***President’s Message---April, 2020***

***‘Let’s get Real’***

 ***Current & ex-State Open Champions; Maestas & Mazaroff***

**We now have a new reality! All of us are and will be affected by the ‘Virus.’ Nobody is immune and we are in this together. Some concerns and updates from NM Racquetball to our constituency:**

1. **Business(s) as usual?.....The answer is no. Stimulus or not, many of us are and will be**

**without employment. Our positions may or may not continue. Large, intermediate,**

**and small businesses may be forced from the workplace. Some may have been fragile**

**before; and, the current situation may only hasten the inevitable. Athletic clubs and**

**other venues may not reopen. Members have been given options whether**

**to continue to pay full dues, a percentage of dues, or opt not to pay. Are these**

**businesses able to forego monthly income streams, and for how long? If they do**

**re-open, their business plans may change in ways that affect our status as members**

**and our options; including court use.**

**One upside! Those dedicated and diligent will find ways to maintain their health and**

**fitness levels. We may be pulled out of our comfort zones; yet, there are ways to**

**sustain an active lifestyle. Some examples are online classes; yoga, Jazzercise, and**

**other fitness modalities. Outdoor 1-wall, 3-wall, and 4-wall courts are still accessible.**

**Take advantage of other disciplines and welcome ‘cross training’ opportunities.**

1. **National and International Governing Bodies…..Adjustments abound! The IRF postponed**

**the Pan Am Championships in Bolivia until June. Prospective dates are fragile. Worlds**

**in San Luis Potosi, Mexico are questionable. USA Racquetball cancelled a number of**

**tournaments, including the National Singles and the National Junior Championships.**

**Will the US Open, scheduled for early October, be held? As a National Governing Body**

**dependent on memberships and events for revenue, can it hold on without these**

**income streams? Prestigious events which have been cancelled or moved include:**

**Kentucky Derby, Masters, Wimbledon, Olympic Games, and World Games. Let us not**

**forget the delay of Major League Baseball and the stoppage of the NBA and NHL.**

1. **On the HOME front…..One of the first steps by NM Racquetball after the Governor’s edict**

**was to cancel the 2020 State Singles/Juniors and integrate it into the New Mexico Games**

**the last week of June. No guarantee on those dates as well. Other affected events**

**(there are about 20 per annum) will be rescheduled later this calendar year or be cancelled.**

1. **Prospective safety net changes--social distancing & capacity adjustments…..Upcoming in**

**Albuquerque is the 36th edition of the IRF World Senior Racquetball Championships.**

**A huge part of this event is the collaboration and coming together of organizations and**

**athletes under one roof. Evenings at Midtown pull in large numbers during the**

**mixed doubles matches. When restaurants re-open, they may be mandated to**

**limit capacity to no more than 50%, and clubs may be mandated to keep large**

**groups from banding together at one time. Such a stance will markedly change**

**the environment and the menu for us. We are ready for the operation of the 2020**

**WSRC event (Sept. 1-5); with contingency plans if: a. we must push back the event**

**past September b. we have restrictions on numbers of participants c. perennial**

**partners elect not to participate as a contributor or sponsor d. The host hotel**

**operations have been compromised and we lose the prime package that has been a**

**win-win over the past decade e. players have concerns about air travel**

**In closing, we have been thrust into a fog or a Twilight Zone which most of us have never experienced in our lifetime. Like most disturbances, will we treat it as life shattering or life threatening, or will we treat it as a ‘minor inconvenience?’ With confidence, the latter will prevail.**

**Love the one(s) you’re with,**

**Gary Mazaroff, President**

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