



11th December 2023

Dear Fellow Members,

It is unbelievable how 2023 has literally just flown past, as here we all are just a few weeks away from Christmas. Also, rest assured in that before we even blink - we will be entering the New Year and 2024...

This last year the club has been a hive of activity, and on a daily basis has probably had more foot traffic than ever before. We have as a club made quite a few materialistic upgrades over the last few months, which has allowed us to hopefully have made your space that much better for you to relax and to also enjoy your sport and your environment. The good news is that we are not yet done, as we still have a few more 'projects' up our sleeves to keep transforming the club into the 'Place To Be...'

The main reason for this very short 'Christmas Note' is really just to thank you all for paying your membership, to thank you for caring for our club, to thank you for your financial support, and to thank you all for coming down to enjoy your sport and our wonderful facilities. It is also just a quick note to share with you some of the changes and some of the things that are on the go...

"...Things On The Go..."

1. 'OUR' Staff:

Many thanks to those of you who made direct monetary contributions into the club account towards the well-being and especially the recovery of Nonqaba Mtshali, after our valued staff member fell ill and has been having a tough time. As I write this note, an amount of around R17k has been raised, along with still the 50c per drink for the month of November to be calculated and added on to the donation. With Nonqaba away from the office and the club and us assessing her long term status, we have in the meantime appointed Mazlyn Moodley on contract in the role of General Office Assistant – so a big welcome to Mazlyn!

2. 'OUR' Sections:

All of our sections seem to be running really well... The Bowls section is back on the greens after their annual spring break, the Cricket section is in the middle of their season and performing really well, the Hockey section is on a bit of a break with some members still playing in the summer leagues, whilst our Soccer section have recently held their AGM and are preparing for their upcoming season.

3. 'OUR' Club Matters:

The Executive (EXCO) and Management (MANCO) Committees remain hard at work to keep the club afloat and to keep moving things forward. Here are some of the key areas of interest which we are either managing or have actioned:

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

- At last we have some good news, in that our correct Zoning Application has been approved. Many hard yards from many committed people have finally got us across the line at COJ to Private Open Space – for which we are most grateful.
- In terms of the COJ Rates Dispute, our case is still on the table of the Ombudsman. Each and every month we enquire as to the status of such but receive little or no real feedback. In the new year, we will begin to escalate

things a touch more on this matter – as either way we do need to settle this matter once and for all.

ii. Our Valued Tenants

All of our valued tenants are fully operational and seem to be rather busy which is great news! Many thanks for your support of our tenants...

4. 'OUR' Recent Projects:

As you all would have seen, the club has been on the move in terms of upgrades and various projects in an attempt to keep our wonderful club moving forward. Have a look at the below list of things which have been or will still be addressed:

- i. Restaurant Area: In collaboration with Tipu Café, we have built a new roof cover with roll up and down weather sides – which has made for a really cosy and well presented relaxation and eating space.
- ii. Paving On The Patio: After many years and with the paving being very old, the entire front patio has been re paved by ourselves and now looks really good. Gone are all the loose pavers, the damaged pavers, and the bumps across the surfaces from the various tree roots.
- iii. Generator: Our 10yr old 7 KVA Petrol generator finally gave up the ghost, and so we were able to secure a brand new 30 KVA Diesel generator which is now servicing the wider club extremely well during the ongoing load shedding.
- iv. Netball Court: The netball and basketball courts were extremely damaged, and so we were able to repair the necessary and re paint the surfaces as best as possible.
- v. Staff Offices: The plan is to move our Staff Offices from upstairs, down into the community space so as to be closer and more accessible to our members. This is a project for 2024, and it will entail the current old kitchen being converted into our new fancy offices.
- vi. Changerooms: The changerooms have all been renovated and re painted, with the old male urinals being replaced with more modern urinals and new tiles have been applied.
- vii. Bar Revamp: The main bar will have a make over sometime in the early new year. Plans and 'mood boards' are afoot in conjunction with an appointed interior designer – to find common ground that the Executive will eventually approve. Ultimately, a newer modern look is being sought – whilst importantly encompassing our traditional bar look and feel...
- viii. Water Systems: The entire club is now operating on our borehole system, with various filters so as to ensure the water is drinkable and super healthy. We invested in the system last month, and in the long run if we can use the borehole system for extended periods, we will as a club be saving about R30-40k a month which is massive for us all.
- ix. Main Hall: The main hall has been re painted and looks wonderful, the perfect space and place for all of your functions.
- x. Field Lighting: In the new year we will address the lighting situation as we need to replace our fittings with LED lights, and also need to look at a few new poles with cabling etc. In fact our whole club will be addressed in terms of how we can potentially save on electricity and bring our demand charges down.
- xi. Soccer Clubhouse: MANCO have approved for house next to the Main Soccer field to be converted into a Soccer Clubhouse – at long last! This will be a great hub for our soccer members, and it will allow a safe environment, some toilets, and naturally a bar for all of our patrons. This is and will take soccer to the next level and will commence in early January.

5. Annual General Meeting

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

- i. Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 18h00 in the Main Clubhouse.
- ii. Notice of this meeting will be emailed to all Members.
- iii. Please make every effort to join us on the night.

- iv. Please consider standing as an Executive Member or at least nominate someone who you think can make a difference as a 2024 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.)

6. On A Personal Note

Late last month, I notified our Executive Committee and Management Committee that after some 5yrs as Chairman of the club – I have made the decision to step down and to not make myself available for re-election. I am a firm believer in knowing ones own 'sell by date' – and I think that the time has arrived for someone else to step in and to take our special place to the next level. I am planning to still be around in some form or another if wanted, so as to offer some continuity and some sort of a hand over phase if needed. With this in mind, and I will reiterate such again at my final AGM on 31st January 2024, I would just like to thank you all for your support and care over the last 5yrs – as without such we would not have been able to achieve what we have to date.

LASTLY, and most importantly – please do all have an awesome **FESTIVE PERIOD!!** For those who celebrate Christmas, have a blessed day, and enjoy all of the celebrations and gifts. May 2024 then be an unbelievable and great year for YOU... I wish you all of the absolute best – whilst remembering that "Your attitude to 2024 – will determine your altitude for 2024." #KeepTheFaith

Yours in Sport,

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