



Plettenberg Bay Country Club

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Plettenberg Bay

13 April 2020

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Happy and Healthy Easter.

Normally at this time of the year, we are with family, friends and out-of-town members who spend their Easter holidays in our beautiful town. These times with our family and friends are very important and are one of the fabrics of our society.

Unfortunately, the Corona Virus has upset all of these plans and we are all in lockdown for an extended period of 5 weeks. The President has taken very bold actions for the good of the country, and thus it is our duty to play our part.

On Wednesday 25 March 2020, I addressed a letter to all of our members detailing the plans for the club during the lockdown. This letter was sent by email and a SMS was also sent to all members advising them to visit the club website and get the latest on the "News" section.

In view of the extension of the lockdown, I felt it was opportune to send out another letter giving brief updates.

Club Staff

The limited interaction that we have had with our staff has been positive, however, a 5 week lockdown is obviously difficult. We will ensure that, wherever possible, our staff are comfortable and catered for.

Golf Course

We mentioned in our previous newsletter that our Club Manager had obtained 5 permits for essential staff to continue working and maintaining the golf course and other facilities. The essential staff are the green keeper, mechanic and 3 machine operators. The fairways are being cut regularly and the greens to 4 mm which is a good level during a rest period and also strengthens the root structure. All tee boxes have been solid-tined. Greg and Darell have been busy on the mowers and tractors.

Finances

The 5 week lockdown will have a severe impact on our finances – we have fixed costs every month e.g. salaries & wages, essential maintenance, etc. but no income coming in. Our Treasurer, John Lloyd, has spent a lot of time during the lockdown working on updated cash flows, budgets, etc. Traditionally, March and April are the commencement of the annual budgeting process, and whilst we have started this, the number of "unknowns" that we have to build into the budgets is quite daunting. As mentioned in the previous Newsletter (prior to

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lockdown) a couple of good years financially and the prudential spending over the past couple of years should cushion the immediate effect of the lockdown. Our focus in the coming months will be on reducing costs and doing our best to avoid any retrenchments of staff.

John Lloyd will be reporting to members during the next week or two to give a full update on the financial picture.

Caddies

As a result of the appeal for donations made in my previous Newsletter, we received in excess of R50,000 for caddy welfare. A full list of the donors has been posted on the club's website. These funds will be distributed shortly through the Plett Caddy Association (PCA).

A separate appeal for donations for the PCA was made through the Sunday "Beans" golfers and we are advised that in excess of R100k of donations have been made. Hopefully we now have sufficient funds for the caddies until the end of the lockdown. If further funds are required, an appeal will be made to members.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our members for their very generous support of the caddies.

Community Spirit

The Plettenberg Bay community can always be called upon to help and assist those less fortunate than themselves. The community and the Bitou Municipality have distributed 3,500 food parcels to those in our community who are struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. A former chairman of the club, Duncan Brown of KwikSpar has been spearheading this initiative.

The Wednesday School of Plett CC golfers has got involved and all 30 members have undertaken to donate an amount equivalent to what they would have spent playing golf during the lockdown – approximately R2,000 per member.

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

Regards – Howard Garmany, Chairman, PBCC