

December 28, 2020

Dear Hills Members,

Somehow January 2021 is nearly here. This 2020 year at times has felt like it's been (at least) three years long. The new decade started way back last January. In March we were forced to completely close for two+ months. In June we were allowed to reopen some of the club. Since then it has been a roller coaster ride as COVID numbers have risen and fallen. Through it all there have been some frustrations and challenges that the pandemic has brought on The Hills. Yet, there has also been much more humbleness, gratitude, praise and thanks received, that we all get to experience this amazing Club so frequently together. If this year has taught me anything, it's that the soul of this Club is stronger than ever and the future looks bright toward 2021 and beyond.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being understanding, patient, and adaptable to rapid changes on the fly. I too realize it is not so easy, especially because there was so much uncertainty about COVID early on in 2020 and currently we don't exactly know what to expect in 2021. So thank you for putting your trust and commitment into me and the entire staff of The Hills.

And, seriously, how lucky am I to have the incredible staff of people I have here?!? From the top to the bottom of my heart I thank the staff for helping me get through the trials and tribulations that this year presented. An additional shoutout to the seven managers here at The Hills: Therese Brewitz (Pilates), Shad Wojtala (Aquatics), Anthony Lum (Camps), Jose Jimenez (Maintenance), Stefani McDermott (Accounting), Angelique Pine (Group Exercise), Rosalinda Mendoza (Operations). I know we've done more Zoom meetings than we ever imagined, but thank you for sticking it out with me through this unimaginable year.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to California Athletic Clubs! At a time when many in the fitness industry resorted to furloughs and layoffs in March & April, they did not. They committed to their values and continued to carry the staff through dark days this club had never experienced in its nearly 60-year existence.

In 2021 dues WILL NOT be increased. Single monthly dues will remain \$192/month, family will remain \$310/month. We recognize that these times are harder than ever from a financial perspective for many members. All members should've already received an email from our Accounting Manager, Stefani McDermott, in regards to paying dues in 2021. For those that do choose to pay annually in January (paying for the entire year of 2021) you will receive a discount of 3% if you make that payment by January 31, 2021.

The Hills will **no longer be mailing out paper statements** beginning January of 2021. In an effort to "go green" all accounting statements and all Hills communications will come via email. It is of the utmost importance that you please be sure to have updated email addresses linked to your account. This can be done simply by logging into your member portal on a web browser online, or by checking your account profile information on the app. In addition, you are always welcome to contact the front desk or Stefani so that they can update your email address (or any other account profile information) for you.

We are extremely excited that the newest addition to the club which we are calling "The Tent" has been well received by members and already well utilized by program directors. For those that are unaware of what I am referring to, we built an outdoor extension of the indoor Group

Fitness room (The Clubhouse). This extension includes a 20 foot wide by 50 foot long tent similar to those you may see at outdoor weddings or events. We also installed lighting and artificial field turf so that this area can be used primarily for outdoor group fitness classes, as well as other programs like Peak Fit classes, small group training, Tae Kwon Do classes and much more!!!



Looking forward to 2021, I'm sure it will come with many more challenges and hurdles, but one thing has been pretty obvious in my eyes. The politicians and decision makers for both the state of California and Contra Costa County have recently recognized The Hills Swim & Tennis Club and other health clubs similar to ours as essential businesses during the peak of our current COVID-19 pandemic. Self care and frequent exercise is extremely important for both physical and, possibly now more than ever, mental well being.

I am very proud, grateful and privileged to be the General Manager of this magical place. We are so lucky to provide all Hills members the access to continue to exercise during this unprecedented time and will continue to do so in 2021 and beyond.

Happy Holidays to all,

-Nick

Nick Beach
General Manager
The Hills Swim & Tennis Club