



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

At the commencement of the year, I had decided that this would be my last year as President of the Club. I set 2 major goals which were to finalise new Rules of Incorporation(RoI) and to get the main diamond lights installed. Both tasks have not been easy to achieve.

Rules of Incorporation

After trying to resurrect our current RoI, we decided to abandon them and start a fresh with the Baseball Victoria's Model Rules. These needed some major modifications which Bell Hall undertook. The Board has had a lot of discussions in customising the document and the rules have also been vetted by Sports Victoria. I am confident that we now have a framework that identifies who around the Club are members, who can vote and where various non-playing personal around the Club fit in. The document can also be used to protect the Club.





Main Field Lighting

Stage 1 of the lighting project is almost there after a lot of persistence from Ferg and myself. Upgrades to the Electrical Switchboard services have been completed and hopefully we will have the diamond lit up to competition standards as well as being cost effective to operate by the end of the 2018-19 season. This will provide a great platform to launch baseball outside of the BV's competitions and have the ability to generate additional Club funds.

I would also like to comment on the efforts over the past few years to improve our infrastructure. The results have been outstanding.

Little League Field

The new Little League Field was formally opened by Clare O'Neil MP, Federal Member for Hotham on Friday 24 November 2017 when she threw the first pitch.



The new backnet, 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 together with a \$5000 donation from Platinum Post Tensioning and labour provided by trades people from within the Club. My thanks to Alan and Andrew Gribbin and Stuart Dunn for their time and expertise.

The new field is now 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.





Main Field Dugouts/Infield Cutout

The floors of the main diamond dug outs were concreted and the infield remodelled to extend the cut out area. A thankyou goes out to all members who assisted in any way with this project and a big thankyou to Alan and Andrew Gribbin for their considerable efforts with this projects.

KCC Village Grants

The Village Grants programme works on a on 50/50 basis. Successful applications by the Club resulted in the canteen refrigerator being replaced and a state of the art line marker being purchased.

Compliance

Five years ago we needed to find a new Club Treasurer and were fortunate enough to go have Judy Williams come on board. The BoM, with Judy started to look at how our reporting obligations with Consumer Affairs stood and we discovered that our annual reporting had been missing for some years.

We also had conflicting options of what we needed to do with our financial obligations. Russell Ferguson outlined our financial process and Judy set about rectifying our reporting. It took Judy a good 18 months working with Consumer Affairs to get all of our reporting up to date and this has been an outstanding effort from Judy and I thank Judy very much for that support. Judy has now also taken on the Winter Committee Treasurer role and with the assistance of the current Winter Committee already we have seen a major turnaround in the winter financial situation.

Sponsorships

Our Major sponsors continue to support all areas of the Club. Without the ongoing and very substantial support of Glenn Sanders and John Fairweather our financial situation with both Summer and Winter Committees would be looking a lot different. On behalf of the Club I sincerely thank both Glenn, John and all other sponsors for their support.

Administration

There have been many other administrative issues the BoM have dealt with over the past year. The BoM have either got through these or put new policies in place to bring both Summer and Winter Committees closer together. The BoM is now directly responsible for the financial reporting of the operation of the Canteen, the Bar and Summer and Winter Committees are working closer together. This is something that myself and may other Members have wanted to see for some time. This is major step forward in being one Club which is what we have always been but has never really occurred in practice. A great outcome.





Concluding Comments

Being the Club President requires you to drive the agenda for change and improvement. Although being the figurehead for the Club, there is always a good backup man behind you. John Ferguson has been that man. Ferg and myself have been a great team ever since I started at the Club nearly 30 years ago. After drawing Ferg back to playing in the Summer 5ths and Winter D Grade we (where we found success I might add) we have coached together, started the Masters together, started the women's group together, almost found success with the Summer 1st nine together and drunk many bottles of red together whilst planning and driving the agenda for the Club.

I can't thank Ferg enough for getting me back involved in this great Club and for his support over the journey.

Also, a big thankyou to all members of the Board who have assisted and supported me over the past 12 months and the past 6 years.

Whilst time and effort goes into the Club, the other person behind me has been my wife Bev. She knows when I say I'll be home in 1 hour it means 3 hours. Not only has she not complained too much, Bev also stepped in with scoring for the Masters for the past 5 years and helping with scoring the women's when needed. An outstanding effort for just being there.

Now it's time to step aside and bring in new blood to start new a new agenda with new ideas.

Lance Blackley

President

Cheltenham Baseball Club Inc





Vote of Thanks to Lance Blackley at AGM

The following motion was moved and carried unanimously:

That Lance's outstanding service as an Executive in the Club extending across two decades and including long stints in the key leadership roles as President of the Summer Section, Chairman of the Kingston Sports Club as well as the President of the Board of Management, be officially recognised and recorded in the minutes

Nobody owns a community based sporting Club like ours, our members are just here for the ride and it is important that we all leave the Club in a better place than when we joined it.

A Club like Cheltenham Baseball the Club can only succeed if dedicated and capable individuals choose to get involved, bringing with them their personal flair and commitment as well as their business acumen and leadership skills.

Lance has certainly done that across many levels, having played a major role in the upgrading of our on-field facilities, strengthening our administrative processes and in the expansion and broadening of our playing base through the reintroduction of Masters and Women's programs.

Lance's very considerable efforts over many years have made a huge difference and are very much appreciated.

Carried unanimously.

