



August 2020 Newsletter



DEAR FELLOW HOCKEY ENTHUSIASTS,

It has been a while since my last newsletter and a great deal has happened since then. The WMH made a call early in the process, to postpone the World Cup and history will prove this to be the correct decision. It is anticipated that this pandemic will still be very virulent this September in South Africa and hence would have proven very unwise to attempt to hold the World Cup at that time.

Postponing the event for a full year is again going to prove the correct decision for a number of reasons. There is no doubt this pandemic has had an impact on the global economy and many will feel the immediate fall out of this. Having a full 18 months will allow many of us to re-seat ourselves and be in a more stable position to attend the event in September 2021. It will allow the airlines to stabilise and the tourism industry to find its feet again. By September 2021 both industries should be back on track and eager to assist in this event.

As organisers it has given us a little more breathing room, to change what was going to be an amazing event into something even bigger. We have the opportunity to market and secure the additional sponsors that will take this event to another level. Field hockey is the 3rd most watched and participated sport in the world. The Masters World Cup event in South Africa will be the 3rd largest international event in terms of participating athletes in the world calendar for 2021. This event has attracted 109 teams from 23 different nations from every continent. This is third only to the Olympics and the World Games.

Prior to this pandemic we were quite far down the line on securing a broadcasting deal to ensure we could live stream every game to the globe. Every participant has friends and family that will now be able to share in this great event.

A bittersweet aspect of the event has been the impact this pandemic has had on our local currency. Our rand has devalued an incredible 20% since the start of the epidemic. Not great if you are South African but it has made the event 20% cheaper for any foreigner coming here. Putting this in hockey language, a beer in a pub will cost approximately \$1.45 and a good bottle of SA wine at a restaurant is around \$20.00.

On the event itself, the hotel and hospitality groups we have been working with are still very enthusiastic and positive moving forward. This industry has been decimated and are obviously very keen to attract further interest from our event. The industry has also been very proactive in putting protocols in place to ensure safety and peace of mind for everyone. Diane, from Highline Tours & Travel, has been in contact with all the countries and teams having previously booked, in order to move their accommodation bookings from 2020 to 2021. Should you still wish to make a booking or have any queries, please contact Diane at wc@highline.co.za, bearing in mind that no monies need to be paid until next year.

Although extremely disappointing that we could not have the event this year, we are looking forward positively to see how we can improve on what we had prepared and the additional year will provide us this opportunity.

CLUB HIGHLIGHT PAGE



THE WESTERN PROVINCE CRICKET CLUB

The Western Province Cricket Club was founded in 1864. The first recorded media entry regarding the Club was on 11 October 1864 when the Cape Argus announced “A cricket match will be play at Wynberg tomorrow between two teams of the newly formed WPCC. One eleven will be composed of residents in Cape Town and Wynberg and the other of those in Claremont Rondebosch and Diocesan College. Wickets will be pitched at 10.00am”

The Club owned the iconic Newlands Cricket ground, which was sold to the Western Province Cricket Association in 2002. Western Province Cricket Club remains the owner of the Member’s Pavilion at Newlands which accommodates 2 400 members and their guests who enjoy watching international, first-class and List A cricket in comfortable surroundings.

in August 2003 the Club officially opened its Sports Centre, in Avenue De Mist, Rondebosch. The Club is situated near Newlands Cricket Ground in the middle of 8 hectares of park-like surrounds where all members have full usage of the Club’s facilities on offer.

The hockey section has a proud tradition of fine performances seeing the Club contend for the respective league championships at all levels. Both the men and woman boast several International players. There are currently 8 Men’s teams and 6 Ladies teams.

