

## Executive Committee Report 2024

Your Executive Committee has pleasure presenting the 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Report for the year ended 31 May 2024.

The year got off to a busy start with the launching of a Ladies Cricket section team on Women's Day (9<sup>th</sup> of August) as well as a cocktail party on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August to celebrate the Sports Centre turning 20 years old. The AGM of 2023 will long be remembered for being a rather "enduring and time consuming" one – where the ballot boxes were required for both the position of Club Captain and positions on the EXCO. Lenore Fuller (VP) was voted in as the new Club Captain – and became the first lady Club Captain in our 160 years. An awesome achievement indeed. Our EXCO was bolstered by the return of two Club stalwarts – Vice President Brendan Commins, and Llew Byrne – who were also voted in on the night.

Our Winter sports teams ended some great campaigns with silverware: The Ladies' Hockey team won the Grand Challenge and came second in the Riverside tournament in Durban, while the Men's squash team won the WP 1st League for the third season in a row. The men's first hockey team were also runners up in the Grand Challenge.

Before the year was out the running section hosted two very successful events – Landmarks and Medical 10's, and Bowls hosted a number of enjoyable Club and Corporate days as well as a somewhat quieter end of year function. The Wine Festival hosted in the Indoor Centre was once again well attended.

The first few weeks of 2024 were both disappointing and sad. The much-anticipated Test match between SA and India at Newlands lasted less than two days – and is now recorded in the history books as the shortest Test ever (642 legitimate balls). This was a severe blow for the greater cricket economy, and we were not spared – losing three good days of budgeted turnover. On 16<sup>th</sup> January we were made aware of "Kobie's" (Amien Saul) passing – and he was given a great send-off in the Bowls Clubhouse in an event led by Bruce Risien (VP). In a very sad and untimely twist we were back at the Bowls Clubhouse on another Monday afternoon (ordinarily booked for Oaks functions) a few weeks later after Bruce's very untimely passing. They were both members who will forever hold special places in the hearts of all members. May they – along with all Members who recently answered the "sunset call" – Rest in Peace.

It was disappointing that in the year that Newlands got to host the Qualifier and the Final of the SA20 that MI Cape Town were not in the mix. Nevertheless, the matches were well attended, and good times were had by all – on the Members' Stand and in our suites.

In February we hosted our Club Sports Awards in the Long Room, where many of our sports personalities and teams were honoured. Well done to all the winners – we celebrate you, as we do all our members who wear our Club colours with pride throughout the year. It was great for the Wally Wilson Oval to host the Over 40 Cricket

World Cup Final – in which South Africa beat New Zealand. The Closing Dinner which was hosted by us in the Indoor Centre was also a great success.

Our cricketers had another wonderful summer. Sadly the 1<sup>st</sup> team were once again pipped at the post in terms of the Premier League, but they did qualify for the T20 regional play offs. The rest of our teams fared well – as did our Ladies who still await news of whether they will be promoted next season. During the season we also hosted CPL hockey and cricket fixtures, as well as the Cape Town Sixes tournament. Our bowlers struggled to emulate their recent success, with the 1<sup>st</sup> team finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. Tennis also had limited success.

During the month of February, we said goodbye to our Operations Manager, Bradley Seconds. Brad had been at the Club for 18 years – and many wondered how we'd get by without him, particularly with all his Sports Centre IP. We thank Brad for his efforts and wish him well in his future. We were fortunate to have Graeme Cann, an ex-EXCO member for many years, answer the call and join our team as an interim Club Manager. He has been a breath of fresh air - and is certainly making a difference in the space. Thanks Graeme - for taking on the challenge and for doing the job with care and passion. Our thanks too to Duncan de Groot who took up the position of new Oaks Chairman - and delivered his debut meeting with aplomb.

The focus of our Membership Committee is to enhance the members experience of the Club and to retain and attract new members. Llew Byrne took over the Membership portfolio from Graeme Cann – and he and his committee have done a great job. Membership has been stable year on year. “The Cricket” – our weekly newsletter – has been greatly enhanced in terms of design and input since Maddy's arrival. We thank her for all of her efforts – both in the office and on the field.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Jokers Wild Draw was not as successful as the first – with our winner drawing the Joker in week 36 (rather than week 45) when the jackpot was at R116 000. The sport sections raised over R55 000 through hosting some fun Friday evenings. The “3<sup>rd</sup>” Joker draw has recently started. Two attendance draws have also been won during the year. Friday evenings are still being enjoyed by some of our community friends – but while they enjoy our field, they don't get to enjoy our “happy hour” prices!!

Our grounds and facilities are looking superb. From the cutting of fields to preparing of pitches and greens; from repairing of pumps and irrigation systems to trimming of trees – and everything in between – these are taken care of by our facilities team and some third-party providers. This portfolio is headed up by Brendan Commins, and we thank him for his efforts in overseeing the work that is undertaken on our valuable assets. We are very much aware that our Sports Centre is now over 20 years old that resources will be required to bring her back to her glittering and glorious, best. During the year the pool's sparkle was restored. In the months ahead generous licks of paint and varnish will be required in some areas. The addition of our solar plant during the year has been a massive step in the right direction in terms of efficiency and sustainability.

There are many “moving parts” in our Club and making sure that they are all correctly handled from a human resources, compliance and legal perspective is very important to us. Michael Dixon heads up our Legal and HR portfolio and gives willingly of his time and expertise, making sure that the Club’s interests – and those of our members – are always “covered”. Thanks Michael, much appreciated.

The Club recently signed a lease agreement with the City of Cape Town for what has affectionately been known in EXCO minutes as The Noddy Precinct. This includes all the buildings to the south of our B Astro – the cottage and the site of the old “Wash-house”. The significance of signing the lease – for a rather insignificant amount of money – was making sure that we controlled the space. In the months ahead we will be putting the space to better use, along with our business partners – while enhancing the aesthetics and the security of that area. The YMCA field users can look forward to improved facilities in the years to come.

On the north side of our facility, we will finally be erecting our Padel courts, and we look forward to these being a great value-add for our members, while also attracting new members.

While the economy is struggling and many entities are finding it difficult to stay afloat, we are once again happy to report that we have made a surplus of R396k. It is important that we balance the books while meeting (and managing) members’ expectations. We try our best to make sure that we deliver a service worthy of the world class facilities that we own.

The Club’s finances have been overseen by our Vice-Chairman for the past 6 years, Shaun Fisher. Guiding us prudently through the Covid years and making sure that all financial decisions and payments were made with great discernment has stood us in good stead. He is also a valuable member of the hockey committee and has been a big driver in the growth of the sport – particularly at the junior level. We appreciate that there are not only sporting seasons but there also seasons of our lives. As Shaun’s season of service comes to an end, I would like to thank him on behalf of EXCO and all members for his time and efforts in making this Club a better place.

Another stalwart of the Club who has served for 18 years as both Finance Manager and General Manager, John Vicars, is also about to “call time” on his season with us. We are grateful to John that he has offered his assistance in a smooth hand-over in the months ahead, particularly all the intricacies of running a smooth operation at Newlands. Our sincere thanks to John for his great effort since being head hunted all those years ago.

All of our staff and service providers play a significant role in keeping Province a world class facility and do all that they can to enhance our member’s and guests’ experience every day. Thank you to John, Graeme and Nashura and every staff member for doing your best for us.

Our business partners are very important to us. I would like to thank Pam Golding Properties, Growthpoint Properties and Personal Trust International for their continued support. There are also a few Newlands suite holders who come back year after year – and their contributions are very much appreciated. Thanks too to our President, Dr Andrew Golding, and our Club Vice-Presidents for their words of encouragement.

My sincere thanks to members of all Committees and sub-committees who give up their time for all of our sections. Your efforts are much appreciated – even though sometimes you may feel like it is a thank-less job. We couldn't do it without you. Likewise, my sincere thanks to all of my fellow EXCO members – Shaun, Lenore, Brendan, Llew & Michael for all your efforts in making sure that the Club runs smoothly. While I am sure sometimes you sit back and wonder why you signed up for this, know that your service and sacrifice are greatly appreciated by members – even if they don't tell you.

May the year ahead be filled with many tales of success and fun on all the fields, courts and greens. May our Clubhouses be filled with good cheer and cold beer....and here's to a longer Test match!!

Take care until we see you next.

Yours in sport

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Palframan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Steve Palframan

Chairman WPCC