



6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Valued Members,

I trust that this letter finds you all well, and that 2021 has been somewhat of a better start for you all? It seems already that 2021 is just flying on past, as here we are already all well into May 2021...with sadly little or no real sign that Covid is going to be a thing of the past. In saying this, I remain extremely positive that things will eventually pass and that with a positive attitude and faith we will all survive, and the Club will remain standing as strong as possible...

Apologies for the delay since my last communication, but there has been A LOT going on. I in fact drafted a letter in late February which I thought I had sent to the office – but with age I clearly did not so herewith some news from my side...

At our Clubs AGM held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2021, a brand new Executive Committee (EXCO) was elected by you our members, with some of the 'old' faces still wonderfully being available to stand – and then some 'new' faces were elected and who put their hands up to form part of our EXCO committee. For the record and as a form of introduction, please meet your EXCO for 2021 and please see more about everyone on our website ([www.oldparks.co.za](http://www.oldparks.co.za)):

Chairman	= Dave Nosworthy
V/Chairman	= Gavin Taylor
Treasurer	= Birgit Lategan
Secretary	= Lee-Ann Kerr
OPA Chairman	= Eleanor Talbot
Club Manager	= Lizette Driescher
Section Chairmen	= Eileen Breakey
	= Bryan Jacklin
	= Andrew Todd
	= Kevin McDonald
Members	= Evan Morton
	= Kevin Robertson
	= Nishaan Kishore
	= Doug Neilson
	= Tammy van der Sluys
	= Dick Welsch
	= Alistair Silima
	= Conn O'Donoghue
	= Paul Hector

## ***“So What Is The Latest At The Club”***

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

Our staff are still unfortunately not back on a full-time basis but are now working at about 70% capacity during this Covid Level 1 period. Our Club Manager Lizette Driescher, and our HR Consultant expert John Povey, are working hard on managing these schedules whilst being as fair as possible to everyone involved. Please bear a thought for our staff during these times...

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

Our sports sections are all pretty much now back up and operating at the Club. Cricket season has already in a different form come and gone, Soccer has just recently 'kicked off' and is in full flow, Hockey is now

well on the way and Bowls has been up and running with matches and tournaments for quite a few months already. With this news, it seems we are moving closer and closer to some normality – which is great news!

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

As above, your Executive (EXCO) and Management (MANCO) Committees are now well on their way. We have already held two EXCO Meetings and have our third EXCO Meeting this coming Monday. We have created and set up the following sub-committees to manage certain areas and to report back into EXCO and MANCO Meetings as follows:

- a) Bar and Fund Raising:  
Gavin Taylor (Chair), Conn O'Donoghue, Paul Hector
- b) Constitution/Membership/Marketing:  
Kevin Robertson (Chair), Ken McArthur, Eleanor Talbot, Evan Morton
- c) Property Development:  
Dave Nosworthy (Chair), Eleanor Talbot, Gavin Taylor, Tony Borragerio, Ken McArthur, Conn O'Donoghue, Lizette Driescher
- d) Transformation:  
Nishaan Kishore (Chair), Evan Morton, Alistair Silima
- e) Broken Windows:  
Tammy van der Sluys (Chair), Paul Hector, Doug Nielson

Further to the above we as MANCO and EXCO are working through various other club matters, these include but are not limited to:

- i. Club Structures  
We have been engaging with an HR Expert for over a year, and have finally managed to grow this area for our staff and club by integrating things like staff key performance indicators, leave policies and codes of conduct etc. We are also at the same time addressing staff roles and efficiencies – to ensure that in the long term our club can service what is a vastly different business from say 5 or 10 years ago.
- ii. Zoning Application  
Eventually our new Zoning Application has been submitted, after some really dogged work behind the scenes from various people. Eleanor Talbot has driven this superbly and has had various experts involved to try to finalize this matter sooner rather than later. To date the City of Johannesburg has acknowledged our application, and we now await their next move.
- iii. Penquip  
The EXCO took a decision to bring Penquip back into the fold, after been put on hold since Covid began. With all our sports sections returning in full, it was felt that we once again needed support with our fields and maintenance etc. Penquips previous Facility Manager was Johann who has since retired, and he has been replaced by Morgan who has started and will work full days at the club unlike in the past when Johann was just half day. Please all welcome Morgan, as we look forward to him managing 'his' fields and club.
- iv. New Tenants  
You will see below under my tenant's section, that we have recently managed to add both Karate and Basketball to our sports offerings at Old Parks. Both seem to be doing well and we are all excited to see such enthusiasm in these spaces. If you are a lover of any of these sports, please feel free to try them out.

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

Nothing much has changed in terms of things remaining reasonably tight. Our 2019/20 financials were lodged at the AGM and accepted in full – and although they looked reasonably good considering Covid, there is no doubt some tougher times still to come with quite a few big things hanging over our heads. Wonderfully though, for the first time in many years we were also able to email and to send out our AGM financials out to all of you our members 'before' the actual AGM which gave everyone enough time to peruse and to understand where things stand. Going forward, this needs to become the norm in my humble opinion as it allows for all to understand and to manage matters so much easier.

Looking ahead, the following key aspects will need to be managed by EXCO, as they will all have different outcomes and repercussions:

a) The Covid damage and ongoing repercussions.

This is all still ever evolving and literally changes on a daily basis. We as a Club have been and are in fact still affected financially, but the good news is that we are surviving and making things happen really well considering – so well done to all our staff and committees, and to you for your ongoing support.

b) Membership support and sign up.

The new Membership Fees were finalized and are published on our website last October. It seems that take up has been a bit slower than usual, and probably understandably during these times. In saying this, the new Vega Students have now all come on board and we welcome them all once again to Old Parks. PLEASE – if you have not yet signed up, consider doing so as soon as possible, to support YOUR Club...

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

We have just today had the news that the case has now been successfully heard in the Supreme Court. The judges have reserved judgment, which means that they will take some time to deliberate the arguments before them and will do a written judgement and only hand it down at a later date. At this stage there is no indication when this will be done.

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

For those who have missed all the communication, the members special meeting and general chat across the club over almost the last year – the Club and the Association is EXCITINGLY well on the way to securing a property development deal and are nearing the due diligences checks which will tell us all officially if we are able to move ahead or not... The task has to date been HUGE and extremely time consuming in terms of the various contracts and small details. To add to this there have been a few curve balls which we and our lawyers continue to work through and to try to get across the line. All in all, and if the various due diligence aspects go well, your EXCO and Association Council believes that this deal will greatly benefit the club and will go a long way in allowing us with some prudent use and various investments - to sustain and to retain our beautiful green belt club well into the future.

**\*\*Note:** For those new members who were not able to make the meeting, please still feel free to contact the main office and Lizette Driescher, for a copy of the plans and the deal.

#### **6. 'OUR' Fund Raising Efforts:**

The new EXCO 'Bar and Fund-Raising Committee' will I am sure get going again pretty soon. High on their agenda remains the Joker Jackpot, along with I am sure one or two other great ideas...

**\*\*Note:** This coming Friday in fact a great opportunity for you to come on down to the club – as we are celebrating "Willie's Retirement" and the Bar Committee have a few great plans. Willy is a legend at the club and will be greatly missed by all – so please do all come down around 17h30.

## 7. **'OUR' Tenants:**

Our wonderful tenants are now all also basically back up and running – even though many of their clients have moved on or even stopped coming. This we are sure has a lot to do with Covid and will hopefully in time rectify itself. Your support of tenants 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 – *"Rustic Café"*
- Marc Van Der Sluys & Alistair Silima – *"Fast Sports Fusion 5-A-Side Soccer"*
- Dick Welch – *"Rand Athletic Club – RAC"*
- Gavin Horton – *"Biokineticist"*
- Robbie McIntosh – *"Fitness Centre"*
- Parys Edwards – *"Physiotherapists"*
- Nigel Jirira – *"Karate"*
- Elvis Ukpong – *"Basketball"*

## 8. **'OUR' COVID Regulations:**

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 still not adhering to the strict protocols. We do not wish to risk the club in terms of being closed or even worse being fined – so please be patient at the gate for temperature screening, use the sanitizers, fill in the online declarations forms and wear a mask.

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 rather challenging 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 winter ahead and keep warm.

Yours faithfully,

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