

**MINUTES OF THE 182nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB
HELD IN THE MEMBERS DINING ROOM, M.C.G.,
ON WEDNESDAY 31st JULY, 2019 AT 8PM**

1 WELCOME

The Chairman and MCC President Mr. Michael Happell welcomed members to the Annual Meeting and formally declared the meeting open.

He read out the notice of the meeting and welcomed Life Members, Mr. David Jones, Mr. Bob Lloyd, Mr. David Meiklejohn and Mr. Paul Sheahan. He also acknowledged former office bearers, Mr. David Crawford, Mr. Steven Smith and Mr. Stephen Spargo, as well as former Committee member Mr. Peter Dakin. He then acknowledged Mr. Bernie Szentirmay and Mr. Adam Dodd from KPMG, the Club's auditors and Mr. Grant Rowlands from Ashurst, legal advisors to the Club.

Introductions were given to Committee members Mr. Mark Smith, Ms. Sally Macindoe (Vice President), Mr. James Bennett, Mrs Clare Cannon, Mr. Adrian Anderson, Mr. Christian Johnston (Treasurer), Ms. Karen Wood (Vice President), Mr. Fred Oldfield (Vice President), Mr. Ted Baillieu, Mr. Geoff Roberts and Ms. Annabel Brebner.

Next, he introduced CEO Mr. Stuart Fox and members of the Senior Leadership team, Mr. Clive Driscoll (GM - Finance and Business Development), Ms. Donna Price, (GM – People & Culture), Mr. Rey Sumaru (GM - IT and Innovation), Ms. Jen Watt (GM- Commercial Operations & Partnerships) and Mr. Peter Wearne (GM - Facilities), as well as Mr. Mark Anderson (Club Manager) and Mr. Mark Oxnam (Security Operations Manager). He also noted that Mr. Josh Eltringham (GM- Venue and Events Services) was an apology for the meeting.

The Chairman outlined the order of proceedings as follows:

- Chairman's Report
- CEO's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Elections of Office Bearers and Committee Members
- General Business

2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman noted that he had signed the minutes from the previous AGM held on August 15, 2018 as a true and correct record. He advised that normally at this stage of the meeting the CEO would be asked to respond to outstanding questions from the previous meeting, however all questions raised had been answered outside of the meeting.

The President took his report from the Annual Report as read and highlighted the following-

- It has been a very busy year for the Club and the Ground, with over 3.6 million people attending events including Football, Cricket and special events, along with the MCG tours and museum visitation.
- In terms of special events for the upcoming year, Cricket will take centre stage with the Mens and Womens T20 World Cups coming to Melbourne, with the MCG hosting the Womens Final on March 8. The aim is to break the world record for attendance at a Women's

sporting event and the President encouraged members and guests to attend.

- There are a number of major projects occurring around the Ground, with a key focus being on planning for the future of the Yarra Park Precinct. One of the things that makes the Ground so special is that it is located in one of the best sporting precincts in the world, with much work to be done on it over the next 10-15 years, including potentially covering the railway line and looking at changes to the Great Southern Stand. It is important to collaborate with Government and other stakeholders in the precinct to protect the interests of both the Club and the Ground.
- It was a big year for sport activities, including a very busy multi-sport sections tour to Hong Kong, which both he and the CEO attended. The President noted the importance the Club places on ensuring that people's passion for sport is sustained throughout generations so that spectators will keep coming to the Ground and sports people will keep participating in sport for many years to come.
- The Club has also established a range of valuable community partnerships, including the recently opened sporting facilities at Beaumaris Secondary College.
- The Provisional Membership intake has now been halted at 30,000, in line with the commitment made to members when the category was introduced that it would be held at this number so that a study could be completed of the impact of the category on member amenities. This study will be part of a broader Membership Review that will cover a range of issues such as time taken to progress between tiers of membership, as well as the sustainability of the current 50 year membership offering. It is anticipated that the Club will be in a position to provide an update on this review in 2020.
- As covered in the most recent MCC News, the Club is concerned about the rise in disciplinary cases. In 2018 there were 65 cases and thus far for 2019 there have been 30. The common themes are alcohol induced violence/abuse and membership card misuse, with penalties varying from warnings to suspension and in one case, expulsion. The Club's response is to continue the policy to evict patrons from bars or the Ground when intoxicated, produce stronger communications to members and stronger penalties for those who breach Club rules.
- Congratulations to the CEO and the Management team for the 6 major awards the Club won over the past year, including national and international awards for the venue's environmental program and an international award recognising the Club's CARE program.

The President concluded his remarks by thanking the volunteers for their many hours of work, the Executive Leadership group and MCC Staff, the CEO, the MCG Trust and fellow Committee members. The President also thanked the outgoing President Mr. Steven Smith for his two decades of service to the Club, including his 4 years as President. Some highlights from Mr. Smith's tenure were noted, including the extension of the AFL agreement, the introduction of the CARE program, the upgrading of the Members facilities including the introduction of the Jim Stynes Grill, the smooth transition of CEO's from Mr. Stephen Gough to Mr. Stuart Fox and the successful completion of several major projects, including security measures that are required in the current climate.

The President also paid tribute to former Treasurer, Mr. Michael Andrew, who sadly passed away a month prior to the AGM. Mr. Andrew served on the Committee from 2007-2011 and then again from 2014, including as Treasurer, Vice President and Chair of several sub-committees. In the

intervening years he was based in Hong Kong as Global CEO for KPMG, the first Australian to hold such a position for one of the big 4 accounting firms. Illness meant that he retired from the role and returned to Australia, using the time to make an even greater contribution to Australian society, through his service to the MCC, as well as Chairmanship and service on several taskforces, Boards and Committees. He received an OAM for distinguished service to the accounting profession and for his community roles. Mr. Andrew's wealth of business, financial and risk management knowledge, together with his sharp strategic skills made him an invaluable contributor to the Club who will be sadly missed.

The President declared his report concluded and invited Mr. Stuart Fox, CEO, to the lectern to give his report.

3 CEO's REPORT

Mr. Fox commenced his remarks by showing a video that is part of a current brand project being undertaken by the team, and is designed to celebrate the stories and memories that the Club has produced.

Mr. Fox noted the following-

- It had been a very busy year for the Club and demanding for the staff, with several events being held at the Ground.
- It was a very successful football season, with over 2.95 million patrons coming through the gates. With the tenant clubs performing strongly, the Club hosted 6 finals over 4 weeks, attracting over 540,000 patrons- an average of 90,000 per match. A total of 100,022 people watched an epic Grand Final, won by the West Coast Eagles, who proved that an interstate team can win the big game on the MCG.
- In terms of special events, all were well delivered, commencing with the NRL State of Origin, which will be held again at the Ground as part of a long term deal. World Wrestling was successfully staged in the week after the Grand Final. Two concerts were held with Bon Jovi attracting 61,000 fans to the Ground in December and Eminem boasting the highest audience for a concert at the MCG (and his highest ever crowd) of 80,708 people. These events are massive logistical undertakings for the Club and are very exciting for staff and members alike. The aim is to attract 1-2 special events per year, bearing in mind the absolute priority of protecting the turf and the wicket.
- Attendance for the cricket was slightly down on previous years, with 176,000 attending over the Boxing Day Test and BBL figures not as high as anticipated. It is hoped that these figures will improve this summer with New Zealand being the touring country.
- As mentioned by the President, the Club was pleased to win several awards this year. It is a fitting acknowledgement of the staff's hard work and the Club is very proud to be seen as a world leader in areas such as environmental sustainability and customer service. The CARE program has seen match day satisfaction for members and general public reach a new height of 8.4 out of 10. The Club wants to ensure that high levels of customer service continue, with the Mr. Fox acknowledging Ms. Price and Mr. S. Smith for driving this project.
- There are 3 large infrastructure projects currently underway at the Ground which are necessary to ensure that the MCG remains as one of the best stadiums in the world. The first of these is the PA project, which will see a new system installed that will produce clearer sound

prior to the Boxing Day Test. The second project is LED sports lighting which will see the globes in the light towers replaced with brighter and more energy efficient bulbs and will see more lighting placed in the undercroft and concourses to allow for safer ingress and egress. The third project is the Refresh of the National Sports Museum- a \$17.1 million investment. The museum will close shortly for 6 months and will reopen in late February. The aim is for all these projects to be completed prior to the T20 Womens World Cup Final being held in March.

- Some improvements have been made to public areas of the Ground, with the old Medallists Bar being upgraded and renamed the Founders Bar, and the old Cricketers Bar being re-fitted and called the Laneway Bar. These refurbishments have been well received with many patrons frequenting the two bars.
- Security remains a priority for the Club. Unfortunately some incidents earlier in the season highlighted the fact that a small minority continue to cause issues. With fans now able to film incidents on their phones, these are likely to come to media attention much more quickly than in the past, and the Club continues to work in ensuring that the Ground is not over-governed whilst keeping patron safety as a key focus.
- Cricket wickets remain a focus for the Club- whilst there was some improvement this year more is required. A Cricket Wicket sub-committee has been set up to oversee progress in this area, with the Club investing heavily on improvements such as an upgrade to the practice wicket area, the removal of the concrete slab from the centre of the Ground to improve the pitch and a re-build of the wicket nursery where the wickets are grown- in total, 4 pitches are being re-grown. It is anticipated that it will take 4 years to come to fruition but it is hoped that improvement will be seen at this year's Boxing Day Test.
- The AFL deal saw a minimum of 43 games secured per year, including 12 of the best and some assurances were received around finals in Victoria. The deal also saw the term of the lease with the Trust for the use of the Reserve extended to 2082. A new capacity management plan for the Reserve was part of this deal to ensure that it is full for blockbuster matches. So far it has not been activated and members can be assured that they will always have first priority for use of the Reserve.
- Car parking continues to be an issue for the Club. Part of the new security requirements are that there is an 80m buffer zone from buildings, resulting in a reduced capacity for parking in Yarra Park. Other issues such as bad weather mean that parking is not always available. Priority for parking is for those with disabilities and the Club is currently working on a long term plan to ensure parking is available for those who need it. An interim measure is to expand the Travellers Aid service which has received very good feedback from patrons.
- For members, the MCC Plus+ card has been a success, with the Club more able to easily identify members due to the photo updates and it has allowed members to not have to use cash. Wait Time technology has been installed which allows members to see current queuing time for bars and cafes on a match day. Members Dining facilities continue to be extremely popular and are operating at capacity. The Club is currently exploring some exciting opportunities for overflow dining to better meet the demand and provide some further options for members.

- There are 6 Special Interest Groups currently operating, holding in excess of 50 events a year. Special thanks to the Committees of these groups for their hard work as they make an important contribution to the social fabric of the Club, as do the Club Functions such as the Norm Smith Oration and Bradman Luncheon. Thank you also to the Club Functions team who work so hard to ensure these events run smoothly.
- The 13 Sporting Sections had varying results on court/on field throughout the year, with a highlight being the Womens Cricket 1st XI team's premiership.

Mr. Fox concluded his remarks and thanked everyone for their contribution to the Club, including the volunteers, members, corporate partners, suppliers, contractors, committee members, staff, the management team, the MCG Trust and the State Government.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Fox for his comments and formally moved that the Annual Report and Financial Statements be approved. He then introduced the Treasurer, Mr. Christian Johnston, to second the motion and present the Treasurer's Report.

4 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Johnston thanked the Chairman and took pleasure in presenting the consolidated statements for the MCC for 2018/19 financial year, noting it had been a very successful year both operationally and financially. He highlighted the following-

- The total revenue was \$155.2 million, up 6% from last year. Profit was \$16.9 million, up approx. \$8 million or 88% from last year.
- On the balance sheet, cash was up \$18.9 million to \$62.4 mil and loans were reduced by \$13.7 million to \$123.8 million in line with amount due under the debt schedule.
- The re-payment amounts for the debt has not been increased due to the fact that the rates were locked in under a fixed term agreement and paying early does result in a penalty. The Club regularly assesses whether it would be financially beneficial to incur these costs to pay earlier and determined that it would not be for the year just passed. It also important to keep in mind the funding required for the capital projects currently underway and for those which will come in the future.
- The largest driver for the financial result was an exceptionally strong AFL season and a successful Boxing Day Test, along with the 4 special events previously mentioned. Total patronage at the Ground was just over 3.6 million, up 10% on the prior year.
- The increased crowd numbers were the biggest driver in the increased costs via events administration expense and members contribution to gate expense. The AFL deal only began at the start of the current AFL season so only had a limited impact on the financial result for this year.
- Other drivers of the result was the National Sports Museum, which made a profit of \$252,000, down slightly on the previous year and Yarra Park ran at a loss of \$673,000, larger than the previous year which was \$554,000.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements, and he and the Chairman invited members to ask any question in relation to the Club's finances.

Mr. David Kiernan (Member no. 9237) noted that the Financial Report states that a valuation of the National Sports Museum's collection occurs every 5 years, and asked whether it would be possible to add a line to this statement specifying the date of the last valuation.

The Chairman asked Mr. Driscoll when the last valuation was completed, with Mr. Driscoll noting that it is due to be completed this financial year. The Chairman stated that it will be noted on future reports as requested.

Mr. Kiernan enquired as to the line item titled State Government contribution, asking whether it occurs on a regular basis and if it is paid for a particular purpose/project as the reason for this year's amount of \$225,000 was not specified.

The Treasurer noted that further discussions are needed with the State Government and other stakeholders on the future operations of Yarra Park. The Chairman added that there are no regular grants, with Mr. Driscoll advising that the amount of \$225,000 allocated this year was for the Yarra Park Precinct Masterplan.

As there were no further questions the Chairman put the motion to adopt the Annual Report and Financial statements which were passed unanimously, and thanked Mr. Johnston for his report.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chairman handed over to Ms. Karen Wood for the first appointment.

5.1 Election of President

Ms. Wood announced that as there had been no other nominations, Mr. Michael Happell has been re-elected President.

Ms. Wood then handed the meeting back to Mr. Happell.

5.2 Vice President/Treasurer

The Chairman announced that Ms. Karen Wood has been re-elected un-opposed as Vice President and Mr. Christian Johnston had been re-elected un-opposed as Treasurer.

5.3 Committee/Auditor

The Chairman thanked Mr. Tim Jones of Corp Vote for being the returning officer and operating the ballot on behalf of the Club.

There were three vacancies with six candidates nominating for election. A total of 7,627 members cast their votes with the results as follows- (in alphabetical order)-

- Annabel Brebner- 6,114 votes
- Anthony Burns- 3,332 votes
- William Hodges Jnr- 2,104 votes
- Geoffrey Roberts- 4,683 votes
- Mark Smith- 4,779 votes
- David Taylor- 1,869 votes

On the basis of this result, the Chairman announced that Ms. Brebner, Mr. Roberts and Mr. M. Smith had been duly re-elected and congratulated them accordingly. The Chairman also thanked the un-successful candidates for their nomination and noted that the Committee undertakes a large amount of succession planning to ensure that the candidates with the right skill sets are appointed.

The Chairman then announced the appointment of KPMG as Club auditors for the next 12 months and thanked them for their good work over the past year.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Questions

Ms. Fiona Joshua (Member No. 87236) asked if there was any possibility that Provisional membership could be optional without the candidate losing their place on the waiting list, bearing in mind that many who become Provisional members have their membership paid for by their parents, who then have to pay to get them into games that they are not able to attend on their own membership.

The Chairman answered that optional Provisional membership was considered by the Committee at the time the category was introduced, but it was decided at the time not to offer this option. The Chairman advised that Ms. Joshua's question would be considered as part of the review of the Provisional membership offering that will be taking place in the near future.

Mr. Bill Freeman (Member No. 36681) stated that he would like to see the Long Room couches ticketed so that older members who use the couches on a match day can leave their seat as needed and know that it will still be empty when they return.

The Chairman referred the query to Mr. Anderson, who advised that it is a concern that has been raised by Event day staff in the Long Room and that ticketing the couches may not assist the tradition of older members getting priority for use of the seats. The Club will monitor the issue and look at how best to rectify the issue.

Mr. Michael Maguire (Member No. 31545) raised an incident that occurred in the Long Room at a recent match where a patron appeared to be intoxicated and had their feet on the couches. The patron also misbehaved outside the venue. Mr. Maguire asked if it was possible in cases such as this that the patron be removed from the stadium immediately.

The Chairman agreed with Mr. Maguire's view, and encouraged members to report any misbehaviour on match days to a member of staff to action.

Mr. Robert Watt (Member No. 11816) noted that there is currently no pennant bowls matches at the MCC Kew Sports Club and asked for an update on the strategic review that is mentioned in the Annual Report.

The Chairman asked Mr. Fox to respond to the query- Mr. Fox advised that bowls participants from the Club have been offered the opportunity to play at alternative facilities. Bridge and Tennis are still being played at the facility. It is anticipated that the review will be completed shortly and the Club will be in a position to provide an update on the future of the facility in 2020.

Mr. Edward White (Member Number 22705) asked if the MCC Constitution allows the Club to be more innovative in investing funds, citing the example of the Victorian Racing Club who are currently getting involved in several developments.

The Chairman advised that he would need to check the Constitution to see what it states in relation to property developments, however he confirmed that it is not part of the 5 year strategic plan currently being formulated by the Club.

Mr. Christian Roberts (Member Number 128564) asked if the number of bicycle parking options around the Ground could be increased, noting that he regularly rides to the Ground to attend matches and that there are only just over 200 spots available for all patrons.

The Chairman referred the query to Mr. Fox who advised that management is aware of the increased demand for bicycle parking options but that any proposed infrastructure in Yarra Park needs to go through a planning permissions process. Mr. Fox further noted that a Yarra Park Masterplan is due to commence and parking for bicycles will be part of the review.

Ms. Cara Nottle (Member Number 151290) noted that there had not been an acknowledgement of country at the start of the meeting and asked whether it could be incorporated for events at the MCC.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Nottle for her question and advised that the Club had adopted a policy on this area, noting that the acknowledgement of country has gradually been introduced, starting at major Club functions/events. Management is currently working on the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan, meaning that work in this area will evolve further over time.

Mr. Graeme Bruce (Member Number 32542) advised that he had purchased a St Kilda/MCC membership option and his membership card did not work when he tried to scan through the turnstiles at Marvel Stadium, and asked if this problem had been encountered by other members.

The Chairman referred the question to Mr. Anderson, who advised the MCC card would only work for access in the Members Reserve. It is the responsibility of the relevant football Club to provide the card needed to access other venues such as Marvel.

Mr. Marc Dixon (Member Number 21655) asked if the general public could access seating in the Reserve on days where other areas are full and if the Reserve has room, further asking if temporary fencing could be installed.

The Chairman referred the query to Mr. Fox who advised that the Club does currently allow for this option with the crossover fence, which has been activated on a few occasions. There are tight controls around this option as there are factors such as dress code which need to be considered and the preference is to give members every opportunity to fill the Reserve, including through measures such as selling more visitor tickets and allowing access for Provisional members. The data analytics allow for the Club to have a better idea of how attendance is trending prior to a match which allows the Club to make a decision to offer seats to the general public with as much time as possible.

Mr. Edward White (Member Number 22705) congratulated the Event day staff for all their fantastic work on a match day, noting that he is proud to be a member and gets so much joy from his membership of the Club.

The Chairman thanked Mr. White for his comments.

Mr. Michael Maguire (Member Number 31545) echoed Mr. White's sentiments and praised a staff member for their assistance when he had a medical issue on a match day. He further noted that a list of members who have received honours is provided in the report and asked if honours received by staff could be added in the future.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Maguire and advised that he would take this suggestion on notice.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked the Members for their contribution and attendance, and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNEDCHAIRMAN

DATE:

A.G.M. APOLOGIES - 2019

Surname	Christian Name	Membership No.
Anderson	Fiona	87759
Bellairs	Andy	139569
Cain	John	7098
Cain	Nancye	264882
Church	Bruce	3817
Church	Mary	231076
Crawford	Maureen	82509
Crow	David	17249
Jackson	Daryl	4197
Jackson	Kay	189389
King	Peter	106436
King	Joanna	103978
Mitchell	Peter	23861
Mitchell	Ann	146046
Nathan	Jane	13562
O'Flynn	Lewis	86616
Saunder	Clare	81334
Smith	Anne	83773
Studham	David	61141
Walker	Michael	64607
Woodhouse	Ben	24141
Yencken	Edward	20886
Yencken	Janet	86132