

# *THE HOOPOE*

*January 13, 2012*



## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Happy New Year to you all!

So 2011 has come and gone and we are already 12% into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! I do not have to remind you that it was a difficult year, but I have now reminded you nonetheless, and the economic woes have washed over every part of our lives including our sports clubs.

We hear of more clubs struggling, particularly golfing country clubs, and clubs still closing as members struggle to find disposable income to fund their subs. Given this background, I am very pleased to report our status at the midway mark of our financial year, being December 2011.



You will be pleased to know that your committee has already held its first meeting of the year in the interests of running the club as efficiently as possible.

## Membership

Our membership has improved slightly from 836 in November 2010 to 851 in November 2011 and 864 in December, although still roughly 150 short of our target number. We do have plans to increase membership, which will now kick off with another attempt to approach the bodies corporate of the mushrooming townhouse complexes around us.

If you are living in one of these complexes, please contact me with the contact details of your body corporate in order for us to promote our club to the residents. We will waive entrance fees and offer a 20% discount on 1<sup>st</sup> year subscriptions to these new members - so do your neighbours a favour and let's have the details.

Sharon will also be distributing pamphlets through shopping centres and I will deliver pamphlets to the local churches to place on their notice boards. If you know a good spot to "pin a pamphlet", then please obtain one from Vanessa at the office.

In addition, John Dunkley and his team are well down the road in planning our gala 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, celebrating four decades of serving our community through sport and social events. The weekend of 14-15<sup>th</sup> April has been earmarked for the major daytime events, with a very special dinner dance on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, so please diarise these weekends now and start thinking about who you will bring along. We will bring you much more detail on this in the next couple of months. The events are designed to attract new members, so let's have your ideas.

## Financials



Through sound, disciplined management of our finances, I am very pleased to advise you that your club remains financially sound.

Comparing the 6 months to December in 2010, with the 6 months just ended, we have the following results;

Bar revenue is 11% above budget and about 14% ahead of 2010 and our margins have improved from 45% to 47%, so thanks to everyone who contributes to this important source of revenue.



We have also managed to keep expenses R 87,000 below budget, even with settling the horrendous electricity account. Our year-to-date expenses are only R 3,000 more than the same time last year.

Whilst we have still made a core loss [excluding income from advertising signs, interest earned and mobile masts] of R 82,000 against a budgeted loss of R 235,000, we are forecasting at least break-even by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The actions taken by your committee will start bearing fruit in the second half of the year and bode well for year end 2013.

Our cash balance remains healthy and we will meet our commitment of R1.5 million cash on hand at the year end after settling all the building costs and the outreach commitments to underprivileged schools which will amount to over R250,000 for the year.

Thanks again to Richard Newby for his continued sterling [forgive the pun] work in managing our finances and to Nick and Vanessa for their very important and appreciated contribution.

## Social



I am advised by many members that the mood in the bar has improved quite substantially with much less chirping and negativity and I would like to sincerely thank all our members for playing their part in maintaining a convivial environment that does not discourage members from enjoying our new facilities and increasing our profits.

No club runs perfectly to the satisfaction of nearly 900 individuals and no management committee is going to get everything right all the time, bearing in mind that none of the committee receives any remuneration and all time is volunteered.

We have attempted to improve communication through The Hoopoe. Thanks Angus for fulfilling this most valued role so well. I can assure you that we will always be transparent in our dealings, even though the conspiracy theorists will always remain with us. But that is also okay, as long as they check out their theories with us before infecting the club. My committee and I are always available at any time to share your concerns, worries and ideas, so please feel free to approach us to clarify any information that we either did not communicate, or we communicated poorly, and we will resolve your concerns.

Let's leave the tensions of the world at the entrance to the club and may your club be a haven of friendship and fellowship.

## Staff

The changes have been made and we are still reviewing and refining work processes and procedures to maximise efficiency and minimise expenses in this high cost area of running our club.

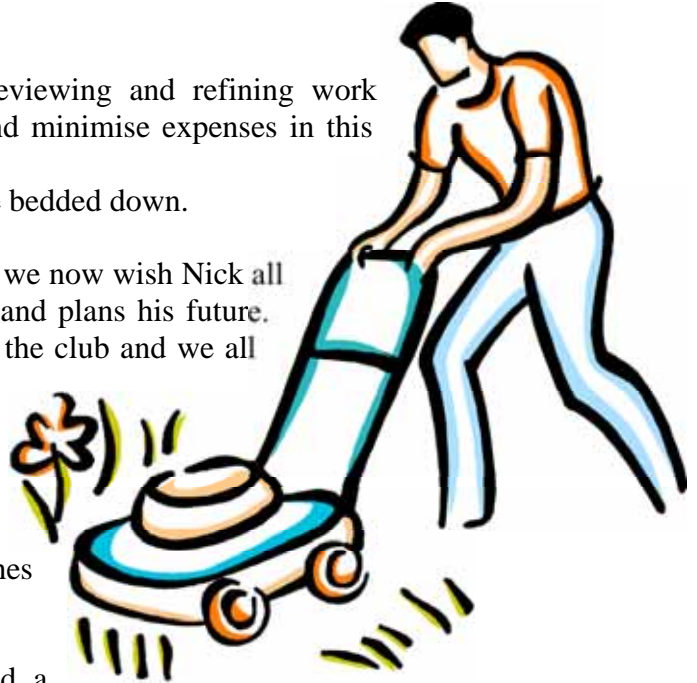
Thank you for your patience as the new structures are bedded down.

Having bid farewell to our long-time friend Dieksen, we now wish Nick all the very best as he leaves us at the end of January and plans his future. Thank you Nick for all the work you have done for the club and we all know that managing any club with so many varied tasks and people is never easy and often thankless.

You have served us well and always placed the interests of BSC first. Enjoy your well deserved break and your visit to your son in Canada. BSC wishes you well.

(\*Nick has specifically asked that we do not hold a farewell function for him, preferring to say goodbye to members during the course of January.)

We have now issued all the staff with name badges to encourage members to engage with our employees by name. When you meet them in the gardens or cleaning our facilities, please greet them by name and make them feel a part of the BSC family.



## Conclusion

As we move into the second half of the year may I wish you all a truly bountiful 2012 blessed with good health, success on the sports fields and more friendships.

Each member contributes most significantly to the successful running of this amazing club that celebrates 40 years this year and I thank you especially for the important role that you play.

Good luck and God bless.

Ronnie Davidson  
Chairman  
Bryanston Sports Club

*AND IN OTHER NEWS.....*

## FIRST MONTHLY DRAW OF 2012-01-12

The first monthly draw of 2012 will be on Friday, February 3 – so make sure you have your number to stand a chance of winning some bucks during the year – only R100 for a number for the year.

See you at the club for Happy Hour at 5.30pm and then the draw at 6.30pm.



## ACCESS CARDS



Please remember to collect your access card from the office otherwise you will have to use the visitors' entrance.

## MEET OUR NEW BARMAID (BARFRAU?)



After several months of intensive training at a range of pubs in Germany, our new barmaid (barfrau), Greta, has passed her basic skills test and is ready to start at BSC on **April 1**. Seriously, once we have our new Hansa draught system installed – which should be in the next week or so - we may need to get her in to help out on busy days.

## SPORTING UPDATES



Our sporting sections are all off to a busy start, despite the inevitable weather interruptions at this time of the year. Let's all look forward to some great fun and camaraderie on the tennis and squash courts and on the bowling greens, interspersed with some more excellent competitive performances in our internal championships and against other clubs and provinces.

The bowlers have wasted no time in embracing the New Year. Wednesday league resumed on January 11 and Saturday league resumes on January 14. Tennis players are shaking off their festive season excesses and looking forward to the first men's and ladies' leagues of the year which begin on February 11 and 12 respectively.

Until next time, let's all have a fantastic 2012 at the club, at home, at work and in everything that we do.

*Angus Macmillan*  
*Vice Chairman*