In herinnering aan Johan Pretorius

Onder normale omstandighede sou dit ’n groot voorreg en plesier gewees het om iets oor my groot vriend en vennoot Johan (of soos ek hom genoem het “Johnny/Petoors”) te sê, maar vandag is dit ’n vreeslike ding omdat ek so emosioneel is dat ek nie oortuig is of ek enigiets sinvol sal kan oordra nie.

Ek het Johnny in 1976 op skool ontmoet waar ons albei vir Suidoos Vrystaat tennis gespeel het. Ná Johnny vir twee jaar in die SAW was het ons mekaar weer raakgeloop by Kovsies en dadelik weer goeie vriende geraak.

In 1985 het ek - te danke aan Johnny - by Dekker Wandrag begin “article” en net daar het ons bloedbroers geraak.

Johnny was slim en ’n uitstekende rekenmeester. As my senior het ek baie by hom geleer en ons het gereeld saam studeer ook– alles was altyd darem nie net grappe en sports nie!

My eerste oudit, onder leiding van Johnny, was Musgrave en onder hierdie leermeester van my het ons elke geweer geskiet en soms geoudit! Johnny het my die heeltyd vertel hoe lekker ons eerste oudit-ete gaan wees en het ons nie gekuier nie! Ons het inderwaarheid so lekker gekuier dat ons skoon vergeet het om kos te bestel en almal het vir ons gelag toe hulle kos by die tafel aankom en ons kry niks!

In 1986 het ek en Johnny saam gebly en dit was van die lekkerste tye in my lewe. Ons albei het VW Beetles gery. Johnny die tweede lelikste een in die wêreld en ek die lelikste een. Ons het alles saam gedoen – selfs een aand ’n inbreker die strate in gejaag in net ons “pyjamas”!

Later is Johnny en Chrisna getroud en hulle het ’n praktyk op Mosselbaai help opbou wat vandag as die “Boshoff Visser Groep” bekendstaan.

LDP is in 1998 en 1999 deur diep waters en ek het myself dadelik na Johan gewend om LDP in Stellenbosch te kom help.

Johnny en Chrisna was reg vir hierdie uitdaging en so het die twee van hulle ’n enorme bydrae tot LDP gemaak.

Hoewel Johan se bydrae tot die besigheid en kliënte onverbeterlik was, was sy interaksie met LDP se grootste bate - ons mense – groter en beter as enige iemand anders s'n. Johnny was ’n wenner en vreeslose mededinger op alle gebiede.

Op die gebied van kuier, nonsens praat, grappe maak en stories vertel was ou Johnny nie net goed nie – hy was inderwaarheid ’n legende!

Dit is ook waarom LDP nou al jare lank op ons jaareindfunksie die “Johan Pretorius wisseltrofee vir k@kpraat” uitdeel. Johnny was later nie meer toegelaat om deel te neem nie aangesien hy soos Roger Federer so baie gewen het dat die res te geïntemideerd was om deel te neem!

Johnny was egter nie net ’n “social animal” nie – hy was hardwerkend, pligsgetrou en een van die betroubaarste mense op aarde.

Johnny het ook die fynere dinge in die lewe geniet soos bier, whiskey en goeie wyn waarvan hy ’n kenner was.

Hy het selfs een keer by ’n ete ’n bottel Meerlust Rubicon bestel wat hom seker omtrent ’n hele maand se karige salaris gekos het.

Een ding waarin Johnny egter nie uitgeblink het nie was om te sing, maar hy het dit egter vergeet en gereeld Ierse drinkliedere by partytjies gesing!

Vir Chrisna wil ek bedank dat sy Johnny met ons gedeel het en laat ons asb toe om jou deur die moeilike tyd te ondersteun.

André du Plessis op die gedenkdiens wat vir Johan gehou is op 12 Julie 2019 by die Moederkerk op Stellenbosch.

In memory of Johan Pretorius

Under normal circumstances it would have been a great privilege and pleasure to say something about my good friend and business partner Johan (or as I called him “Johnny/Petoors”), but today I am so overcome with emotion that I am not convinced that I'll be able to convey anything meaningful.

I met Johnny in school in 1976 where we both played tennis for South Eastern Free State. After Johnny served in the SADF for two years we met once again at Kovsies and immediately became good friends.

In 1985 I started to “article” at the Dekker Wandrag because of Johnny and right there we became blood brothers.

Johnny was smart and an excellent accountant. As my senior I learned so much from him and even though we had a lot of fun together we were also study companions who studied together on a regular basis.

My first audit, under the guidance of Johnny, was Musgrave and we shot every single rifle while sometimes also finding the time to audit. Johnny kept telling me how much fun our first audit dinner was going to be and he was absolutely right! In fact, we had such a good time that we completely forgot to order dinner. Everyone had a great laugh when their dinner arrived at the table while we got nothing!

In 1986 Johnny and I shared accommodation and this would become one of the best periods of my life. We both drove VW Beetles – Johnny owned the second most hideous one in the world, while I owned the most hideous one.

We did everything together - even chased a burglar down the road in our pyjamas one evening.

Later Johnny and Chrisna got married and they helped to build a practice in Mossel Bay known today as the "Boshoff Visser Group".

When LDP was in deep waters in 1998 and 1999 I turned to Johan and asked for his assistance in Stellenbosch.

Johnny and Chrisna were ready for this challenge and the two of them made a huge contribution to LDP.

Although Johan's contribution to the business and the clients was unrivalled, his interaction with LDP's greatest asset - our people - was greater and better than anyone before. Johnny was a victor and a fearless competitor in all areas of life.

In terms of socialising, talking nonsense, making jokes and telling stories, Johnny was not only good - he was a true legend!

This is also why LDP has been awarding the “Johan Pretorius trophy for k@kpraat” for many years at our year-end functions. Johnny was no longer allowed to participate as he - like Roger Federer - won so many times that the others were too intimidated to participate!

However, Johnny was not only a "social animal" - he was hardworking, conscientious and one of the most trustworthy people in the world.

He also enjoyed the finer things in life and he was an expert of beer, whiskey and good wine. I recall Johnny once ordering a bottle of

Meerlust Rubicon at a meal which probably cost him about a whole month's salary.

One thing Johnny did not excel in was singing, but he didn’t seem to remember this fact and often sang Irish drinking songs at parties.

I want to thank Chrisna for sharing Johnny with us. Please allow us to support you through this difficult time.

André du Plessis at the memorial service held for Johan on 12 July 2019 at the Moederkerk in Stellenbosch.