



# SWISS CLUB JHB NEWS LETTER

Dear Members and Friends

As if 2021 wasn't already an extremely tough year again, it has thrown probably the biggest curved ball at us yet with the new variant spreading like wildfire and its relentless persistence in preventing us from being able to draw an end to this year with some form of relief – apparently that's not going to happen! We sincerely hope that with the trend of this variant, which at least seems to be less severe, although spreading much more quickly than any others before, people who are affected will have a speedy recovery. Vaccinations have proven to be effective and continued developments of improved protection will hopefully also eventually win the fight against this disease. Let us all just do what works best in giving us as much protection as possible and follow the guidance of the specialists.

Although certainly a lot better than 2020 in terms of severe lockdown restrictions with huge consequences to the hospitality industry among others, we clearly still couldn't get together this year except for a Christmas Lunch on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> December where 95 people attended who were looking forward to getting together again at last. It was another absolutely fabulous feast of fantastic food in abundance. We also could enjoy the presence and performance of the Swiss Choir who in these past 2 years were only able to have a grand total of 2 presentations! Thank you to the Choir who agreed to be part of this event, helped creating a Swiss atmosphere and contributed hugely with the raffle ticket sales. We were blessed with enormous generosity of sponsors of really fantastic raffle prizes, which was reciprocated by more generosity of the people buying tickets galore! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those sponsors for their support - namely: Charley Dufey, Director of B & S Agencies who sponsored a huge assortment of great cheeses which were enjoyed as a finale to the lunch, Nestlé SA for a very nice and plentiful hamper, our acting Vice Chairman Gary Stephenson of GS Computing and Devan Govender, our Restaurant Proprietor, who both sponsored a large Gingerbread House as well as Bettina O'Grady who apart from sponsoring some 7 prizes herself, has singlehandedly coerced fellow marketers at the Star Food Market in Kyalami into also contributing fantastic prizes, one of which was the first prize of an overnight stay at the Teak Lodge @ the Cradle of Human Kind. Thank you to Bettina's Café, Jadran, Molitva, Vela and Euro Butchery.

Sadly there isn't much to reflect back on other activities this year for obvious reasons. As you will remember, our Chairman of some 13 years Mario Valli and his wife Maggie relocated back to Switzerland in May this year and we wish them a great and safe new chapter in CH.

With regard to our Subsections, we have also reported about their own challenges in previous communications and not much would have changed during this horrible year. However, the Skittling Club is definitely persistent in maintaining their membership as much as possible, although sadly some of the teams are no longer able to continue. Fortunately though there are still very enthusiastic members who are keen to pick up on lost game opportunities and look forward to new skittling challenges in the new year.

Once again we would like to remind you that we anticipate being able to hold our AGM in the first quarter of 2022 and not having been able to have an AGM for the past 2 financial years, this AGM will thus be combined into 2019, 2020 and 2021 financial years.

Now we need to pay our sincere gratitude to all of you who have shown your true commitment to this Club and paid the membership fees despite the enormous challenges and financial constraints many of us had to face – well done and thank you for your support. The management committee and patron of the members council at their last meeting discussed the situation in terms of the constitutional obligations we have with regard to membership payments and that unpaid membership, following a written reminder and request to make the payment, would mean automatic cancellation of the membership under normal circumstances. Based on clearly vastly different circumstances it was agreed that we shouldn't enforce this clause and those memberships which are still unpaid todate, would have an opportunity to retain membership by paying their 2022 membership after receiving the invoice, which will be sent out towards the end of January. At the same time it was also agreed that those loyal members who have indeed paid their membership will be given a 30% discount on the 2022 membership fees as a token of appreciation for their continued support.

At this point we also need to remind you that only paid-up members can take part at an AGM, which again is envisaged to take place in the first quarter of 2022.

We thank Devan and his team for his tremendous and fantastic efforts in rekindling the Courier Restaurant to a level which has never been seen for a very very long time. He has also invested huge amounts of his own money to uplift and improve the overall appearance of the venue and through that is continually being rewarded with patronage including functions and lots of compliments on good quality food – well done Devan and team!

In closing we would like to pay tribute to those who are no longer with us – may they rest in peace.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Club and Restaurant will be closed from Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December to and including Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

We wish all of you and your loved ones a very blessed and safe festive season and a healthy and prosperous 2022

Your Committee

Newsletter # 3, December 2021

