



## An important update for Members, Guests and Visitors of The Hills Club

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Dear Members and Guests,

It is hard to know where to begin. What a week it has been and what a crazy world we are living in right now. As you would be aware, the club has now closed as a result of a government forced shut down that was imposed on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. We have been through an incredibly stressful situation where the goal posts have been moving faster than we could have comprehended in recent weeks.

On Monday there was no real choice for the club but to stand down all most of its loyal employees for an indefinite period. For an employer, this has to be one of the most devastating actions to have to take, however to make it through the other side of this horrible situation there was no choice. Our thoughts are with all of our staff who like many across our industry have overnight been left without work and income.

Whilst we are all enduring this difficult time, we must still focus on the important task of the point that we will again be open for the members and their guests of the club in the future. Whilst we have this period of closure, I will be working very hard to seize the opportunity to ensure that when we reopen that we will do so stronger and better than ever.

This is a time where I think that the value of clubs to our community will really become apparent. With the closure of all of our clubs we have seen significant unemployment, lack of opportunity for gatherings, reduced social inclusion, and the disappearance of the feeling of belonging that comes when visiting a club for many of our community who are otherwise quite isolated. We are also seeing the impact that clubs have on the sporting and recreational contributions to the community along with all of the relationship's clubs have with a large variety of community organisations. To add to that our industry suppliers are all so suffering a great deal as some of their businesses rely just on the club industry and their business has disappeared over night.

I would encourage you all to remember that we will eventually come through this and I would hope with more resilience and strength than ever. As community now is a time where we must help each other where we can to ensure we keep each other mentally healthy. So please reach out to each other and let's all get through this.

We will keep communicating to you as we progress through the weeks ahead. Please take note of a few important housekeeping issues:

- All members points will remain on accounts and will not expire at the end of the financial year
- The Club will be waiving membership renewals at this point for all classes of membership at least for the first half of the 2020/21 year
- Due to insurance reasons and other there will be no access to any of the club premises including bowls of any kind until advised

Take care and I wish you all good health through this challenging time.

Kind Regards,



Angus Rimmer  
General Manager