Club Manager and Staff to try to plan ahead and to project exactly where we stand. To be honest it is not a pretty sight and being a non-profit organization we are immediately under severe pressure. Various key financial decisions have had to be made including that of our staff who have all taken a salary cut for this month, and for the foreseeable future – as we work hard to try gather information and to lodge various UIF claims and the sort. Further to this, we have established a very important ‘Staff & Club Welfare Fund’ which is to be led and driven by three Club Stalwarts who have kindly come forward and offered their assistance. Please see attached to this email, the Sub Committee's introductory letter with some very important information – and ways in which we graciously ask you for your support.

In the spirit of keeping my letters to the point and not too long at this time, and in allowing for the main focus to be the ‘Staff & Club Welfare Fund’ communication – I will end this Chairman's Letter with a simple quote which may be relevant to some of you at this time:

“It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever, be dimmed. Your hope at this time is important because it can make this present moment less difficult for us all to bear. If we all believe that tomorrow will be better, we can all bear the hardship today – keep believing...”

Yours sincerely,

Dave Nosworthy  
OPSC: Chairman