



# OLD PARKS SPORTS CLUB CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

June 2024

Dear Fellow Members,

The club has been busy in this, the first six months of the year. We have successfully staged the SA Bowls championship which has led to us having been selected as the venue for the Gauteng Champs. Great credit goes to Bill and his team! LPL Cricket has gone off well and will start again at the end July, whilst RAC has rebooted itself and pulled off a super 10km road race. The Annual 6-a-side Soccer tournament was a great success as well with over 40 teams participating. Congrats all!

Shortly we have the club to be invaded by SUN International and later Vuma, who will stage their sports day at Old Parks. Our venue provides what is needed by big corporates when holding their team building days and events with us. Welcome.

With the time flying by, plenty has been happening at the club with our Sections, tenants and the club generally.

- We have completed the rewiring of our automated irrigation system, especially on the soccer pitch. This not only enhances the surface but makes for more efficiency and water use. The new club house has been finalised with some minor add-ons needed. It too can be hired for events or meetings through the club's offices.
- We have sourced bulbs for the current flood lighting prior to winter and this, coupled to the plan for installing a more energy efficient solution, is well on its way.
- With the Sun International event, we have been able to upgrade one of the tennis courts to be a multi-purpose venue for a tennis and netball court.
- The bar has been refurbished and doors onto the Patio area installed for mood and access. Thus far only positive comments have been forthcoming.
- Our offices and the reception area of the club are the next to be upgraded and budget is being set aside and sought to cover this. It will undoubtedly complete what has been great steps forward in taking the facilities forward in the 21st Century.
- Our staff development programme continues and bears tangible dividends apparent in service and overall attitude to service. The staff is our backbone and holds all together. At the re-opening of the bar, we bid farewell to Willy Mathlala and Martin Maeteletja, our senior barmen who have retired and we wish them a wonderful retirement.

Key challenges for the leadership team to manage and/or action in the next few months.

- The sale of a section of the property, by the Association, for the building of a residential development, which will give the Association and Club financial security, is reaching the final steps in the Due Diligence process. It still requires driving so all help will be gratefully accepted. Please contact me or Eleanor Talbot to volunteer your expertise!
- City of Johannesburg - Zoning Application / Rates / Penalties etc. We have been in contact with the Ombudsman and a second meeting is planned in June. Prevarication is the order of the day, but we are determined to resolve this matter.
- Field usage is always a subject of contention as demand for their use rises weekly. Please book early, for compromise might on occasion be required. The Office can help if schedules are posted early enough, this will allow for fair resolution of demand!
- A major initiative that has taken some time to complete has been the creation of an NPC (Not for Profit Company) which will be able to manage the club's affairs and report to a board made up from the Association and Club. This is progressing well, and we will revert shortly to start consultation on this step.

Your Manco and the Executive are always wanting your comments or suggestions, please do pass them through to us. This is your club, and we are only the custodians on your behalf. Please do contact us whenever needed through the club offices.

All the best as the cold winter approaches.

Enjoy your home and club!

Ken McArthur  
Old Parks Chairman