



OLD PARKS SPORTS CLUB CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

6 March 2024

Dear Fellow Members,

Greetings from your new Executive, Management committee and me, the new Chair. We have passed that hectic and stressful period of the Financial Year End, New Year and Christmas and more recently the Annual General meetings of both the Association and Club. We can draw breath but will continue the progress made over the last few years.

The new executive Team is to be seen on our website and is there for your information and contacting when needed through the club offices.

Moving forward our first task is to facilitate a smooth transition as we take over the reins from Dave Nosworthy. I am thrilled to tell you that Dave has agreed to continue serving on the Exco which will and has already made for great continuity. While happily there are new members on Exco the core of Manco remains ready to serve our members.

Over the past few years and particularly in 2023, the club has taken very positive steps forward. This is most true in correcting what at one time was a very precarious financial situation and turning this around. We are profitable and despite Covid's setbacks are flourishing. Hence as we move into 2024, we will continue the strong base laid and as set out below, pursue projects to enhance our club. We must always be a modern and contemporaneous environment for all visitors and participants at Old Parks!

Old Parks is thus a Club in continuous transformation to meet the needs and demands of the next 5 to 10 years and beyond.

The Projects currently being worked upon are.

- **Staff:** They are the very fabric that hold and keep the organisation moving month in month out . We will continue with their development programme. The plan is to shortly refurbish space downstairs from the current office and the move the office accordingly . This will create a more direct contact with members. The new offices too will align with future needs of the club as further recruitment takes place.

On a very sad note, Nonqaba Mtshali, our previous Bar Manager, who had been recovering well from her severe illness passed away on Saturday 2 March. Our heartfelt and sincere condolences go to her friends and family.

- **Club Sections:** All are running strongly with no major problems. Bowls has recommenced and flourishing , the Cricket section is heading toward their seasons end, while Hockey is about to bully off again . Soccer/ Football has started with registration and full training, with their annual 6-a-side soccer tournament coming up on 15-17 March with over 140 teams attending!

Key areas for the leadership team to manage and/or action in the next few months:

- To exploit the new modernised **Main Hall**, which is ideal for function of numerous kinds.
- **The Energy saving** project team, led by new Executive team member Stuart Blyth, will look at the whole club's use of Power and especially the Field Lighting. We look forward to their recommendation which should result in considerable savings and continuity of supply!
- The building at the main soccer field has all but been converted into a full facility **Clubhouse**. We are sure this will enhance the playing and viewing of teams and practices.
- **The Bar** revamp will begin within the month of March, a newer modern look to add to the enhanced ambiance of the club.
- **City of Johannesburg** - Zoning Application / Rates / Penalties Etc. We have been in contact with the Ombudsman and a 'one on one' meeting is planned in March. No further progress has been forthcoming from the COJ .
- All our **Tenants** are fully operational and seem to be busy which is great news! Please continue your great support of our tenants.
- **Restaurant Area**, we hope you concur that the collaboration with Tipu Café has worked and this couple to our bar changes are looked forward to. This plus the paving and re-grassing looks super.

All the best as winter approaches . Enjoy your club and “home away from home!

Ken McArthur
Old Parks Chairman