

**MINUTES OF THE 186<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB  
HELD IN THE MEMBERS' DINING ROOM, MCG & VIA ONLINE PLATFORM  
ON TUESDAY AUGUST 15, 2023 AT 7:00PM AEST**

**1. WELCOME**

Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) Executive Manager - Club & Sport, Mark Anderson welcomed members to the 186<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Melbourne Cricket Club, and thanked attendees for joining both in the room and online. He commenced the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land where the meeting was being held, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and paid his respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. He further extended that warm welcome and respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be joining the meeting.

Mr. Anderson then went through some housekeeping matters, where he noted that it was the second AGM of the Club that was being held both in person in the Members' Dining Room and online via the Lumi platform. He added that the Club continues to receive many compliments from members who enjoy the flexibility of being able to join the meeting online, so is pleased to once again offer members both options again tonight. He then informed members that this is a private meeting of the MCC for its Committee and members. He advised that while members from all three categories of membership are welcome at the meeting, the Club rules state that only Full members have the ability to vote on matters of tonight's meeting.

Mr. Anderson advised members how to receive technical support throughout the evening and confirmed that there will be two points during the meeting where members can ask questions, the first being after the Treasurer's Report and the second being in General Business at the end of the meeting. He confirmed that the President will advise members when questions can be asked and asked that members only submitted questions relating to the topic just presented, particularly after the Treasurer's Report where questions will only be taken on the report itself.

He advised that questions in the room will be taken first to allow those online to have time to type their questions. He then instructed those in the room on how questions will be taken and advised those online that if there are multiple questions on the same topic, that the moderators may aim to consolidate these for ease of answer. All questions not answered on the night will be answered offline in the coming days. He then gave instructions to those online as to how they can ask questions and stated that questions were encouraged rather than statements.

He noted that there will be two points during the meeting where Full members will be asked to vote and that all voting both in the room and online will be tallied electronically via independent consultants Lumi. He then gave instructions on how to cast votes both in person and online. Mr. Anderson then welcomed the 29<sup>th</sup> President of the MCC, Mr. Fred Oldfield to conduct and chair the meeting for the first time.

The Chair thanked Mr. Anderson, as well as all members joining both online and in person. He then noted that it was indeed the 186<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Club in its rich and long history, and his first as President. He added that the MCC has played an important part of his life since childhood, and that he had enjoyed many memorable moments at the Ground with friends and celebrated personal milestone events at the venue. He also stated that it was at the Ground, as a Melbourne supporter, that he learned resilience and patience which is now starting to pay off. Finally, he added that it has been a great privilege to serve on the Committee of the Club and he personally thanked members for their support, shared passion and commitment to the Club.

The Chair referred members to the notice of the Meeting and outlined that the agenda was as follows-

- President's Report
- CEO Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office Bearers and Committee
- Life Member Nomination
- General Business

He then welcomed Former Committee members Mr. Peter Dakin, Mr. Peter Mitchell and Mrs. Jane Nathan. Welcomes were also extended to former Vice-Presidents Mr. David Crow and Mr. Stephen Spargo, as well as Life Members Mr. Bob Lloyd, Mr. David Meiklejohn and Mr. Steven Smith. He advised that a number of apologies from members had been received and would be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

He noted the attendance of Mr. Gordon Sangster from KPMG, the Club's auditors and the Club's legal advisor Mr. Grant Rowlands (a partner at Ashurst), along with the Club's in-house legal counsel Ms. Kathryn Randle.

Welcomes were also noted for representatives of the Club's 14 Sporting Sections and Special Interest Groups.

Introductions were then given for the Committee, with members asked to welcome Mr. Adrian Anderson (Vice-President), Mr. Christian Johnston (Vice-President), Ms. Sally Macindoe (Vice-President), Mr. Geoff Roberts (Treasurer), Mr. Ted Baillieu, Mr. James Bennett, Ms. Annabel Brebner, Mr. James Cain, Ms. Paula Dwyer, Mr. Tony Johnson, Ms. Kalpana Ramani and Ms. Alice Robinson. It was noted that Committee Member Ms. Carolyn Bendall was overseas and had joined the meeting online.

Next, the Chair introduced the Club's leadership team, led by Mr. Stuart Fox (CEO) and comprising of Mr. Josh Eltringham (General Manager, Venue & Event Services), Ms. Tanya Gallina (General Manager, Commercial Operations & Partnerships), Mr. Mark Jones (General Manager, Finance & Business Performance), Mr. Dean Matthews (General Manager, Club Services & Heritage), Ms. Michelle Nolan (General Manager, People & Culture), Mr. Rey

Sumaru (General Manager, IT & Innovation) and Mr. Peter Wearne (General Manager, Facilities). He also welcomed other staff members who were in attendance.

## **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President commenced his report by stating that the 2022/23 year saw the state of Victoria and the City of Melbourne bounce back to life, and that as the 'G is the beating heart of the city, "we" are back with a vengeance. It was so pleasing that the Club was able to complete uninterrupted football and cricket seasons and a series of great events at the Ground. The Chair stated that to have over four million people through the gates during the year was remarkable. He noted he was very proud of all staff and volunteers who managed the transition from dormancy back to full scale operation and thanked all the members who stuck with the Club during the difficult times and added that he hoped members were once again enjoying everything the Club has to offer.

The President noted that Club life has gone from strength to strength with growth in visitation across MCG Tours, the Australian Sports Museum, MCC Museum and MCC Library. With a back-log of major events from the COVID-19 pandemic, in the past year the Club and Ground was able to host international soccer matches and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, before music icons hit the Ground. The Club events program was rejuvenated post COVID-19 with high quality guest speakers who attracted large audiences.

The President then stated that the Committee was committed to providing a safe and enjoyable place for members. Unfortunately there are a small number of members that compromise this, and he noted that the Club's disciplinary tribunal has been active in penalizing those who are not considerate of their fellow members. He then added a note of caution to members, advising as follows-

- Do not lend your members ticket to anyone
- Keep a close eye on visitors
- Behave respectfully to fellow members and staff
- Racial vilification will not be tolerated. He noted that the Club had recently matched the AFL in imposing life time bans for vilification.

The President noted that he was particularly proud of the work the Club is undertaking in the community through the MCC Foundation, which is allowing access to sport for those who may not otherwise have been able to participate, especially children. He added that the Club had been given a social licence to operate the Ground and the initiatives of the Foundation allows the Club to give back to the Community in meaningful ways. The Club wants to be at the forefront of contemporary community values, and as such is working on programs such as Diversity and Inclusion and a Reconciliation Action Plan, as well as initiatives targeting at minimising the Club and Ground's environmental impact.

The President reminded the members of the motion proposed by the Committee at last year's AGM regarding formalising the 50-Year membership category. This motion was the result of a huge amount of work by Committee and Management and was aimed at

updating the Club Rules to ensure maintenance of the amenity of the Members' Reserve and bring arrangements in line with contemporary society. As a result of the motion and subsequent ballot, the category has now been enshrined in the Club Rules, along with the introduction of female members and the creation of a new category of membership, 50-Year Social, for members who wish to maintain their membership but no longer regularly attend matches at the Ground. These changes all come into effect at the start of this year's membership season on September 1. The President noted that he recently had the pleasure of attending a new 50-Year member lunch which was one of the most memorable and emotional events he attended at the Club.

The President then acknowledged immediate past President Michael Happell who had been a key driver for these changes and the membership review. He added that Mr. Happell was a remarkable Club person with a brilliant business mind who had steered the Club so well during the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the Committee, Management, Volunteers and members, he then thanked Mr. Happell for his enormous contribution to the Club. He then thanked long serving Committee member Mr. Peter King who had recently finished his tenure. He noted that Mr. King had brought strong experience as a cricket player and events industry which had enabled him to make a valued contribution to the Committee, especially through championing the Cricket section while also chairing the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame. He then welcomed the three new Committee members, Ms. Carolyn Bendall, Mr. Tony Johnson and Ms. Alice Robinson who are highly talented and bring a variety of skills to the Committee table.

The President then concluded with some people to thank:

- To the Committee past and present, who are leaders in their industry and have a passion for the Club and 'G, and who serve without payment. He noted that not only does the Committee meet monthly, but there are six sub-committees to attend that require a full appreciation and knowledge of the Club. Their contribution to the Club is very much appreciated.
- To Stuart Fox who is a star. The President stated that Mr. Fox has pulled together a highly competent and talented management team who make the Club and the MCG tick. Nothing is ever too hard and from speaking to many stakeholders, it is clear how much they enjoy working with the team in putting on spectacular events.
- To the fleet of passionate volunteers for showcasing this special place to so many.
- To the MCG Trust, chaired by the Honourable Steve Bracks, who partner the Club in ensuring the 'G is beloved for generations to come.
- Importantly and again, to the members.

The President concluded his remarks and introduced the CEO, Mr Stuart Fox to present his Report.

### **3. CEO's REPORT**

The CEO thanked the Chair and greeted members both in the room and online. He commenced by advising that he was reporting on the 2022/23 financial year, which was a big year that saw the MCC/MCG come back to life after years greatly affected by COVID-19.

He then showed a video which featured highlights of the year at the MCG and in Club life, noting that over four million patrons passed through the gates over this period, making the MCG the third most visited stadium in the world behind only Dodger Stadium in LA and Yankee Stadium in New York. Indeed the 12 months that had passed featured some of the most unforgettable moments in the Club's history, such as:

- The return of the AFL Grand Final after a two year hiatus, where Robbie Williams and Delta Goodrem stole the show in front of a capacity crowd.
- The India v Pakistan semi-final match in the T20 Men's World Cup, where 90,293 enthusiastic fans cheered every moment.
- The two back-to-back Ed Sheeran concerts which broke all sorts of concert records with a combined attendance of 217,500.
- Honourable mentions also go to the Guns N Roses and Billy Joel concerts, as well as to Manchester United and Crystal Palace, who also played at the 'G in front of huge crowds.
- Attendance records being broken for MCG Tours and the Australian Sports Museum. The CEO then thanked the volunteers whose dedication helps to make the MCG so special.

The CEO further reflected on the past year, mentioning the following-

- In conjunction with Delaware North, the Club continued to invest in member facilities/experiences for match days and non-match days alike. Examples include the successful refurbishment of the Trumble Bar & Café, the hugely popular Lucy Liu Lounge which offers members a unique dining experience and the magnificent Grossi Restaurant in the Committee Room. Delaware North has now completed 12 months of operation and whilst they initially walked into a COVID-19 storm, they have done an outstanding job since and made significant improvements each week. Indeed, there are several exciting hospitality initiatives/projects on the agenda.
- Club life is thriving, highlighted by the introduction of the new membership management tool, the MCC App and the continued success of the Club's 14 sporting sections.
- The MCG continues to be a leader in the area of environment and sustainability, with the Club's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint seeing 100% green energy being used throughout the stadium. In addition, a recycling rate of 80% has been achieved and Management is working hard with Delaware North to reduce the amount of single use plastics.

The CEO stated that it had been a truly remarkable year for the MCC and MCG and that the current year is shaping up to be even better with AFL crowds up 13% on budget and close to two million patrons passing through the gates this far.

The CEO concluded his remarks by thanking the following:

- The Committee, who are very passionate about what they do and who sacrifice an enormous amount of their personal time for the betterment of the Club and the

Ground. A special thank you to Michael Happell, who led the Club over the past four years and has now handed the baton over to the very capable Fred Oldfield.

- The Executive Leadership Team- the CEO observed that the Club is very fortunate to have such a talented team leading the organization. He also acknowledged two former General Managers, the first being Jen Watt, who served for five years as General Manager- Commercial Operations & Partnerships and who has now gone on to the role of CEO of the North Melbourne Football Club- the Club is very proud of her and what she has achieved in her career thus far. The second, Clive Driscoll, was the General Manager- Finance & Business, who recently retired after 23 years of fine service to the Club.
- The 160 dedicated MCC employees.
- The Club's partners, sponsors, contractors, event workforce and dedicated 300+ volunteers. The CEO offered his sincere thank you for helping to make the Club and MCG so special.

The CEO then handed the time back to the Chair.

The Chair thanked Mr. Fox and moved to the next item on the agenda, moving that the 2022/23 Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted. He invited the Treasurer, Mr. Geoff Roberts to deliver his report and advised that at the end of his presentation that members had the ability to ask questions about the 2022/23 financial statements only. He advised members on line that they could start typing these questions now.

The Chair then welcomed the Treasurer, Mr. Geoff Roberts to the podium.

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer commenced his remarks by observing that it had been a very exciting year for the Club, with more than four million people coming through the gates to see the full suite of AFL games (including finals), cricket Test matches and T20 Men's World Cup, soccer and concerts.

The Treasurer observed that with respect to the financial performance of the Club, a return to normality has resulted in a return to profit. During the year, revenue increased \$43 million and expenses increased \$35 million resulting in a profit of just under \$5 million compared to a loss last year of just under \$4 million. He stated that the Club remains in a strong financial position with cash at year end of \$22 million after paying down debt by \$40 million and undertaking capex of \$15 million.

The Treasurer advised he had three waterfall charts to display showing key movements from the 2022 year to the 2023 year.

The first chart, revenue, showed it had increased by \$43 million from \$119 million to just under \$163 million primarily due to the return of crowds- further details as follows-



- Event revenue increased \$16m due to 46 AFL games, including six Finals with this increase being increases in catering revenue and gate revenue of circa \$8 million each
- Rental ( primarily Corporate suites) and Commercial revenue such as advertising increased \$13 million as corporate suite and other sponsors returned at full undiscounted rates
- Member and Customer revenue increased by \$7 million due to a full year of subscriptions with reduced discounts
- Other revenue increased by \$6 million due to the many special events this year such as the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup and the concerts

The Treasurer then moved onto the second chart, expenses, which detailed an increase of \$35 million from \$123 million to \$158 million again primarily due to the return of content and crowds. In summary-

- Member contributions to the gate increased \$12 million reflecting higher member attendance
- Event and safety and security expenses on match day went up nearly \$10 million
- Contribution to AFL clubs for playing home games at the G went up nearly \$8 million
- Similarly the \$5 million increase in commercial operations and member and customer service expenses returned to levels to support returning content and higher crowds

The third and final chart displayed tracked cash flows from cash at the start of the Club’s financial year of \$30 million to the end of the year of \$22 million. The Treasurer highlighted the following-

- Receipts from members and customers for the year were \$153 million with members making up \$65 million of that amount
- Payment to suppliers and employees were \$105 million
- The Club paid \$40 million principal (including \$23 million of accelerated payments) off our loan together with interest of \$4 million. The balance of interest is implied interest under accounting standards on our long term MCG lease.
- The remaining loan principal of \$37 million, when combined with cash at March 31, 2023 of \$22 million and financial bonds of \$14 million have the Club in a net debt position at March 31, 2023 of \$1 million compared to a net debt position at March 31, 2022 of \$34 million.
- The Club continued to invest capex of \$15 million to maintain the stadium and improve restaurants and bars like the Trumble Bar and Café and Lucy Liu restaurant.

The Treasurer concluded his address by observing that the Club is in a strong financial position and in that context it was his pleasure to second the motion to approve the 2022/23 Annual Report and Financial Statements. He then called for questions related to the Report.

Mr. David Berry (Member No. 113346) noted the success of the Ed Sheeran concert. He then asked how much of that the Club would have received and what bartering power the Club

has with events such as these, seeing as there are not many other stadia around that can accommodate such a large concert.

*The Treasurer answered that much of those funds would go to the promoter and asked Mr. Fox to answer further. Mr. Fox stated that he would not want to give a specific amount due to the fact that the Ground competes with other stadiums for content, but suffice to say the amount received is not as big as has been speculated. The Club/Ground does charge a ground rental fee and does receive small amount of commission from food and beverage sales, as well as retail offerings. It is not a big amount but enough to make some small profits. He added that the concert promoters and artist receives most of the revenue, with costs being quite high to use the venue. It is lucrative and the goal is to secure at least 2 major events a year at the Ground.*

Mr. Graeme MacMillan (Member No. 24015) thanked the Treasurer for giving so much of his time to the Club, and acknowledged the work of previous Treasurers. He also thanked Mr. Clive Driscoll, the recently retired General Manager- Finance & Business Performance for being so helpful to him over the years and wished his successor, Mr. Mark Jones, all the best in his new role. He noted that he had been in contact with the Club for a few years regarding his view that the Financial Reports do not give a fair representation of the Club's finances, due to the fact that they do not include consolidation with the MCC Foundation. If these had been consolidated, the surplus and assets would have been significantly higher. He noted the pride expressed by the President in the activities of the Foundation as an example of the connection between Club and Foundation, as well as the fact that members of the Committee and former Presidents serve on the Foundation. He asked whether all Committee members were happy with the \$11 million given to the Foundation in the past year, especially since they do not have any control or accountability for the money once it has been transferred. He then suggested that in future, the Club either consolidates the Foundation or publishes the Foundation accounts in conjunction with the Club accounts so that members can see where the money is being spent.

*The Treasurer noted that Mr. MacMillan has raised this in previous years and advised that there are four reasons as to why consolidation of accounts has not occurred, the main two being that the Club cannot influence returns and does not have a commitment to fund the Foundation going forward. The Treasurer stated that the Committee is very comfortable with the fact that the Club contributes to support sport in the Community. Further, there is transparency with the activities of the Sporting Sections and Community Partnerships having been detailed in the Annual Report. It is important to ensure that there are strong homes for the sports to utilize to continue to encourage participation and venues such as MCC Beaumaris, the Albert Ground and Elwood are examples of this. He noted that there are two Life Members/past Presidents on the Foundation Board, along with some existing Committee members so he is very comfortable that the money that goes from the Club to the Foundation is utilized appropriately for sport and philanthropic purposes. He concluded that this matter is discussed after it is raised by Mr. MacMillan each year but that the Club is comfortable not to consolidate the accounts and with the funds invested.*

There being no further questions, the Treasurer handed the meeting back to the Chair.



The Chair called on members to vote on the motion to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements and asked the independent scrutineers to tally the vote and present the results on the screen.

The motion to accept the 2022/23 Annual Report and Financial Statements was passed with 97.18% per cent for and 2.82% per cent against, therefore the Annual Report and Financial Statements were adopted.

## **5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Chair handed over to Mr. Geoff Roberts, Treasurer for the first appointment.

### **5.1 Election of President**

The Treasurer reported that he was pleased to announce that Mr. Fred Oldfield was the only nominee for the position of President. He noted that he had always been very impressed with Mr. Oldfield's passion for the Club and business experience so therefore it was his very happy duty to inform members that Mr. Oldfield had been duly re-elected as President.

The Treasurer then handed back to Mr. Oldfield.

### **5.2 Election of Vice President and Treasurer**

The Chair advised that Vice President Mr. Adrian Anderson and Treasurer Mr. Geoff Roberts had both been re-elected un-opposed. He added that they had both been great contributors to the Committee.

### **5.3 Committee**

The Chair announced that five individuals had nominated for three Committee positions with a total of 9,109 eligible members casting their votes. The process was managed by CorpVote with the results as follows-

Adams, Peter- 5,260 votes  
Cain, James- 5,707 votes  
Johnson, Anthony (Tony) - 5,417 votes  
King, Sam- 3,046  
Robinson, Alice- 7,897 votes

The Chair announced that therefore Mr. Cain, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Robinson had been re-elected to the Committee and he congratulated them on their appointments, noting that he looked forward to working with them over the next three years. He then thanked Mr. Adams and Mr. King for offering to serve the Club.

## **6 LIFE MEMBER NOMINATION**

The Chair advised that in accordance with Rule 5.3, the Committee has resolved to nominate Mr. Stephen Gough to the highest honour that the Club can bestow on a member, that of Honorary Life Membership.

The Chair noted that Mr. Gough was appointed as MCC Secretary/General Manager in 2000 (with the role formally becoming Chief Executive Officer in 2004) before retiring in 2017.

He then listed some of his achievements during his 17 year tenure as follows-

- Instrumental in the rebuild of the Northern Stand, including the Members' Reserve.
- Refurbishment of the Great Southern Stand (now known as the Shane Warne Stand).
- Building and operating of the National Sports Museum (now the Australian Sports Museum), and took on management of Yarra Park, including the construction of the water treatment plant.
- On the Club side, he played an important role in broadening the Club's community role in sport through the establishment of new sporting sections, Golf, Real Tennis and Croquet.
- Oversaw the mergers of the Bowls Section with the Glenferrie Hill Recreation Club, the Tennis section merger with Glen Iris Valley and the Clubs involvement with Kew Heights.
- The special interest groups of the Women of MCC and the Bridge club were formed during his time.
- Broadened the Club's membership base by the introduction of Provisional membership which brought down the time that people were on the waiting list before they were able to experience the pleasures of Club life.
- Orchestrated the statues program which delivered 16 statues of sporting legends around the ground and arranged it's funding through Tattersalls and Australia Post.
- Unveiled the MCG's two new scoreboards in December 2013.

The Chair further stated that during Mr. Gough's tenure as CEO, the Club won numerous event management, environmental and customer service awards. Events held during Mr. Gough's time at the Club, in addition to the regular football season, Grand Finals and the Boxing Test include:

- World cup soccer qualifying matches
- International Champions Cup Soccer
- Cricket World Cups
- Bledisloe Cups
- NRL State of Origins
- The Commonwealth Games
- The Sound relief benefit Concert
- Sleep at the 'G

The Chair concluded by commenting that Mr. Gough had made a significant contribution to the Club, and that it was his pleasure to propose that he be made a Life Member. He then called on the Treasurer to second the motion. The Treasurer did so accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer and then invited members to vote to show their support of Mr. Gough's induction. The independent scrutineers tallied the vote and presented the results on the screen, with the results being 97.22% for, 2.78% against. Therefore the motion was passed with Mr. Stephen Gough duly inducted as a Life Member of the MCC. The Chair thanked members for casting their votes and invited Mr. Gough to the lectern to accept the honour and say a few words.

Mr. Gough commenced by thanking the President and the Committee for the very unexpected honour, but one which has been delightfully received. He spoke about his early days at the Club, and how it had been impressed upon him that it was a private Club with public responsibilities. He noted some of the challenges experienced throughout his tenure, including working through various content agreements. He spoke about the strong interest the Committee always had in the Club's Sporting Sections and Special Interest Groups, as well as in running high quality events for members which has allowed the Club to continue to flourish. He paid tribute to a very conscientious Committee, led by five different Presidents during his time, namely the late Mr. Bruce Church, Mr. David Jones, Mr. David Meiklejohn, Mr. Paul Sheahan and Mr. Steven Smith, and acknowledged the work of Mr. David Crow on the statue program and Mr. Smith on the introduction of Provisional membership.

Mr. Gough then thanked all the staff and volunteers he worked with over the years, who made the job such a pleasure and particularly acknowledged his Personal Assistant Ms. Lisa King for running the office so smoothly. He thanked the members for their input during his tenure and his family for their understanding of the time commitments involved in the job. He concluded by thanking the Committee who appointed him in 2000, stating that it was one of the best sporting jobs in the country, if not the world, and once again re-iterated his gratitude for receiving Life Membership.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Reappointment of auditors**

The Chair confirmed that KPMG have been reappointed as auditors for the next 12 months.

### **7.2 Questions**

The Chair advised that members could ask questions, either in person or online. He further advised that half an hour had been set aside for this purpose and that the Committee and Management would endeavor to take as many questions as possible during this time. He instructed members in the room to line up behind the microphones set up in the aisles to ask questions. He noted that members were invited to ask questions, rather than make statements and that they could ask one question at a time. He invited members online to begin to submit their questions, with members both in the room and online instructed that they must give their full name and member number when

asking/submitting questions. He further advised that if multiple questions on the same topic are submitted online, they will be grouped together for ease of answering and in some instances, management will respond in writing after the meeting. He then turned the meeting over to members for questions.

Ms. Ellen King (Member No. 300460) raised her concern around the ability for mobility impaired members to access the Ground safely, citing her experience at the 2022 Grand Final where some members were jumping over seats, pushing and using some inappropriate language. She asked if the Club was able to rectify this.

*The Chair asked Mr. Eltringham to respond, who stated that the introduction of a separate queue at gate 2B had been successful but that the Club takes the feedback on board and will work to improve entry processes. Ms. King commented that the Grand Final was the only time she had seen this and stated that she felt it was due to the inexperience of the staff on duty that day. Mr. Eltringham noted this comment and thanked Ms. King for her feedback.*

Ms. Heather Oliver (Member No. 79662) asked whether members are ever expelled for matters such as poor behavior and card misuse, such as lending cards to others and also enquired as to whether photo checks are ever carried out to ensure that the card does belong to the person using it to access the Members' Reserve.

*The Chair responded that members are disciplined for matters such as card misuse and advised that 81 members had been suspended for breaches in this area over the past year. He further advised that sanctions vary from one year to expulsion, and the Club does impose strong penalties for those who misuse their cards, are abusive to staff or patrons. The Chair added that at some point in the future the Club will likely have membership cards on mobile phones which would help alleviate lending of memberships. He noted that the Club is constantly monitoring this offense and noted that members still have to pay subscriptions for the period they are suspended. Ms. Oliver commented that 81 seemed like a very low number. The Chair deferred to Mr. Eltringham who noted that this is an issue and that most people are caught if the card doesn't scan properly and if they go to sit on Levels 2 or 3 as all cards are checked to ensure those access these areas are Full members. He thanked Ms. Oliver for her feedback.*

Mr. Peter Bell (Member No. 34420) started by congratulating Mr. Gough on receiving Life Membership. He then asked three questions- 1. Whether hard copies of the AGM agenda can still be made available for those who have difficulty accessing the internet? 2-If the AGM date could be moved to later in August due to members being away on holiday? 3. Whether there could be more day football matches held at the Ground to allow for country members to get home earlier?

*The Chair thanked Mr. Bell for his questions and noted that the Club would endeavor to ensure that hard copies of the AGM agenda are made available next year. In relation to having a later date for the AGM, he advised that this is not possible as the Club rules state that the meeting must be held by 17 August. As for scheduling of matches, this is undertaken by the AFL who like to schedule*

*the “blockbuster” matches at night to allow for larger TV audiences. He further noted that some members do prefer night games but that the Club can ask the question.*

Mr. Anderson read out a question received online from Mr. Jesse Watson (Member No. 149499) who asked what proactive measures the Club is taking to promote inclusivity by ensuring membership remains affordable for young adult members who are facing increased financial pressures due to the rising cost of living.

*The Chair stated that membership is tiered and this does make it more affordable for younger members. He further noted that FlexiPay was introduced in the 2020 membership season and that there are a number of events held for Restricted and Provisional members. He stated that the Club believes the membership package is reasonable and affordable for this cohort and represents good value for the product received.*

Mr. Anderson read out another question received online from Mr. Sean Watson (Member No. 56265) who asked why there are not concession priced visitor tickets for the Members’ Reserve, and noted he had also first asked the question six years ago.

*The Chair asked Ms. Gallina to respond, who advised that effectively it is the member purchasing the ticket, not the concession holder. In addition, staff would need to be put in place to check concession eligibility at the gates. However, Management is looking at concession pricing on tickets and memberships for those eligible and will look to introduce this in the coming years.*

Mr. David Kiernan (Member No. 9237) referred to the financial statements and noted that in 2022 there had been a line item for a financial contribution from the State Government. This past year there was no amount received. He asked why this was the case and whether there was a possibility to receive contributions again in future years.

*The Chair asked Mr. Jones to respond, who advised that the amount received in 2022 was for a specific project, namely cladding replacement works. On an annual basis if there are government payments or incentives for projects of this nature the Club does look at these, however there were none applicable during this financial year.*

Mr. David Rosta (Member No. 78741) observed that the Victorian Racing Club had formed a Members Advisory Group and asked whether the Club would consider introducing a Group of this nature.

*The Chair answered that the Committee and Management has introduced several different initiatives where members can provide feedback, including monthly member surveys and that the Member Services team is always available for members as an avenue to contact for any feedback and queries. He also noted that members regularly provide feedback to Committee members and that Club matters are brought to the Full Committee via the Club Sub-committee and that introducing another Committee could be problematic. However it is something that the Committee can consider.*

Mr. Rosta then asked if the Committee would consider having a “Members Day” during the Test where members attending could wear their Club ties/attire, similar to the Pink Day at the SCG Test.

*The Chair noted this was a good idea and stated that most activations are done by the sport running the match. He reminded members that they could join the Field of women at this weekend’s match which raises funds for the Breast Cancer Network and encouraged those who are interested to join, as this is a good chance for the Club to support this important organization.*

Mr. Craig Hudson (Member No. 55102) asked if there were solar panels on the roof of the stadium.

*The Chair referred the question to Mr. Wearne who advised that there were solar panels on the roof (a 99 kilowatt array) and the panels operate the water recycling facility. There are load limitations on both the roof of the Northern Stand and the Warne Stand so no further units can be installed on there.*

Mr. Hudson then asked if the Member’s Gate can be opened earlier on event days so that more members can enjoy the restaurants and facilities on offer.

*The Chair referred the question to Mr. Eltringham who advised that there needs to be a real balance to ensure there are enough people in the stadium to justify opening earlier. Management does look at entrance patterns regularly to see if the opening times are right and will continue do so into the future.*

Miss. Amanda McNeill (Member No. 222935) advised she is visually impaired and commenced by thanking staff on match days for the assistance given to members with disabilities. She then asked what arrangements will be put in place to manage the mobility impaired queue on Grand Final Day, noting that in previous years members have been unable to queue overnight at Gate 2B.

*The Chair referred the question to Mr. Eltringham, who advised that overnight queuing had not taken place at Gate 2B in the past but that this can be arranged if desired this year.*

Miss McNeill also advised that she had to ring CorpVote direct to arrange for a paper ballot form for Committee elections and stated that all forms of member correspondence should be posted out unless members opt to receive these online.

*The Chair noted that many corporate organisations have shifted to online communications and that the Club has also done this for a few reasons, including that there is a material cost involved in sending items via post. He advised that members have the ability to opt in to receive communications via mail and that the Club will look to ensure that hard copy voting forms will be made available next year.*



Ms. Ralda Bourne (Member No. 106805) asked what the status of drinking in seats was and stated that she would like the Club to return to only allowing the consumption of alcohol in bars.

*The Chair referred the question to Mr. Fox, who advised that the Club has received feedback and conducted surveys that show a majority of members are in favour of continuing to allow drinking in seats. Management continue to brief Committee on how this practice is going and there has been improvement in speed of service, while issues such as spillage continues to be monitored.*

*Mr. Fox added that there were issues prior to 2019 in terms of long queues at bars and that this has helped alleviate some of this pressure. Management has listened to member concerns and has introduced measures such as dry bays where members can sit in an area where no alcohol is consumed. Ms. Bourne stated these do not seem to be policed to ensure no consumption, Mr. Fox answered that these are policed but that the Club can increase this. The Chair noted that Mr. Samuel Horwood (Member No. 119163) had asked a similar question on this topic and that this had now been answered in the room.*

Mr. Edward Carroll (Member No 98964) observed that he receives emails from several organisations, including the Club, where both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are featured. Whilst appreciating the Acknowledgement of Country at the start of the meeting, he asked why an Australian flag is not also included on electronic correspondence.

*The Chair thanked Mr. Carroll for his question and advised that the Club will take this on notice.*

Mr. Trevor Hudson (Member no. 55101) stated that he had witnessed abuse of staff on some occasions in the Members' Reserve throughout the season and that this had seemed to have worsened in the past few weeks. He added that drinking in seats was linked to this increase of poor behavior.

*The Chair stated that since COVID-19, treatment of staff across all sectors in the community appears to have worsened. He reiterated Mr. Fox's earlier comments that drinking in seats is closely monitored and that statistics show that incidents of general poor behavior have in fact not changed but that the location may have moved (ie from bars to the seats).*

Mr. Christopher Toscano (Member No. 149068) commenced by thanking the Committee for all their work and raised the fact that the Frank Grey Smith Bar is now open to all categories of members and asked if consideration had been given to reverting to previous operations where beanies and jerseys were not allowed and only balcony pass holders or Full and Restricted members could access the Room.

*The Chair referred the question to Ms. Gallina, who noted that feedback from members is received from time to time on this issue. The restrictions on the room had been lifted to allow more people to enjoy the facility and Management does continue to monitor this issue. Ms. Gallina asked whether Mr. Toscano felt there were issues, he stated there were not but it was more about having a space that members only could enjoy. Ms. Gallina stated that the team continues to assess each*

*game to ensure amenities are protected for members, particularly Levels 2 and 3, and encouraged members to continue to provide feedback to the team.*

Mr. Kurt Bryant (Member No. 200705) advised that the previous hospitality services provider had introduced the “schooner express” in bars which had been very popular and allowed for those purchasing schooners to form a separate queue. He asked why this had been removed and asked whether the Club was considering bringing back this initiative.

*The Chair referred the query to Mr. Eltringham who noted that the schooner express had been removed during COVID-19 and since there are now takeaway drink options in the Member Bars it had not been considered necessary for it to resume. Mr. Bryant stated that some bars appear to have taps that are not used and that there are still long wait times on some occasions so the reintroduction of the schooner express should be considered. Mr. Eltringham stated this would be taken on board and observed that the introduction of cans had been a good measure in terms of sustainability but also in servicing members better and that Management is always looking at how to balance staffing levels with demand as well.*

Mr. Anderson read out a question received online from Mr. Andrew Rechtman (Member No. 101454) who asked if the Club would continue to offer a hybrid AGM so that country members or others who are unable to attend in person have the opportunity to participate remotely.

*The Chair advised that this format would continue in future years and that the Club has received good feedback from members who appreciate the chance to join the meeting remotely.*

Mr. Craig Hudson (Member No. 55102) observed that the discussion around drinking in seats seems to be focused on speed of service and stated that a lot of members are coming to watch the event and this enjoyment is interrupted by having their views obstructed by members returning to their seats while play is occurring. He asked whether the Club could learn from other sports and venues where people are required to wait for a break in play to return to their seats.

*The Chair answered that this would be difficult to achieve and observed that there are many reasons that members leave their seats during games and reiterated that dry bays are available for those concerned with drinking in seats. Mr. Hudson stated that disruption from drinking in seats is impacting far more people than other times people leave their seats and asked the Club to consider the issue from a member enjoyment perspective. The Chair responded that the focus of all present is the amenity for all members in varied ways and is trying to ensure that all can be accommodated, which is why dry bays have been introduced. Mr. Hudson stated that it would be an education piece for members and should still be considered. The Chair thanked Mr. Hudson for his comments.*

Mr. Kurt Bryant (Member No. 200705) stated that in 2018/19 all seats on Level 4 had been made ‘reserved’ seats and that since COVID-19, more than half of Level 2 is now not available for walk up. He asked whether this would be changed in the future.

*The Chair referred the question to Ms. Gallina, who answered that since COVID-19, two bays on Level 2 are now able to be reserved and that this has proved popular with some members enjoying the flexibility of arriving when they wish. Walk up seating has been retained on all levels of the Members' Reserve for those who want it. Mr. Bryant responded that only 25% of the Members' Reserve is now available for walk up, Ms. Gallina advised that its about 35% and Management are finding this is working well for members. However it will continue to be monitored and categorized accordingly.*

Mr. Peter Bell (Member No. 34420) stated that he was shortly commencing a campaign seeking the removal of the ability to purchase schooners at all levels of sport across Australia due to his belief that they lead to over-indulgence of alcohol and that Club's, including the MCC should not support their sale.

*The Chair thanked Mr. Bell for his comments.*

Mr. John Mackinnon (Member No 42247) asked whether the Club had any control over noise levels of the music and announcements played at events and if so, could the enjoyment of older members be considered who may not want to hear these at such a loud volume.

*The Chair referred the query to Mr. Eltringham who answered that the venue hirers control all event production. However the new PA system does allow for sound to be adjusted on the spot so if any member does find this too loud, they can tell staff.*

Mr. Kurt Bryant (Member No. 200705) asked what the rationale was for the colour of the new seats in the Warne Stand as the bright blue colour does not seem to match the rest of seats in the stand.

*The Chair referred to Mr. Wearne who answered that the Club had consulted with architectural firms on this and that at the moment the seats are very bright, however as the rest are replaced over time they will fade slightly and the new seats will match better.*

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, questions and interest in the Club and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED..... CHAIRMAN

DATE .....

**A.G.M. APOLOGIES - 2023**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christian Name</b>	<b>Membership No.</b>
Yencken	Edward	20886
Yencken	Janet	86132
Dakin	Diane	299123
Lloyd	Colleen	22459
Happell	Michael	21006
Howcroft	Russel	13592
Jones	David	19250
Lill	John	19910
Sheahan	Paul	33917
Sitch	Charles	18638
Cannon	Andrew	19960
Cannon	Clare	275826
Crawford	David	14357
Crawford	Maureen	82509
King	Peter	106436
King	Joanna	103978
Wood	Karen	12595
Sloan	Alex	14591
Wood	Jeremy	32718
Syle	Andrew	7312