



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



Chairman's Report 2017 Lance Blackley

This year my report will focus primarily on the Boards administrative and infrastructure initiatives that underpin and support the Summer and Winter committees that run seasons and the teams so well across all the levels in which the Club competes.

RULES OF INCORPORATION

Work has commenced on a complete review of our Rules of incorporation using as a guide the Model Rules provided by Baseball Victoria. There are a number of issues and anomalies that need to be addressed.





COMPLIANCE AND RECORD KEEPING

The Board has the responsibility for the Club's compliance with statutory and legislative requirements. Certification Certificates and Registers are required to be maintained and kept up to date.

These responsibilities cover the regular maintenance of equipment (fridges and kitchen chip cookers), assists the KCC with health and safety inspections. ensuring the Club holds current public liability insurance, Canteen Health and Safety certification and an annual return to Consumer Affairs occurs

A current Liquor Licence is also required and this is managed in conjunction with the KSC

Registers are maintained on an annual basis covering:

- Membership (including members not listed as involved members during the BV and DBA competition seasons)

- Working with Children Checks for Committee, Coaches and Team Managers are in place and current

- Keys for the Pavilion and access to Club equipment.

- BA/BV Accreditation Coaches, Scorers, Umpires

- First Aiders certification

- Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) for members helping out behind the Bar

- Defibrillator operator training

- Food Handling certification for workers in the Canteen and Kitchen

- Player Number Allocations





PROJECTS

Little League Field

The new field will be the centrepiece of a first class Little League regional facility which is used extensively by all baseball clubs and schools in the Kingston and Bayside areas as well as for state tournaments.

The new back net, dugouts and scorers box cost over \$30,000 and was financed by combination of grant of \$15,000 under the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Initiative as well as cash and labour provided by trades people from within the Club.

There was considerable dialogue with Council so that the relevant permits could be put in place before construction of the Little League diamond could commence. The permit was finally issued in September 2016 and work commenced in December 2016 A contractor was responsible for the poles and wire netting The Club responsible for concreting the floors and adding the rooves and benches.

Work was sufficiently advanced for games to be played on the field towards the end of the 2016-17 season. The Official Opening is planned for early in the 2017-18 season.

Main Field Dugouts;

The dangerous state of the old wire on the dugouts was escalated to the KCC during December 2016. The Club offered to pay for 50% of the cost.(\$1000) This opportunity will also be used to concrete the floors of the dugouts with the work to coincide with the LL Field concreting.

Sun Shades Pavilion Forecourt.

Shades have been purchased but installation has been deferred until the Lighting Towers have been installed.





Main Infield Levelling

A Working Bee under the direction of Alan and Andrew Gribbin repaired the main diamonds surface by lowering the edges between the running paths and the grass. Peter Leslie looked after the irrigation and close mowing of the infield during the repair process.

Main Field Lights

The project has been progressing more slowly than expected due to issues with the switchboard upgrade and power line connection from Farm Road delaying the project. United Energy specifications for upgrade of the power line from the Farm Rd substation that provides power to the Hockey, Baseball meters in the Pavilion and Optus Tower is holding up the issuing of the baseball tender to supply and install the 4 lighting towers. Club's concerns regarding the delays were escalated to KCC CEO. KCC have advised that they expect the work to be finished in March 2018.

Electronic Score Board

An electronic scoreboard was installed on the Main Field. Scorers Box. Thank you to Darren Hiddlestone and David Johnson who drove the project with help from Stu Holding who provided the protective casing.

Website Upgrade:

Work has commenced on improving the Web Site. The intention is to intention is to progress the work as quickly as possible within the financial and resourcing capacity we have available. Damon Pettit has taken on keeping the existing site current.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES

During the year the Board has been reviewing and improving our administrative financial processes. This work is essential to ensure that club funds are handled in accordance with the rules set down in our ROI and that our committees have the visibility to understand and exercise their responsibilities. Timely reporting is essential.





ABN Registration.

Club only needs one ABN as we are one Club with Summer and Winter being sub-committees of the Club. Four unnecessary ABN have been cancelled.

GST Registration.

The Club is not required to register for GST until turnover \$150,000. Changes in recent year have seen BV and DBA season registration fees paid directly by players, uniforms are purchased directly from our supplier and most players purchase their own equipment after Little League. Consequently Club turnover at the moment is not at the level that the Club needs to register.

Cashless POS

Cashless options using an online point of sale service is being introduced to reduce cash handling and to improve stock management so risk exposures are reduced.

BV Policies - Awareness

Over the past year, attention has been given to ensuring that all Club members and their families are aware of BV Member Protection Policies, particularly those covering the Code of Conduct for Game Day managers, and coaches.

This awareness needs to be ongoing and formalised part of our Induction process

SCHOOL BASEBALL

Primary and Secondary schools use our specialist baseball facilities on a regular basis. On request our Club supplies ground management services including line marking, and sets up the bases, foul flags and cones. The Club generates revenue for the service and the added





utilisation strengthens our case for further infrastructure improvements as the Regional Baseball Centre in South East Melbourne.

GROUND AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Cleaning of canteen filters was added to the list of scheduled tasks .

Closer mowing of the main infield was investigated. KCC Mowing contractors work to standard fixed height of 17mm. Club will need to make it's own arrangements if we want our infield grass cut more closely

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership numbers at junior levels have decreased recently due to increased competition from other sporting codes that are offering short seasons and substantially upgraded facilities. Lights, Stadiums for indoor games.

The Koreans teams have moved to Ormond Glenhuntly to play at the Division 3 level on OG's new main field with a full sized back net and dugouts. The Koreans relationship was beneficial to all parties and demonstrated clearly how Cheltenham might operate in the future under an anchor tenant model at Kingston Heath Reserve in a way that fosters new clubs into baseball.

Changing Little League structures have reduced the Clubs capacity to operate as a centre in our own right. The home and away based fixturing does not seem to be as attractive as a centre. New approaches will be needed to increase participation and compete better with other sporting codes.

Main field lighting is seen as the essential infrastructure to allow the Club to broaden and simplify competition options for new members by reducing the level of skill needed and time commitments.





PAVILION

Honour Boards/Premiership Flags

New Boards recording our Life Members were installed and Flags cleaned and rehung. Our thank to David Stenhouse and Trevor Clemens for their assistance.

Furniture

The original furniture is over 30 years old and shared by Hockey and Baseball members and plans are in place through the KSC to replace them.

FUTURE PROJECT PRIORITIES

1. Batting Tunnel Refurbishment. Wire and soft netting and the lighting needs to be replaced. Cost is estimated to be at least \$20,000). This is a safety issue and will be given top priority.
2. Portable Outfield Fences for tournaments (\$2000 per ground). The intention is to improve our facilities so we can host more tournaments and generate revenue.

WINTER 2016

After 15 seasons David Clarkson that he would was going to take on a new opportunity at the Dandenong BC. Matty Blackmore was appointed as Club Coach for the 2016 season.

The seniors fought hard throughout the season with the B2s bring home the clubs only flag against the undefeated Dandenong. In the juniors we were represented in the Grand Finals in both U17 and U15s.

On another high note was all the junior and senior players who represented the Cheltenham Baseball Club at DBA level, Southern Mariners and most importantly national level with Declan Croker and Ben Firenzi representing Australia at the U15 World Cup.





To the 4 boys heading to the USA to chase their baseball dreams at college we wish all the very best of luck and we are all fully behind you as you look to improve both at school and on the field.

Our junior program continues on a very good trajectory and that is shown in this year's results and credit must go to all involved in getting our boys prepared and ready for game time.

SUMMER 2016-17

This season was both challenging and finally disappointing with the Firsts season ending in relegation to Division 2. The team won 9 games but Bryan Kloppe, the mainstay of our pitching staff was injured and pitching lacked the depth and stability that he had provided in recent seasons. Our batters struggled at the plate under the building pressures as the season progressed. On the positive side, the younger players made the most of their opportunities to gain valuable experience and our senior coaches expect that the team will bounce back quickly.

Team performances across the remaining senior and junior sides and player depth continued in line with recent seasons.

COLIN ANDERSON OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD

Colin Anderson, a Life Member (1996) of our Club received an Australia Day Outstanding Citizen Award in January 2017 for his services to the sporting communities in the Kingston area and to baseball in particular. Colin served as an administrator, junior coach and as a player stretching over a period of 30 years and the Club strongly supported his nomination.





VALE GRAEME AINSCOUGH

It is with much sadness Club's recorded the passing of our Patron and Life Member Graeme Ainscough on 19 February 2017. Graeme was a highly valued and respected member of the Club for over 60 years. He played a leading role in the Amalgamation in 1972 and was a corner stone of the Club's subsequent success.



CONCLUDING COMMENTS

A big thankyou to the members of the Board who have assisted and supported me over the past 12 months namely:

Pat O'Neill, Trevor Clemens, Judy Williams, Connie, Uphill, Karrina Johnson and John Ferguson.

Also given the time and effort that goes into the Club, I would like to thank my wife Bev, I could not do it without her support, understanding and active involvement. Thank you.

Lance Blackley

President

Cheltenham, Baseball Club

