



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

The Covid19 Crisis has seriously disrupted the Club's Summer and Winter seasonal competitions and reduced participation by our members. It is possible the impact will be felt for several years.

Winter Section

President Dan Ward Burton's plans came to an abrupt halt when the 2020 Winter Season was cancelled after a few games as the Victoria went into a state wide COVID lockdown.

Summer Section

The Summer Club with Russell Ferguson in his second year as President, managed to play a reduced schedule of 13 games under the strict Covid restrictions that applied. The Club performed very well under the circumstances.

The Firsts finished fifth and just missed a place in the finals. The Seconds finished the home and away games on top of the ladder but were knocked out in the play offs. The Thirds and Fourths were competitive but lacked pitching and finished in the bottom half of their competitions.

International players were not allowed to participate this season and Matt Gourlay stepped up to take on the role of Club Coach and Manager of the Firsts and did an outstanding job under demanding circumstances. He was ably assisted by Bryan Kloppe when he arrived part way through the season.

Our Women's team led by Manager Michelle Ogilvie played an 8 game season successfully introducing a number of younger players.

The Masters also played an 8 game season with a 50%WP





The Summer Juniors are in a rebuilding phase after decades of success and this area of the Club needs more focus moving forward. Joey Tucker efforts as the Junior Coordinator and junior team manager were exceptional. U16 Metro team performed very well under Manager Stell Michell's and the team was undefeated at the conclusion of the home and away rounds.

Little league and Tee ball participation improved over the previous season and this will remain a high area of focus as the Club continues a rebuilding phase.

The Club successfully hosted the State Little League finals in March 2021 in spite of the adverse weather conditions. A big thank you to all who assisted over that weekend

Facilities

Batting Tunnel

Lighting: Work to install new Tunnel lighting was undertaken by Jarrod and Laurie Hall during July 2020 at a cost of \$1,300 for the materials. The Club is very appreciative of the labour and expertise donated by the Hall Family.

Roof: Quotes are being sought for cavass tarpaulins for the Batting Tunnel roof

Main Field Canopy

In November 2020 the poles supporting the canopy developed fatigue cracks and were removed by KCC for safety reasons. The replacement canopy incorporates a much improved design that extends to the end of the dugouts and is expected to be installed by July 2021. KCC have assumed the responsibility for the ongoing maintenance.

Administration

Fortunately, the Club was in a sound financial position prior to the advent of Covid-19 Virus thanks largely to the close management of our finances by the Summer/Winter Executives and the tireless work and oversight by our Treasurer Judy Williams.

The Club successfully applied for several grants totalling over \$10k to assist the Clubs meet unavoidable running costs and to support our efforts to retain and attract new players.

The relationship with the Mordialloc Ducks and continues to strengthen and a draft Enduring Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is under negotiation to formalise the relationship.





Progress on the KCC Needs Analysis of the Baseball and Hockey Clubs current and future requirements at the Kingston Heath Reserve has been held over due to COVID -19 and changes in KCC Councillors involved following the last elections.

Life Memberships

Greg Brown and Travis Blackley were elected as Life Members during 2020-21.



Greg Brown



Travis Blackley

The formal presentation of their Life Member Medallion's will be arranged as soon Covid restrictions permit a major function.

Sponsorships

The Club did not receive any sponsorship funding over the past 12 months

Donations

The Club has received a very generous donation of \$10,000 from a former player towards completing the lights on our main Field. The person wishes to remain anonymous.

Looking Forward

Participation:

Increasing player numbers and inclusive participation must be the major priority moving forward. The potential for using our Lights for midweek, centre based, short season competitions for Juniors and Social games needs to be leveraged and an important focus.





Infrastructure Priorities:

- Full Lighting of our Main Field, artificial turf on the infield, extended fencing on Senior Field No 2 as well as, Dugouts and a Scorers box on Senior Field No3.
- Pavilion needs for both Clubs include, additional change rooms for Females and Umpires, extra storage, canteen extensions and dedicated committee rooms.

Plans in these areas have been delayed by Covid-19 and will need to be refreshed.

Vale **Bill Anderson Life Member 1957**



For two decades through to 1966, Bill played for in our A Grade team in the old Prahran Club including 7 seasons as the Club Coach and Playing Manager from 1960 to 1966. A brilliant third baseman, Bill represented Victoria at the Claxton Shield during the 1950's and was a member of Prahran's first "Major League" A Grade Premiership team in 1949 defeating Collingwood at the old Olympic Park.

Bill Anderson, passed away on 14 October 2020 aged 90.





Vale Grace Stewart



Grace, and her late husband John, became involved when their children took up baseball in the 1980's and they made invaluable contributions over many years, Including a difficult time in the Club's history when the Club was struggling to survive at the old Gasworks site.

Grace and her husband John's outstanding service and contribution to the Club were recognised in the Service Awards made at our Centenary Celebrations in 2014. Grace Stewart passed away on 13 June 2021 aged 86.

Vale Jane Olsen

The Olsen family joined the Cheltenham Baseball Club in the late nineties. Jane and her husband David were there supporting her kids while they played t-ball through to baseball, including rep-sides and state sides. Jane and John never hesitated to help around the club when needed especially when the club required a bar manager for the Winter season (2004-2006). Jane passed away 13 May 2021 aged 61

Thankyous

My thanks to all members of the Club who have continued their involvement over the past year and especially to those who have served on the various committees, working groups and the Board. The work of Brad Lark as our Covid -19 Officer that allowed the Club to continue with our onfield operations and also that of Judy Williams and John Ferguson to keep the Club financially sound and functioning under extreme conditions is very much appreciated.





In particular I would also like to put on record our thanks to Alan Gribbin who will be retiring to the Gippsland coast later in 2021. Alan has been heavily involved the administration and our infrastructure works for over 2 decades as well as leader in the social activities around the Club. His role as “Game day Music Man” will be hard to fill.

Concluding Comments

Managing our way through the Covid-19 Crisis is proving to be an ongoing challenge and all members are asked to assist as much as they can. The Club can only exist with the help and commitment of our volunteers

John Carlile
President
Cheltenham Baseball Club Inc

