



Dear Valued Members,

I write to you all at a time where our country is in the grips of the '3rd Wave' and as of last night we are now all back into Level 4 with tougher restrictions. The pandemic has taken hold and we are all needing to hold on tight as it is spreading at an uncontrollable rate, and very sadly we are now also losing far too many people to this dreaded virus. I am aware of so many of you who now have virus and that you are fighting hard through such, or those are already through the worst and recovering from such – and so on behalf of the entire Club our prayers remain with you and all at this time and ask you all to just keep the faith and be safe.

“So What Is The Latest At The Club”

1. 'OUR' Staff:

Our staff are still unfortunately not back on a full-time basis, and with the announcement of us moving to Level 4, our Club Manager Lizette Driescher and our HR Consultant expert John Povey are continuing to work on managing our valued staff and their schedules during this time – whilst trying to keep them all as positive as possible. Please also keep our staff in your thoughts...

2. 'OUR' Sections:

Our sports sections are now also all unfortunately closed, as our various Section Chairmen all felt last week already that it would be in the best interests for all our members and visitors. Over the coming weeks we will again assess matters and will make the necessary calls.

3. 'OUR' MANCO & EXCO:

Your Executive (EXCO) and Management (MANCO) Committees have already held quite a few meetings this year and are working hard together to try make things work. Our 'Sub-Committees' are also highly active and as a whole we have a few good plans in place to keep the Club moving forward as best as possible during this time.

Some of the key areas of interest which we have been managing include:

- i. City of Johannesburg - Zoning Application / Rates Etc.
The really good news is that the City of Johannesburg has started the advertising and public processes towards correcting our zoning - and have as such in principle accepted our application. There now seems to be some light at the end of this tunnel – as we still await the outcome of our other tunnel in the High Court application for some of the penalties imposed on the club over the last year and a half. To date we have no further news on such, other than that the application has been heard and the court is reviewing their decision.
- ii. Rustic Café
At the end of this month the Rustic Café contract comes to an end, after an Executive Committee decision not to renew such was made at a meeting held in May. Michael Conlin and the Rustic Café facility and brand have been loyal tenants over a five year period and were in fact initially partners with the Club in the business. As the Club now goes through a vigorous 'tender process' (requests for proposals) for a new catering tenant via the appointed EXCO Sub Committee – I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire Old Parks Sports Club and family, to publicly thank Michael Conlin and all of his Staff for their years of service, their commitment and their offerings over the last five plus years.

We have all enjoyed having Rustic Café as one of our valued tenants and would like to wish you all well going forward with your new endeavours. Lastly and as we all know, it is never easy to say goodbye and to part ways, so let it be said that Michael and his entire Rustic Café team will always be very welcome at back Old Parks to enjoy our club and facilities.

4. 'OUR' Finances:

Even though our financials do not look 'too bad' on paper at the moment, we still have a few dark clouds hanging over our heads as a Club. In this ever evolving world of Covid and now that we are back in Level 4, one just never knows what is about to hit us next. The City of Johannesburg penalties still has the potential to hit us hard, and we are still in arrears with a few bills from last years shut down period. As we now enter the '3rd Wave' in full force – this too will no doubt have a knock on effect on all our takings – meaning that we will have to be as frugal as possible going forward. Overall, our Club Book-Keeper and Club Treasurer have been well on top of matters and at each EXCO meeting we continue to get up to date financials and generally always know exactly where we stand.

5. 'OUR' Property Sale for Development:

The sale of the small piece of property behind the cricket sight screen on the south side of the property, continues on via the 'Old Parktonians Association' Trustees - along with the Property Developers in Profica, Tri-Star and Colonial Concepts. There are so many small bits of the puzzle which still need to be addressed, so that all aspects of the sales agreement protect the Association and the entire deal as much as possible. Andrew Wellsted a prominent Parktown Boys Old Boy, continues to slave away on the details of such a deal as our lawyer – and for which I am sure we are all extremely grateful for his efforts to date.

6. 'OUR' Tenants:

Our wonderful tenants have all also basically been back up and running – but with the latest Level 4 news I am sure this will affect them all in different ways. Your support of our 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... Look out for their individual Level 4 protocols and plans on their forums.

7. 'OUR' COVID Regulations:

The Clubhouse and Sports Sections have been open under 'Lockdown Levels 1, 2 and 3' for quite a while, but will now with immediate effect under Level 4 will unfortunately be closed until further notice. The plan is to once again keep the main clubhouse toilets open and clean – so as to allow you our members the opportunity to use our outfields and grounds for casual relaxation. This coming week the government gazette will I am sure, give us all more clarity on exactly what casual sports are allowed and what is not – but as above all of our sections are in any event closed

In closing, many thanks for your ongoing support in what are tough times. Your Club is standing strong – your people are working hard for you behind the scenes, and in time we will re-open, and we will all get past these dreaded times. Please all remember to 'Keep The Faith'!

Yours faithfully,

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