



# SWISS CLUB JHB NEWS LETTER

Dear Members and Friends

It is time to provide you with some feedback on Club issues as we are already in the last quarter of the year again. Thankfully, we are pretty much in a “back to normal” mode apart from the clear evidence of the economic repercussions the last few years have created.

Despite that we have been able to ride the wave, because as your Management Committee and Member’s Council representatives, we are carefully scrutinising income vs costs and are forever finding ways of reducing overheads wherever possible. The ageing infrastructure in and around the Club and Restaurant are however throwing some severe curveballs at us, making it an even more difficult task for the team to perform this balancing act. We had some huge costs around repairs and maintenance for the Restaurant as well as the Generator, which apart from the ridiculous Diesel costs also needed unavoidable repairs and upgrades (thank you Eskom!)

To reflect on this year’s activities so far, we decided to hold our AGM on a Saturday afternoon as opposed to the traditional Friday night, as we felt that many of us just don’t want to or can no longer travel at night, but unfortunately we did not manage to achieve a quorum at the first attempt on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. The second date then scheduled for Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> May yielded 12 Members, who as per our Constitution qualified as a quorum and thus were eligible to vote. Following the AGM we arranged the Metzgete (after the forced break of the past 2 years) on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> May, again for the same reasons as above. Sadly, the participation at this event, which has always been very well attended as it provides a great opportunity to get together for a traditional Swiss meal, was very disappointing, but thanks to the “Golden Oldies Club” and the Hurlimann Family it could actually take place! We are trying our utmost to provide some returns for your valued Membership contributions and the Metzgete for example is always a great feast and real value for money.

The Swiss National Day celebration on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July at least proved to be more enticing and turned out to be a successful event with a decent profit margin in the end. More than half of the bottom line though was due to the unbelievable generosity of some of our Members, namely Albert Epprecht and his Auditor, Rolf Schlub and the Skittling Club, who all provided huge cash injections. Then we could again rely on outside sponsors like the ever so helpful Bettina O’Grady and her Prison Break Market colleagues, who sponsored many prizes towards the raffle, which altogether ultimately allowed us to present some really fantastic prizes on the day – thank you all so much for your loyal support for which we are hugely grateful. Thank you also to NESTLÉ SA who again provided all the amenities for the popular Coffee Stube. We were also fortunate to have the continued support of MIDRENT, who provided the even bigger tent this year at no costs to us as well as substantial discounts for items hired – thank you very much to Iain and Claudia. Thank you also to Devan for sponsoring the Live Music, which was a great suggestion of his and was well liked by the patrons. Thank you again to Devan and his team for providing the service on the day as well as the unenviable task of cleaning up after the event – hugely appreciated. Thank you to all our Members and indeed even outside volunteers who provided the hard work at the various outlets. It has become an ever-increasing struggle to find helpers for the day and such an event simply couldn’t be held if it wasn’t for those unsung heroes! Thank you also to the Swiss Choir for their entertainment as well as the salient effort in the selling of the ever so important raffle tickets.

Lastly thank you very much to Gary Stephenson, our Vice Chairman for all his efforts in the preparations as well as for all the “different hats” he was wearing on the day – a job very well done!

Now this brings us to the next and last event of the year – our year-end and Christmas lunch. This year’s event is scheduled for **SUNDAY THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** and the relevant invitation will be coming your way shortly, but please diarise this date now if you would like to be part of this last get together for the year. As you know we are a registered NPC and we have very few opportunities for bringing in funds. Therefore, for the past few years now we had a fun raffle to provide some Christmas presents for lucky winners. These presents however don’t come from Father Christmas and we sincerely ask you to consider providing sponsorship / prizes towards this now traditional raffle – any contributions will be extremely welcome and appreciated. Please contact Max on 083 412 0161 if you are able to heed our plea.

Until we meet again

Your Committee