



Plettenberg Bay Country Club

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The President has declared a national emergency and a complete lockdown as from midnight on Thursday 26 March 2020.

The Plett Country Club and all of its facilities will be closed from Thursday evening 26/03/2020 and hopefully we will be able to reopen on Friday 17 April 2020.

As you may appreciate the management and committee of the club had anticipated this possibility and had therefore taken certain preventative measures prior to the actual announcement. Apart from these issues, the club is in the process of implementing all operational measures to provide for this announcement. This includes planning around ensuring that our staff are catered for financially and logistically, limiting stock wastage, essential golf course maintenance and other essential measures.

There are a couple of issues which I would like to highlight and would also like to convey my sincere appreciation to all those involved, especially our Club Manager, Greg Phillips.

Club Staff

Our permanent members of staff have been kept fully informed of the situation and the precautions that they should take during this lockdown. We have also ensured that they have received their salaries, etc. and within reason, we will be compensating these staff vis-à-vis their leave, etc.

Golf Course

As you will appreciate, a golf course cannot be left unattended for a period of 3 weeks. Applications have been made to the relevant authorities to get exemptions for key staff to ensure that essential maintenance can be carried out. In the event that these exemptions are not granted Greg Phillips has already had lessons and practiced on the greens-mower to ensure greens are maintained and if necessary, he will also manage the fairways

Finances

Our club Treasurer, John Lloyd, has been working tirelessly on the club's finances, cash flow projections, etc. As you will all appreciate, a lockdown for 3 weeks (or longer) is going to have a severe impact on the finances of our club. Fortunately, we have had good years financially and the Finance Committee have been very prudent over the past 4 to 5 years with expenditure. This will at least give us a bit of a cushion in the future. However, it should be stressed that the next couple of years will be difficult.

Caddies

The national lockdown and closure of the golf course is going to have a drastic effect on the caddies who can only earn a living when they are carrying a bag. Our 36 caddies, who are members of the Plett Caddy Association (PCA) together with some seasonal caddies, all have dependants who need support. Through the club Caddy Welfare Fund, we have already made a payment of R1,000 to each caddy. However, we feel that this requires supplementing and therefore, we are calling upon members who would like to make a donation to the Caddy Welfare Fund to please go ahead. Payments via EFT can be made to the club's account at FNB account 53374617085 and please mention your name and Caddy Fund as reference, I will be making a donation of R500 to start this process.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all members and their families, our staff and their families God speed and health during this very difficult time.

Regards to you all
Howard Garmany
Chairman – Plettenberg Bay Country Club