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PRESS RELEASE

Following a remarkable opportunity that has come his way, Chris Bentley, CEO of Royal Johannesburg is to step down after nearly eleven years in the role. Chris will be undertaking the General Manager position at an exclusive Golf Club abroad (currently under embargo).

During Chris's tenure, the Club has appreciated his exceptional leadership, unbelievable care, attention to detail, courage and trailblazing commitment to protect and develop the Club. We have been fortunate to have a CEO who has not only steered the Club through many challenging times, but has completely reshaped our property, service and value proposition. What Chris has accomplished and given to Royal is nothing short of remarkable and while it is sad that he will be leaving our shores, it is no surprise that he has been headhunted for a highly coveted position in the Club world.

Among Chris's many achievements, he led the Club to 13 international awards, 12 national and most notably was named the PGA Professional of the Year in 2021, by his peers. He directed 5 European Tour co-sanctioned tournaments, spearheaded numerous SA Amateur Championships and many other amazing events and functions during his time.

In 2014, as part of his visionary and strategic approach, Chris executed an ambitious blueprint to restructure the Club - this with a greater emphasis on sustainable luxury, annuity income and a business-driven approach toward an all-inclusive, family centric facility.



This delivered significant improvements to both golf courses, the renaming of the Club, the upgrade of the locker rooms, members bar, patio, halfway house and the execution of the property developments. He led the implementation of padel tennis, wellness, fitness, solar and our award winning Old Oak Restaurant to name a few. Most importantly, Chris assembled and developed exceptional teams of people, who proudly and boldly followed his vision and at the same time consistently improved the golf & hospitality experience.

"This has unquestionably been the hardest decision of my career. Royal has been more than a job to me - it's been a professional passion and I could not be prouder of the teams we have built and the work we have done together in repositioning this great Club. There aren't many facilities in the world that get to this level and I have been privileged to lead the charge.

Being a steward of the Club's history and forming part of its legacy is something I will cherish forever. I deeply appreciate everything Royal has done for me, my career and my family and express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved. Together we have taken Royal to a leading position and I have no doubt that the brightest days are ahead. Though I am stepping into a new adventure, I'll remain one of Royals' biggest supporters" said Chris Bentley

Chris has passionately supported growing the game of golf. He has protected Royal's history and traditions, yet modernised the Club to heights we never thought possible and today we all enjoy the fruits of Chris's leadership, his attention to detail and unapologetic approach to keep amplifying the Club.



Chris has also been so much more than a Club CEO, his work ethic, passion, stature, intellect, values, and constant desire to help staff and members has gone far beyond the call of duty. Chris's legacy here will be that of a true servant leader, a friend, a mentor, an ambassador and a hospitality king who has improved lives and created magic. His generosity of spirit and compassion has been evident on an everyday basis at the Club and no matter the challenge, the staff and members were always a priority. His professionalism and integrity knows no bounds and he has "teed" Royal up for the future and concurrently set a new benchmark for Club Management in South Africa.

The process of finding a successor has begun, and in the interim, the Board has requested that the Club Operations Director assumes the executive duties, until a suitable replacement has been found.

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