



20th December 2022

Dear Loyal Members,

It is unbelievable that the year is already nearing its end... SO MUCH has happened and so many club matters have had to be addressed. The great news though, is that 2022 was not as affected by Covid as what we were, and that we have all been able in some way to enjoy our wonderful club. In terms of the year flying past, things have been so busy, that I did not even realise that I last sent out a Chairmans Letter over 4 months ago. Sincere apologies for this, but I am sure that you will forgive me in the knowledge that we have been hard at work to keep 'our space a special space'...

The club has seemingly got busier and busier over the last few months, as summer has returned and as people have become more and more confident to once again engage and to socialise in public. There is no doubt though that the club has taken a huge hit over the last two years with sporadic and declining income – but dare I say it, there is some light at the end of the tunnel in that things are seemingly getting a bit busier through your support. Thank you for coming back, thank you for paying your membership, thank you for caring, thank you for your financial support, and thank you for coming down to enjoy your sport and our wonderful facilities on what is private property and what is yours as a member.

“So What Is The Latest At The Club”

1. 'OUR' Staff:

Our wonderful staff have emerged battered and bruised from the pandemic, even though it will take time for them all to get back on their feet. Still the TERS covid payments from our government have not been paid out, even though we as a club are continually fighting for this to be sorted out. If any club member has any connections or influence in this area, your assistance and guidance will go a long way for our staff to finally receive benefits which is legally due to them. Our staff as has been said before, have been phenomenal over the last few years – in terms of commitment to their jobs and the club as a whole which they all really care for... Lizette our Club Manager, has rallied the troops and managed to keep everyone focussed and driven – with no doubt some more energy and care for you next year and beyond. Thank you to all the Staff – not everyone realises what all it takes behind the scenes to keep the home fires burning... 😊

2. 'OUR' Sections:

Our sports sections are all back up and running, even though most of them were also affected quite badly by Covid in terms of member numbers.

... The Bowls section have had some excellent outcomes in the various JBA Competitions recently, as they continue to grow and to attract wonderful new members into the club. They have also upgraded the banks on their last green – meaning that Old Parks Bowls now has some of the best greens and facilities in Johannesburg.

... Cricket wise, the section has started off their first half of the season – and as per usual at this time of the year have been severely affected by availability, as so many of the players have been involved in school exams, university exams, and also various provincial selection weeks. Nevertheless, the teams have already had some great results with plenty of matches to still come in the new year.

... The Hockey section had a wonderful few months since my last communication and competed on every level with a group of solid and dedicated members who will no doubt be looking forward to bigger and better things in the future. As a section, all of their matches are played away from the

club and on Astro – yet they are vibrant and solid club members, and it is always good to see quite a few of the members down at the club from time to time.

... The Soccer section completed their season a few months ago, and although down on numbers like most sections after Covid – they managed to get through a solid season and will have their AGM this coming January so as to set themselves up and to renew some of their aspirations for the future. It needs to be said that leadership in this section has been somewhat of a challenge over the last year or two, with the section going through quite a few Chairmen and committee members in a short space of time. The time has arrived for the section to settle, and so if you may be interested in supporting your section and driving an exciting future – please do attend the Soccer AGM.

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

The Executive (EXCO) and Management (MANCO) Committees have been hard at work to keep things ticking over. So often our meetings over the last few years have felt a bit like we have just been putting out fire after fire, with not too many positive steps forward being made. In saying this however, if one steps back a bit from the 'smoke and haze' – the club has without a doubt, Number ONE survived a crisis in a pandemic - and then Number TWO still managed to show growth and development if one digs a little bit deeper into the day to day operations and finances. For this, I am extremely GRATEFUL to my fellow Executive and Management Committee Members – you have ALL been Champions!!

Here are some of the key areas of interest which we are still busy managing:

i. City of Johannesburg - Zoning Application / Rates / Penalties Etc.

- The great news is that our new Zoning is apparently imminent, and we even have some written communication from COJ which indicates they are comfortable and about to issue us with our 'Private Open Space' zoning. There are still a few small steps to be made to clarify one or two matters – so let it be said that with COJ, we are still holding our breath and praying that this can at last be settled.
- In my last correspondence I highlighted the fact that we had managed to get COJ to stop the monthly penalty fees for the incorrect zoning which has been hanging over the club's head for ages. So, the challenge over the last few months has been to try to engage with the 'correct' decision makers at COJ in an attempt to come to an agreement as to how to either reverse these penalties, as to how to get a discounted amount, as to how to settle on a reasonable payment plan, or on what our actual next move will be like a trip to the full COJ Council, the Ombudsmen, or even back to our Lawyers if absolutely. There is still some water to go under the bridge it seems, but to date we have had some really positive engagements with COJ and their Leadership as they are listening and are due to come back to the club in the early new year with their stance on this matter.

ii. Our Valued Tenants

All of our valued tenants are operational and seem to be rather busy which is great news! There have been some comings and going over the last few months with also some new and exciting developments as per the below news:

- Africa Padel = Probably the biggest news of the year at the club has been our new deal and arrangement with Africa Padel, who have now invested and installed their FOUR brand new Padel Courts. The opening was held in early December, and since then the courts have been really busy. As part of the deal, Africa Padel revamped our own Heritage Bar and we have now gone ahead and re-launched it as our brand new "Heritage Café" which will have waiters and waitresses operating in the various new seating areas and bar. The Café still has some historical memorabilia to go up, but in essence it is up and running

and is a perfect place to sit and enjoy your meal and drinks, whilst watching some Padel Tennis or keeping a bird's eye view of the bowling greens. Good luck and welcome to the Old Parks family AFRICA PADEL.

- The Swing Shack = Over the last few weeks our newest tenant who has replaced Cardio Concept is the 'Swing Shack.' The golfing entity have now built their facilities and have also brought in their brand new state of the art Golf Simulators – which will allow for golf coaching and also for you to play practice rounds or even a full round of golf at your favourite course anywhere around the world. Why not 'swing' past and have a look in the 'Wellness Centre,' where our new tenants are basically up and running and launching in full in the early new year. Good luck and welcome to the Old Parks family SWING SHACK.
- Deidre Ras Biokinetics = Deidre is now also up and running and is also a new tenant since I last communicated. As a club it is always great to have such expertise in our space, and with the Swing Shack and Robbie's Fitness Training businesses in the same space – Deidre may just find some extra business from time to time. Good luck and welcome to the Old Parks family DEIDRE RAS.
- As for the rest of our now settled tenants, they are all up and running post Covid and forging ahead as the entire club gains momentum.
 - ... Rand Athletic Club had their Tough One Marathon recently which saw the club having to cater for a rather larger group of runners than what was expected, but everything seemed to go off well on the day.
 - ... Fast Sports Fusion our Five-A-Side tenants are well on their way with their brand new playing surfaces, and we are sure that members will enjoy seeing this upgrade in the new year.
 - ... Tipu Café continues to feed the masses in a professional and welcoming manner. It has been just over a year now since Tipu and their staff joined our family – and already there are moves to slightly expand and to grow their space at the club so look out for some fresh new ideas and upgrades in the new year.
 - ... Robbie's Cycling & Fitness Centre is superbly driven and personally operated by Robbie McIntosh. Robbie is an ex South African cycling legend who is synonymous with Cycling and Fitness throughout the world. It is great to have someone of the calibre of Robbie operating and offering in our space, as he continues to be the longest serving tenant in our Wellness Centre.

4. 'OUR' Finances:

As I have alluded to above, times are tough - but we are fighting the good fight and the doors are very much open for business. We managed for the first time in a few years to secure a small 'December Bonus' for our staff this month, and hope that in the coming year we can again reward their efforts. "YOU" - our members are absolutely crucial to the survival of the club in terms of your membership payments and also your support and presence at the club. We understand that times are indeed tough for you too, and so again thank you for your support and care. Doug Tuck our Treasurer, along with our office finance staff have kept their fingers on the books as best as possible – and slowly but surely, we are clawing our way back... The full financials will be sent out to you just before the AGM and will also be available on the night itself.

5. 'OUR' Property Sale for Development:

At last, the Trustees of the Old Parktonians Association (OPA) were recently presented with the final legal contract drafted between the OPA's Trustees and the Developers. The Trustees spent some time perusing such and then engaged formally in person – where I have been informed that they unanimously adopted the contract for signature. Once this is signed between parties in the new year, there will be a 3 month 'due diligence' period for both parties to address and to review certain key elements of the sale and all the moving parts that will come with such. As you all know, this has been an extremely long process to get to this stage – as it has taken various experts along the way to ensure that the Association and ultimately the Club is protected in every way and that the Club benefits as much as possible well into the future. This

move and sale of a small piece of the property, will in my humble opinion be great for the club, as the Associations Trustees all have the Club at heart and the bigger picture in mind to always secure our space and our Sports Club for you going ahead.

FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT READ MY LAST NEWSLETTER HEREWITH AN EXTRACT OF SOME OF THE DETAILS:

The sale of the small piece of property owned by the Old Parktonians Association (OPA) for development into wonderful new apartments behind the cricket sight screen on the south side of the property, is still ongoing and is closer than ever to being finalised. The process has been a laborious 2yr plus task to initially gain your much appreciated support, and to then canvass across various top professionals in various different fields of expertise – so as to always try to ensure that the club will only benefit from the sales agreement and never be at too much risk.

(NOTE: The great news is that as part of the deal, Fast Sports Fusion our Five-A-Side tenants will be moved to brand new OPSC Five-A-Side facilities on another part of the land.)

6. **Annual General Meeting**

The Old Parks Sports Clubs (OPSC) 'Annual General Meeting' (AGM) has been set as per below.

- a) Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 18h00 in the Main Clubhouse.
- b) Notice of this meeting has been emailed to all Members.
- c) Please make every effort to join us on the night.
- d) Please consider standing as an Executive Member or at least nominate someone who you think can make a difference as a 2023 Executive Member. (Nomination Forms are on the clubs notice board or you can send an email to the main office enquiring as to how to nominate online.)

LASTLY, and most importantly – please do all have an awesome **FESTIVE PERIOD!!** For those who celebrate Christmas, have a blessed day, and enjoy all the celebrations and presents. May 2023 then be an unbelievable and great year for YOU... I wish you all of the absolute best – whilst remembering that “Your attitude to 2023 – will determine your altitude for 2023.” #KeepTheFaith

Yours in Sport,

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