



SWISS CLUB JHB NEWS LETTER

Dear Members and Friends

Well, what can we say about the past year – thank God it is behind us and welcome to 2021!

Now of course we know that this year will still be extremely challenging as well, but at least prospects of starting to get some form of control over the virus are now closer than before. By now we have pretty much become used to new lifestyles and learnt to put up with what's required to live with this pandemic. We have to understand that this is a process like any other that has a beginning and an end and although this one probably won't have an end as such, it will just become part of our lives like the common flu.

We would like to commend and thank all of you for your support by paying your Membership fees for last year, despite these exceedingly difficult circumstances. And another big thank you to those of you who have again confirmed their continued support by having already paid this year's fees as well – hugely appreciated. The Committee and Member's Council are of course also continuing to the best of their abilities to steer the ship and endeavour to provide the annual feature functions as soon as possible. At this stage however we still have not been able to secure any commitment from our Auditors to arrange the 2019 and now also the 2020 AGM's. We are certainly hoping that Covid restrictions will be eased to the extent that not only can the Catering Industry get back to full and normal business activities, which is so desperately needed, but also that people can start feeling more secure and confident to go out and about again and enjoy the odd meal out with family and friends. Hopefully we will also be able to physically meet for the now way overdue 2019 FY AGM in due course, instead of having to consider so called virtual meetings, which although possible, just aren't the same and probably not everybody's "cup of tea" anyway? We will of course update you all as and when things develop.

Needless to say that everything that was on the cards for last year in terms of functions such as the Eidgenössische Jodlerfest, which our "House Choir" was entered to participate in, could not take place and sadly even right now is still not certain for this year. The fact that practicing as a group is still prohibited at this stage has created a huge challenge for these commendable and enthusiastic individuals, who are eagerly awaiting positive changes to those restrictions.

A similar situation applies to the Skittling as well as the Boccia Club, who are also prevented from holding their usual annual league and other games and we can only hope again that restrictions will be eased very soon. At least the Boccia Club can keep to the social distancing requirements relatively easily with their activities being outdoors, or at least with wide open windows along the playing area. The Skittling Club activities on the other hand are restricted to indoors, which poses a much bigger challenge in this regard. Their Chairman advised at our recent MC meeting that he will consider arranging an AGM including a "brainstorming" session amongst their Members to find an interim solution to reinstate their activities whilst still being able to comply with possible restrictions.

This Club Subsection has been going for over 40 years and it would be devastating to be forced to give up their longstanding and enjoyable hobby because of this horrible pandemic. But we are sure that they will also do whatever they possibly can to carry on soonest – good luck!

Now on a very positive side indeed, it is delightful to know that “the Oldies” are clearly not afraid of the situation and still enjoy their discounted Lunch gatherings at the Club every 2nd Saturday of the month – so surely if they can do it, we can all do it and you don’t even need to be “an Oldie”– we just retain the traditional phrase – so why not join them!

If you would like more info, please phone Hans-Jürg (John) Burkhardt on 082 881 3269.

But “Oldie” or not, the Restaurant is again fully open and Devan would love to welcome you all for a traditional Swiss meal – as mentioned in previous communications, the old menu of Swiss dishes is still available and ably prepared by the Head and Sous Chefs retained in Devan’s takeover from Wolfgang.

The MC agreed that under the continued circumstances, everything that is usually planned and taking place at the Club during the year will need to be monitored on a monthly basis and decided on at short notice, but we will try to keep to the usual dates as much as possible. Even if restrictions should still be limited to 50% of full capacity, we certainly have enough space available to accommodate people for our traditional Metzgete at the end of June and we are cautiously confident that we will indeed be able to pull that off this year.

The Swiss National Day celebration this year will be perfectly timed as the 1st August will be a Sunday. However, this event will definitely depend on where we will be in terms of restrictions, as gatherings of such a nature will of course need to be totally free of any restrictions. Again, we are hoping that we will be able to make it happen, but because of rather extensive preparation requirements, such functions will need to be cleared well before the time. For now though we all just have to take and accept things as they come.

In closing, sadly as if this pandemic wasn’t enough to endure, once again it is one of the hardest things to share with you, as in this past year and as recently as January this year, we have lost far too many of our dear Compatriots, Friends and Members. Our deepest Sympathy and Condolences go out to the Families who have had to bid a final goodbye to their loved ones Raymond Dalcher, Rene Burkhalter, Werner Pfeiffer, Bruno Villiger, Cornelia Kohler and Paul Suter - may they all rest in peace.

Your Committee