

**MINUTES OF THE 185<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB  
HELD IN THE MEMBERS' DINING ROOM, MCG & VIA ONLINE PLATFORM  
ON TUESDAY 16 AUGUST, 2022 AT 7:30PM AEST**

**1. WELCOME**

Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) Executive Manager - Club & Sport, Mark Anderson welcomed members to the 185<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Melbourne Cricket Club, advising of housekeeping matters. He noted that this meeting would be the first time that the Club had held the meeting both in person and via the online platform Lumi. The Club received much positive feedback from members of the ability to view the meeting online last year.

Mr. Anderson informed members that this is a private meeting of the MCC for its Committee and members. He noted that only Full members have the ability to vote on matters of tonight's meeting. He went through the process for members to ask questions in the room and also via the online platform and the technical support available. He noted that there will be two points during the meeting where Full members will be asked to vote and that all voting will be tallied electronically via independent consultants Lumi. Mr. Anderson welcomed MCC President, Mr. Michael Happell to conduct and chair the meeting.

The Chairman acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land where the meeting was being held, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin nations and paid his respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. He noted the hybrid meeting model with over 850 members online at that stage of the meeting.

He welcomed Life members of the Club, Mr. Paul Sheahan, Mr. Bob Lloyd, Mr. Steven Smith and Mr. David Meiklejohn. Welcomes were also extended to former Vice-Presidents Mr. David Crow and Mr. Stephen Spargo, also to former Committee members Ms. Jane Nathan, Ms. Clare Cannon, Mr. Peter Mitchell and Mr. Peter Dakin. He noted the attendance of Mr. Bernie Szentirmay from KPMG, the Club's auditors and Mr. Grant Rowlands from Ashurst, legal advisors to the Club.

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

The Chairman noted the notice of meeting has been tabled appropriately and also noted the apologies accordingly.

Images of the MCC Committee members were shown with introductions given for Mr. Geoff Roberts (Treasurer), Mr. Fred Oldfield (Vice-President), Mr. Christian Johnston (Vice-President), Ms. Sally Macindoe (Vice-President) (via online), Mr. Adrian Anderson, Mr. James

Bennett (via online), Mr. Ted Baillieu, Ms. Annabel Brebner, Mr. James Cain, Ms. Paula Dwyer, Mr. Peter King and Ms. Kalpana Ramani.

Next, the Chairman introduced CEO Stuart Fox and the Club's Executive Leadership Team, Mr. Clive Driscoll (GM – Finance & Business Development), Ms. Michelle Nolan (GM – People & Culture), Ms. Jennifer Watt (GM – Commercial Operations & Partnerships), Mr. Josh Eltringham (GM – Venue & Event Services), Mr. Peter Wearne (GM – Facilities), Mr. Rey Sumaru (GM – IT & Innovation) and Ms. Tanya Gallina (GM – Club Services & Heritage).

The Chairman advised the order of the meeting:

- President's Report
- CEO Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Office bearers and Committee
- Proposal to amend the Rules of the Club
- General Business

## **2. PRESIDENT's REPORT**

The President wanted his report to be taken as read due to the predicted length of the meeting to be undertaken due to the Rule Change proposal.

He noted that the last two reports have been very sobering, reflecting on the 2021/22 financial year, he has two main emotions - pride and excitement. He is proud of how the Club dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic and is excited about the upcoming events including the AFL Finals Series, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup and is also excited to see Sporting Sections and Special Interest Groups back in full swing.

He reflected on the key points from last year:

- The year started with promise with crowds returning to games, however come June and July, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact and games were moved away from the MCG, including AFL Finals and the Grand Final.
- A highlight was however the Melbourne Football Club, a Sporting Section of the MCC, winning the AFL Premiership in Perth.
- Proud of the staging of the Boxing Day Test, with a wonderful debut from Australian bowler Scott Boland.
- The President reflected on the loss of some of the Club's members, one of the most high-profile being Shane Warne. He was very proud of the State Memorial Service held at the MCG.
- Very pleased to see MCG Tours re-commencing and the Australian Sports Museum (ASM) re-opening.
- The Vincent Fantauzzo painting of the Australian Women's Cricket Team winning the 2020 ICC T20 World Cup features prominently on the MCG Tour, an inspirational piece of art for men and women.

- Thank you and congratulations to our MCC and ASM Volunteers who stuck with us and are back conducting Tours.
- The Club has a vision to have every primary school student in Victoria come to the MCG for a tour and visit the ASM.
- Congratulations to our members who are Olympians and Para-Olympians, who are reflected accordingly in the Club's Annual Report.

The President thanked the MCC Committee for their support over some challenging times, with a special thanks to Ms. Clare Cannon who has retired from the Committee this year.

He also thanked CEO, Mr. Stuart Fox, the management team and all the MCC staff for their dedication to our members during the pandemic and who skillfully navigated crowds back into the stadium.

A final thank you to members who stuck by the Club and to those who contacted him directly during this time, he was pleased that the Club could provide some support to our members during the year.

The President handed over to Mr. Stuart Fox to present his CEO's report.

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

The CEO mentioned that he is thrilled to have people in the venue after last year's AGM where everyone had to be at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

He advised the report that is being presented reflected on the past financial year.

The CEO noted the following:

- It was a very challenging year for MCC staff with many different formats having to be managed, crowds in attendance, no crowds and restricted crowds.
- Of the 45 scheduled AFL games, 31 games were played with crowds, with 1.15 million people attending games both in the public and in the Members' Reserve, compared to the usual 2.4 million (approx.) who would normally attend during an AFL Premiership Season.
- Club life was frustrating, with Sporting Sections and Special Interest Groups being impacted by the pandemic, with lots of cancellations and restrictions.
- In October, the slight easing of pandemic restrictions created some hope, allowing crowds to attend, albeit with restricted numbers. It was pleasing to have crowds in for domestic cricket, BBL and the Boxing Day Test.
- The CEO reflected on a good pitch for the Boxing Day Test, noting that the Club will keep the pitch lively moving forward hoping for an even contest between bat and ball.
- The hospitality tender was up for review last year, being one of the largest contracts held by the Club, it took six months to finalise this decision. The CEO acknowledged

and thanked Spotless-Epicure who had been running the hospitality at the MCG for 43 years and welcomed and congratulated Delaware North, a global leader in hospitality and food services who have taken over. He is looking forward to the new and exciting offerings that will be available to members in the future.

- He reflected on the challenges that placed the Club under enormous pressure in hospitality, due to the shortage of staff - a global issue that presented itself in early 2022. He presented an example of the shortages, whereby 1800 hospitality staff are required to open all outlets and service the venue, with only 600 presenting to work on some event days. The CEO sincerely apologised for this period and noted that the Club is working extremely hard and is committed to ensuring that the experience provided to all attendees and our members is of high quality moving forward.
- Staffing in general is challenging and at the current time these shortages of staff are across many areas, including event and security. He noted the minor changes that had to be implemented across the venue, inclusive of the Members' Reserve, including the introduction of plastic cups in the Reserve as we did not have enough staff to wash or pick up glasses. Ticketing was adjusted and the Club understood that it was challenging and not popular, and operations are heading back to 'normal'.
- The CEO noted the topic of drinking in seats in the Members' Reserve, the trial of this continues, with feedback from members being listened to. Dry bays have been implemented across three of the four levels within the Reserve. The Committee will review this at the end of the AFL Premiership Season.
- It was noted that the average attendance is at 49,000 and 12,000 in the Members' Reserve, up on forecast, and the Sporting Sections and Special Interest Groups back on track. There are many events and functions to look forward to in the near future, including the Bradman Lunch, Grand Final festivities, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, the upcoming India v Pakistan match - which sold out in one day and the World Cup Final to be beamed to millions across the world. Concerts are also being held during December and March 2023, including Billy Joel and Ed Sheeran.
- The CEO is also so pleased to see plenty of children on MCG Tours, with the ASM and the MCC Library being well attended.
- The key highlight of the Strategic Plan is the Government's commitment to the feasibility of and potential upgrade to the Shane Warne Stand, with a business case to be completed by the end of the year. The Yarra Park Master Plan is also being worked through.
- The Club launched the Reconciliation Action Plan, congratulating the team on their committed work, noting a new multi-faith prayer room and a sensory room are open during events.
- The stadium is now run on 100 per cent green energy under Peter Wearne's leadership, being leaders in sustainability.
- The CEO thanked the Committee for their support and their huge commitment to the Club, particularly to the President Mr. Michael Happell. He also thanked his management team who were present on the night and thanked the 160 permanent staff, partners, contractors and stakeholders, event staff and the 300 volunteers at the Club.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Fox and moved to the next item on the agenda, moving that the 2021/22 Annual Report which he proposed be adopted. He noted that once the Treasurer started talking, questions could be submitted online, with questions being taken from the floor and online.

The Chairman welcomed the Treasurer, Mr. Geoff Roberts.

#### **4. TREASURER's REPORT**

The Treasurer commenced his report by reflecting on what has been another interesting year, navigating capped crowds early in the AFL Premiership Season, no crowds and no content for AFL Finals. The financial impact was felt by the Club. For context, pre-COVID crowds for AFL and Cricket combined were 3.3m, with just under 1.4m combined AFL and Cricket crowds by the end of March 2022.

In summary and excluding JobKeeper in the prior year on both revenue and expenses, our revenue increased by nearly \$33m and our expenses increased by nearly \$28m, resulting in a loss of just under \$4m. The Treasurer noted however that the Club is in a strong financial position, mainly due to the support of the members and the leadership of CEO, Mr. Stuart Fox managing discretionary spend. The cash at the end of the year was at approximately \$30m after paying down debt by approximately \$17m and undertaking necessary capital expenditure of approximately \$12m.

The Treasurer presented visual charts detailing key movements from 2021 to 2022:

##### **Revenue**

- Has increased from \$102m to \$119m primarily due to the return of crowds
- Event revenue increased by \$14m with 31 AFL games with crowds compared to nil the previous year, a majority of this increase being from catering and to a lesser extent gate revenue
- Commercial and rental revenue increased by \$12m, with corporate suites and other sponsors returning
- AFL scoreboard and advertising increased by \$5m with matches and crowds returning
- Membership revenue decreased by \$4m year on year, with last year's revenue higher due to five months without discounted subscriptions

The Treasurer noted on the slide in red, the equal and offsetting effect of JobKeeper payments \$15m being passed straight through.

##### **Expenses**

- Increased from \$111m to \$123m mainly due to the return of crowds at events
- Administration and other expenses increased by \$7m with content returning
- Variable expenses of contribution to AFL and AFL Clubs was increased by \$6m and member contributions to the gate by \$3m due to crowds returning

- \$3m increase to facilities, arena and event security also supported the return of crowds
- Noted the effect of JobKeeper as per the revenue slide

**Cash flow** – tracks the cash flow of \$25m at the beginning of the year to \$30m at the end of the year

- Receipts of members and customers for the year were \$111m, with members making up nearly half of that amount
- Payments to suppliers and employees was nearly \$73m
- Paid nearly \$17m principle off our loan together with interest of \$4m, which the balance of interest is implied interest under accounting standards on our long term MCG lease
- Our remaining loan principle of \$77m when combined at March 31 with our cash of \$30m and financial bonds of \$15m have us at net debt position of \$34m compared to the prior year of \$53m. This debt will be repaid by March 2026.
- We continue to invest \$12m into capital expenditure to maintain our stadium

The Treasurer noted that after another year of uncertainty, the Club is in a strong financial position and seconded the motion to approve the 2021/2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements. The Treasurer handed back to the Chairman to facilitate questions on his report.

Mr. WJW McAuley (Member no. 28300) asked what the internal rate of return was for the Club and what the return on investment is for the Club.

*The Treasurer responded that we don't have that figure as it would be completed on a project by project basis.*

Mr. McAuley then asked how someone who is unfamiliar with these accounting methods determines where the Club sits. Most businesses adopt the method referred to.

*The Chairman responded that we are a not-for-profit business, whereby our business is judged on key KPIs, with the cash situation being hugely important given the debt we have and our profit and loss are our key measures.*

Mr. McAuley then asked if the Club is confident that they will not be trading insolvent.

*Both the Chairman and Treasurer were confident that this was not an issue, with the cash position increasing over the year, with the loss position drive by depreciation, which is non-cash and during a far harder year than the previous year, the cash position increased.*

Mr. Graeme MacMillan (Member no. 24015) thanked Geoff for the voluntary work as Treasurer. Mr. MacMillan noted that the Club has paid \$12m to the MCC Foundation, which is members' funds that have been paid to an organisation that is not consolidated and that is not included in the Financial Statements. His question was, if this hadn't been paid, would the Club have made a surplus of \$8m, not a loss of \$4m?



*The Treasurer responded on the reason that it is not consolidated, noting that it is a directly related entity but it does have a separate Foundation constitution, therefore there is no right to influence returns from the Foundation, to add any surplus from the Foundation would not make any sense.*

*In the very unlikely event of the wind up of the MCC, there is no right to a return, assets would go to a like entity, there is no binding obligation for the MCC to fund the Foundation, as referred to in note 20 and the assets are not exclusive for the use or the enjoyment of the MCC members. Some of the contribution of nearly \$12m is to a management fee, promoting philanthropic endeavors, approved expenditures and Provisional fees being moved over.*

*The Treasurer noted that he does not look at the MCC Foundation accounts because it is not consolidated.*

Mr. WJW McAuley did appeal to the Club to consider whether the Committee is accountable for the members' funds. He also believes that the MCC Foundation should be consolidated or when the Financial Statements are issued that the separate MCC Foundation are also presented.

*The Chairman thanked Mr. McAuley for his statement and this would be considered.*

Mr. Daniel Werzberger (Member no. 112538 - online) asked how much was spent on capital expenditure last year and what percentage of the operating expenditure was it?

*The Treasurer responded that \$12m was spent on capital expenditure and total on operating expenditure was \$123m, capital expenditure spend was about 10 per cent of the operating expenditure. The Chairman noted that the capital expenditure spend was lower this year due to COVID-19.*

No further questions were put forward so the Chairman asked everyone to vote via their Lumi devices in the room and also online.

The Chairman announced that all votes had been cast, he asked the independent scrutineers to tally the vote and present the results on the screen.

The motion to accept the 2021/22 Annual Report and Financial Statements was accepted with 97.96 per cent for, with two per cent against, therefore the Annual Report and Financial Statements were adopted.

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

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

### **5.1 Election of President**

Mr. Geoff Roberts reported that Mr. Michael Happell is the only nominee for the position of President and it is his happy duty that Michael is duly elected as the ongoing President.

Mr. Happell's tenure finishes on March 21, 2023, and this will be his final AGM as President. The Treasurer congratulated Mr. Happell during what has been a challenging tenure over the past three years.

Mr. Geoff Roberts handed back to the Chairman.

## **5.2 Election of Vice President**

The Chairman advised that Vice President Mr. Christian Johnston and Treasurer Mr. Geoff Roberts had both been reappointed unopposed.

## **5.3 Committee**

The Chairman confirmed that other retiring Committee members Ms. Annabel Brebner, Ms. Paula Dwyer and Ms. Kalpana Ramani were also re-elected unopposed.

# **6. PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE RULES OF THE CLUB**

The Chairman noted that this has been a challenging and complex issue for the Committee to deal with, with the current arrangements not being detailed in the Club Rules.

The Chairman detailed how he will work through this information, stepping through the following:

- The history behind the current situation
- The four points proposed to be addressed in the Rule changes being:
  - The recognition in the Club Rules of the 50-Year membership as a category
  - Inclusion of an initial specified female cohort into the class 50-Year membership
  - The creation of a Social 50-Year membership category
  - Setting the fees for 50-Year member going forward
- Questions from members
- Members' vote

The Chairman commenced with information on the history of 50-Year membership, showing a power-point slide of the minutes of Club Sub-Committee meeting in 1965, when the Full subscription was set at \$20 for the year, with the 50-Year membership introduced at that time and fees set at \$15 (75 per cent of the Full subscription). The 50-Year membership category however was not detailed in the Club Rules, but the \$15 price point has remained.

The Chairman noted that time has had its inevitable impact on this situation over the years

- inflation has moved this \$15 fee from being a very substantial amount (at 75% of a full subscription) to a token amount in today's dollars,
- People living longer has meant that the number of 50 year members has grown significantly and is projected to continue to do so in the future, and



- Unlike how we were in 1965, we are now a club that welcomes female members, but have a legacy issue with females entering the 50 year membership “club” that does not sit well with modern community standards of fairness

The Chairman detailed the different components of the rule change:

1. *Rule 6.5a to recognise the 50-Year membership category*, the Chairman noted this is fairly self-explanatory and necessary.
2. *Rule 6.5b to include an initial specified female cohort to the 50-Year member category*. Noting that females could first join the waitlist in 1983, those that did so were offered Restricted membership in 1992. Some females became members from 1984, if they were nominated by a Full male member who relinquished their right to purchase an annual guest card or lady’s card. The Chairman reiterated that having a generation of female members missing out on the discounted 50-Year membership because they were not allowed to join the Club does not sit well with modern community standards nor with our values as a Member Club. If the Club did nothing we would have a small group of females join the 50-Year category in 2034, but those that first joined the waiting list would not be eligible until 2042. He noted the Committee sees this as an untenable situation.

1. The criteria is set out for those who moved reasonably quickly, i.e. within four years of first being able to either join the waitlist or accept a membership via a Full member surrendering his right to purchase an annual lady’s/guest card, to move to the 50-Year membership status in the membership year after they turn 65. The initial cohort will be a total of 1,439, with an additional 1,377 females (assuming they continue their membership) to be offered this in subsequent years.
2. These females would have paid many years of membership fees, however would have fallen short of paying 50 years of membership. The Committee did not think this is a good reason to deny them 50-Year membership, indeed at the extreme end many of the 1,439 who immediately qualify would have only paid 30 years of membership. They didn’t pay the years of membership before 1992 because they couldn’t, they were denied this privilege due to discrimination.
3. The Committee also recognised that some of the females will also become eligible for a 50-Year membership of earlier age than their male counterparts, particularly of focus at the moment, as for those that were put on the waitlist in the last half of the 1950s and 60s, the waitlist had blown out beyond 15 years, and at some points 20 years. This cohort is currently being moved to 50-Year membership, however this is a temporary issue.

A key perspective to note is that of the 1,439 females who qualify for 50-Year membership in the first year under these new rules, 1,016 of the 1,439 are already over 70 years old.

4. The choice for the Committee in dealing with this issue, was to either create a very complex rule to try to allow for wait periods in different years or create a simple rule that allowed some females to move into the 50-Year membership earlier than men at the same age.

5. The Committee chose the latter as they felt that the disadvantage that these females have had over so many years, being denied membership, far outweighed the advantage that some of them are receiving through getting access to the 50-Year membership discount earlier than others.
3. *Rule 5.6 to create the category of 50--Year Social membership.* This is intended so members who can no longer get along to game days at the MCG, but still treasure their membership, want to be part of the Club, sometimes attend social functions, and be able to nominate people to the wait list, can still continue their membership for the token \$15 fee.
    1. For the avoidance of any doubt, since this is a non-active membership it is to be noted that once you opt into this membership you don't have the option to return to be a Full member. The Committee intends that this subscription fee for this category would remain at \$15. The Committee don't intend to change this in the foreseeable future, however this has not been written into the Rules as the Committee has learnt from history that it is not good practice to put any fixed fee amount into a set of Rules that is expected to last indefinitely.
    2. Another issue that was not detailed in the Club Rules, was whether 50-Year Social members are able to obtain tickets occasionally, which the Committee always intended that this was going to be the case. The Committee has determined that any 50-Year member who change to the 50-Year Social membership, will be able to access up to four games a year (excluding Category 1 games), by purchasing one ticket for themselves and one for a guest. The Chairman noted that this element of the category should have been made clearer when the announcements were made and apologised that this was not done.
  4. *Rule 12.2 setting of 50-Year membership fees*
    1. The Chairman noted that the history of 50-Year membership pricing had been covered earlier, highlighting the detail of how the \$15 fee has moved from being 75 per cent of Full subscriptions to being an amount that is token in the context of contemporary costs and the running of our Club. Two other key factors that led the Committee to the conclusion that material changes were required in respect to this fee:
      1. The Committee expects that the cohort of the 50-Year members will grow in numbers very significantly in the medium term. For many years the Club has engaged independent expert actuaries Taylor Fry to help model future membership numbers and projected wait times between categories. During the membership review in 2019 these models were updated, and these numbers did inform the Committee's thinking around the expected growth in numbers of 50-Year members. The Chairman noted that this model is one that the Club has used for a long time, with clear stable assumptions based on the actuaries' interpretation experience over time and the actuaries experience on mortality trends.

The current 50-Year member cohort number is 4,051 and the model shows this number stays reasonably stable over the next ten years and then grows in an accelerated fashion hitting 20,000 in 30 years' time.

The Chairman wanted the members to understand by way of explanation, that the 50-Year journey begins when you become any category of membership (there was some misunderstanding that this journey commenced when becoming a Full member). The average age of a new 50-Year member will drop over the next generation, and will have a significant impact on the size of the cohort over time.

2. The Committee wanted the members to understand the direct cost to the Club of members attending match days. This has not been communicated previously as agreements with the AFL and Cricket Australia are subject to strict confidentiality agreements. The Chairman noted that he had obtained approval for information to be commented on at a broad level. The Chairman confirmed that we are on a direct payment model to the AFL and Cricket Australia for each member that attends an event. Examples were given by the Chairman.
  1. If a member attends two home & away AFL games, the AFL Grand Final and a day of the Boxing Day Test, the payments being made to the AFL and Cricket Australia for the member attending these events is over \$400.
  2. If a member attends Days 1 – 3 of the Boxing Day Test, two AFL finals, a couple of AFL home & away matches, the payment is \$400.
  3. Attendance percentages by 50-Year members were also reviewed, and it was found that the percentage of members who attend no events in any given year is 15 per cent higher for 50-Year members than compared to the general membership. It is expected that this percentage is higher as members are retaining their membership due to the cost being only \$15, even though they have issues attending events. It is also expected that this group will move to the Social membership available. When you eliminate the 15 per cent, the average amount of games attended by 50 year members is almost exactly the same as all membership categories and only half a game lower than the average attendance of Full members.

In summary:

1. The number of 50-Year members will blow out significantly in the medium term
2. 50-Year members are active participants in events at the MCG
3. Unlike some Clubs, we have a substantial cost when members use their membership

The Chairman noted that this brought the Committee to the unescapable conclusion that the \$15 fee is not sustainable in the long term; we can afford it now however as the 50-Year member cohort grows it will become a financial burden on the Club. Knowing that the Committee can change this now, it would be irresponsible to leave this burden in place for the next generation to deal with. It was also noted that it is unfair to retain the \$15 subscription when future generations of membership will clearly not be able to benefit from it.

The Committee then went about working through what 50-Year member fee does appropriately reward our members lengthy and loyal support, is affordable and also sustainable when the cohort grows. The Committee landed on a 50 per cent discount with the added benefit of phasing this in gradually over the next five years, in today's dollars, this results in an average 50-Year Full member fee over the next 5 years of \$183.00 with appropriate reductions for country and interstate members etc.

The Committee considered grandfathering, however could not reconcile this as a fair process to all members, particularly with the significant and direct costs associated when our members attend events at the MCG.

The Chairman wanted to mention two further areas, he wanted to reiterate his thoughts on comments that this process is a cash grab by the Committee. The Chairman wanted to be very clear that the Committee are volunteers, they are not paid, they do not receive bonuses, and they are not incentivised to put finances of the Club ahead of the interests of members.

When KPIs are set for management on areas such as membership issues, the absolute primary driver is membership satisfaction and services. When we deal with the rest of the ground, managed on behalf of the Government, the situation is different and maximising revenue is a priority (for example when selling corporate suites).

The Chairman noted that we need to keep the Club in a strong financial position, but even more importantly here, what we are dealing with relates to fairness between our members.

The second area that the Chairman wanted to cover was that a few comments have been made in regards to setting one motion for the Rule changes rather than across multiple Rule changes.

The Committee strongly believe that there should not be standalone motions, the category cannot be introduced into the Club Rules without setting the fees for the category. It was also noted that in 2022 it would not be appropriate to recognise the category in the Rules without tackling the gender issue, hence the Committee has not separated as multiple motions, and it would not make sense. The 50-Year Social membership category is complimentary to the entire package. The Chairman noted that when the Provisional membership category was brought in, this was done as one package.

In conclusion, the Chairman asked the members to cast their vote as responsible members of the Club, looking at the big picture from the perspective of the long term future of the Club and to please put your personal circumstances into this broader context. We currently have nothing in place in the Club Rules for 50-Year members. Is what is being proposed a fair and reasonable package having regard to all members, crossing multiple generations? The Committee firmly believes that it is. The Chairman thanked everyone for their time.

*Note- a video recording of The Chairman's presentation of the proposed rule changes can be viewed at [www.mcc.org.au/agm2022](http://www.mcc.org.au/agm2022).*

## 7. QUESTIONS

Ms. Joanne Verity (Member no: 78081) thanked the Committee for organising all the information and motions completed for the night. Ms. Verity asked about the 50-Year membership category that is not in the Rules and whether there was a possibility if the motion is not passed on the night that the category could be removed as it would not be good governance for the category to remain.

*The Chairman noted that the Committee has put forward the best motion to be passed tonight and for the future going forward. He did note that if it did not get up, there would be a problem as the lawyers are telling the Club that it is very difficult to issue a discount to members when it is not detailed in the Club Rules. If the motion did not get up then it would be back to the drawing board to review this issue.*

Mr. Daniel Bluzer-Fry (Member no: 89911) thanked the Committee for their time on the focus on the future and to inclusion of women. Mr. Bluzer-Fry asked what the process to getting to this recommendation was. He noted that over the past two years during the COVID-19 pandemic the Club would have a lot of data to analyse.

*The Chairman advised that this motion was brought up during the broader membership review undertaken, this motion and change to the 50-Year membership was put on hold due to COVID-19.*

Mr. Gary Marchant (Member no: 8171) congratulated the Committee on the motion. Mr. Marchant asked about the shortfall that relates to females not paying 50 years of fees, can point number four in the motion be altered so that there is an introduction fee.

*The Chairman wanted to highlight that paying fees can be seen as a burden, however also can be seen as a privilege. The women who missed out on the privilege to buy a membership when they couldn't join. He said it was fair and reasonable to say that the females missing out on the burden is more than counteracted on the privilege of being a member of this Club.*

Mr. Marchant had a different view that it is contradicting on financial inequality.

Ms. Elizabeth Gregory (Member no. 87885) thanked the Committee for addressing the gender inequality. Ms. Gregory had a question about the female cohort and wanted to know the proportions of female versus male 50-Year members compared to the general membership male versus female and how that compares.

*The Chairman advised that 20 per cent of Full members are female - this will not change quickly due to 25 per cent female Restricted members, 35 per cent female on the waitlist. The females that will become 50-Year members, by the time that they are all members (approx. year 2040) the actuarial model shows that there will be just over 11,000 male members, showing that the cohort will be well balanced with 20 per cent females.*

Mr. WJW McAuley (Member no. 28300) wanted to recognise that 50-Year members have earned their way and paid for the privilege having contributed approximately \$32k to the Club.

Natural attrition will make this contribution at 70 years of age any financial manifestation will disappear in the 30 years anyway, what will the net dollar gain if adopted, and does the Club really need that money?

*The Chairman advised that these changes are being made not for money but for fairness. The Committee do not believe that the \$15 subscription is right, and wanted to calibrate the benefit to what is more reasonable by modern standards, with 50 per cent discount being fair.*

Mr. Thomas Swinburne (Member no. 26861 - online)

Mr. Swinburne asked if any thought had been made to the likelihood of legal challenges being made by males who are on the waitlist in 1983/84 however will be ineligible for membership due to their age.

*The Chairman advised that he does not believe that this is correct as these males were not barred from putting their names down on the waitlist when they were born. The Chairman wanted to make it clear that the Rules are not being changed regarding when males are becoming 50-Year members.*

Mrs. Marea O'Brien (Member no. 122177) asked when female members who will become part of the 50-Year membership cohort will be notified about their entitlements etc.

*The Chairman responded that he wanted the motion to be passed first before confirming any further information.*

Mr. Gerard Mahoney (Member no. 4987) commented that a survey was completed for drinking in seats, however members were not surveyed on 50-Year membership changes.

*The Chairman noted that he has had many conversations with 50-Year members and surveys were completed across the membership cohort.*

Mr. Mahoney noted that he did not have an issue with the lady's tickets being transferred as they were paid for, however he believed that most women were Restricted members and could be over 15 years away from being a Full member. He implied that something was happening behind the scenes to get women to Full members earlier.

*The Chairman noted that all the women eligible to achieve 50-Year membership as part of this motion are currently Full members. The Chairman noted that women became Full members in their own right off the waiting list in 2002.*

Mr. Mahoney asked if the Committee thought about reducing the payment of members who are 60 years or 70 years of membership as they will not be able to attend as much and not earning a full income. Also potentially discounts to be offer a Restricted member, not a non-member (i.e. social).

*The Chairman advised that the Committee did not think that adding layers of complexity was warranted or appropriate by adding different memberships, therefore social membership was the best option.*



Mr. George Swinburne (Member no. 9960) wanted to mention that the MCC is the greatest Club and sporting stadium in the world and a great privilege to be a member. Will the same facilities be available for 50-Year members, including the John Landy Room and N42 seats?

*The Chairman confirmed that the Club will look to increase the area and facilities for 50-Year members and have instructed management to ensure that the facility copes with the increase and provides a good service. The Chairman detailed the John Landy Room benefits for 50-Year members.*

Mr. Swinburne also noted that he is a 50-Year member of the RACV and noted all his benefits.

Mr. Ian Jackson (Member no. 23829) noted that the \$15 year subscription fee needed changing and accepted this. He wanted to know if there was consideration of a lesser increase to the 50-Year membership fee, i.e. 25 per cent increase based on the age of members who won't attend or utilise the facilities.

*The Chairman repeated the detail on 50-Year membership attendance and that there is a high percentage of attendance for this cohort.*

*The Committee did consider many options, and it is a challenging issue that the Committee did not want to deal with every 10 to 15 years - the Committee wanted to set a fee that was sensible and would be fair and sustainable.*

Mr. Anthony Leach (Member no. 77212 - online) appreciated the need to change, however wanted to know why the Club would not quarantine existing 50-Year members, when he feels that asking 70, 80 year olds for this kind of payment isn't fair.

*The Chairman advised that the Committee did consider grandfathering, however doing this on a token subscription when the Club has such high marginal costs wasn't a great strategy. It also was felt by the Committee that members will be paying a token subscription when others will never be able to, it would be divisive and not fair.*

Dr. John Henley (Member no. 12980 - online) noted that by refusing to split the items in the motion the Committee has prevented members voting for certain items that they do not want to vote on at all. Why?

*The Chairman stated that it is not logical to have a motion to include a category in the Club Rules, but not have the motion included to set fees. In respect to the female cohort, this is a package, the Committee wanted to address the gender issue in this motion.*

Mr. John McKernan (Member no. 23848) stated that he could not understand how it was fair that his son had to wait for 50 years to be a 50-Year member, however his daughter only had to wait 38 years.

*The Chairman noted that he has detailed all this information previously and was not going to repeat all the information on the rationale again.*

Ms. Claire Elliot (Member no. 47680 - online) asked why not return to the 75 per cent level as originally decided in the 1960s, why should other members subsidise wealthy 50-Year members?

*The Chairman noted that the Committee wanted to recognise 50-Year members for their loyalty and a 50 per cent discount is a fair discount for current and future members.*

Ms. Cheryl Slocombe (Member no. 6738) asked if the Club has considered if the women in the cohort aren't allowed to be 50-Year members there could be legal discrimination.

*The Chairman advised that if we left the subscription fee at \$15 then the Club would be open to a challenge - moving to 50 per cent changes that assessment.*

*He also noted that this is another reason that the motions are interrelated and can't be separated.*

Mr. Gerard McKernan (Member no. 26851) noted he is confused about asking members to vote for some people who are 50-Year members and some who aren't.

*The Chairman said that he would prefer to use the words "that a cohort of women who were discriminated against years ago have been accelerated into the 50-Year classification".*

Mr. Ian Munro (Member no. 6703 - online) asked if any consideration had been given to the male members who gave up their guest ticket and expediting their 50-Year member journey.

*The Chairman advised that this had not been considered as they were not discriminated against*

Ms. Amanda McNeill (Member no. 222935) asked about Social membership and wanted to clarify if these members will need to purchase a ticket for themselves and their guest. Does the companion ticket for disabled members get in for free, given that it is a government benefit?

*The Chairman confirmed that the member and the guest do need to purchase a visitor ticket, however if the guest is a companion card holder, then this will be a free ticket to the event.*

Ms. McNeil also asked will the 50-Year member (from the female cohort) who attends the AFL Grand Final still get all the 50-Year member benefits.

*The Chairman confirmed that these benefits will still be available for 50-Year members, including the females.*

Mr. Anthony Johnson (Member no. 154181) wanted to congratulate the Committee on reflecting this sensitive matter and responding to societal change. He asked if the Committee considered the risks of not making these changes.

*The Chairman felt as though he covered the majority of risks, but wanted to note that the long term sustainability of the 50-Year membership arrangement was the biggest risk. The financial risk is not immediate, however the Committee wanted to be fair. He also noted that the 50-Year membership not being detailed in the Club Rules is a significant risk to the Club.*

Mr. Steven Kambouris (Member no. 52334 - online) noted that the change relating to rule 5.6b, introducing a Social membership, represents a big change in member privileges, and asked are there plans in place to ensure that members don't do this without knowing the changes.

*The Chairman advised that management will ensure that the Club speaks to each member that changes to a Social membership, ensuring that they understand the change and what their privileges will be, removing any confusion along the way.*

Mr. John Grace (Member no. 1809) stated that he did not agree with allowing people to be 50-Year members when they haven't served 50 years of membership.

*The Chairman felt that he has given enough information on this topic and in line with modern times, the Club needed to deal with discriminations of the past.*

Mr. Andrew Blair (Member no. 39524) congratulated the Committee on the package and particularly the inclusivity and benefits to women. His question was in regards to the fairness of the ranks within the 50-Year membership and has the Committee considered that some members have had the benefit of discounts for 15 years and some have only had a couple of years discount.

*The Chairman noted that this is a fair question, however when dealing with these types of matters, the Committee wanted to take a forward looking perspective. The Committee respects that some people have benefited more than others in the past but wanted to move on.*

Mr. Joseph Canny (Member no. 72191 - online) stated that he thought that the Provisional and Restricted member intake is increasing at a greater rate than the projected 50-Year membership and wouldn't this offset the impact of the proposal.

*The Chairman noted that the Committee did not want to get into cross subsidies and it wouldn't be fair to charge new members more so that longer term members get benefits. Subscriptions are set based on the benefits received.*

Member\* wanted clarification of the \$15 Social membership and what would stop any future committees from changing this price or cut out the membership.

*The Chairman advised that this type of information does not usually go into the Club Rules, it is a Committee discretionary decision. It was noted that this is detailed in the minutes of the AGM for future reference.*

*The Chairman clarified that the Social membership does not include Category 1 games, AFL Finals or Days 1 or 2 of the Boxing Day Test.*

\* Member did not state member name or number

Mr. Michael Pianta (Member no. 115259) asked if the actuarial modelling factored in the price increase of the 50-Year membership to 50 per cent and if members were opting out of the membership.

*The Chairman advised that this was not modelled as the actuarial modelling was completed to project what the future membership intake would look like.*

Mr. Robert Galbraith (Member no. 113129 - online) asked given the size of the waitlist, won't the number of 50-Year members' decrease?

*The Chairman said that this is not correct, as the wait time is currently 17 years to Provisional membership, however this will grow significantly over time. The Chairman wanted to reiterate that the Full member cohort will stay at the same level (same amount of members).*

The Chairman asked for the motion to be projected on the screen for all members to see. The Chairman read out the motion and rule changes, which were moved and seconded, then put to the meeting for consideration.

The Chairman declared the voting open and informed that at the AGM, a 66.6 per cent majority is required.

Results are shown on the screen to all. The Chairman stated that votes have been cast and the 66.6 per cent majority has been achieved, with 73.82% voting in favour.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Reappointment of auditors**

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

### **8.2 Questions**

The Chairman opened up general questions from the floor and online.

Mr. William Freeman (Member no: 36681) asked why the couches in the Long Room are not ticketed for matches.

*Mr. Mark Anderson responded that management have received similar comments from members, however we did not want the Long Room couches to have lines and set up as per outside seating. Management are monitoring this operation and will change if it does become an issue moving forward.*

Mr. Peter Bell (Member no. 34420) asked if the Club had set a record in regards to attendance at the AGM.

*The Chairman confirmed that this was correct.*

Mr. Bell commented that with drinking in seats within the Reserve, he had witnessed two men kicked out due to intoxication and poor behaviour, so was disappointed that drinking in seats was occurring. Mr. Bell also asked about an assault that was reported as occurring at the MCG and if this assault had been in the Members' Reserve.

*Mr. Stuart Fox responded that this incident occurred in the Olympic Stand, not the Members' Reserve, and did not have any further information that he could disclose.*

Mr. David Berry (Member no. 13346) noted that some of the Members' Dinners are the best dinners in the world and felt that there was a trend of speakers being announced late. He thought that the speakers' names should be promoted earlier.

*The CEO took this comment on board, mentioning that at times speakers take a lot of convincing to talk at these functions.*

Mr. Colin Young (Member no. 13181 - online) has requested a ballot under the clause 10.4(c) under the Club Rules.

Mr. Anderson also noted that another member online had requested a ballot – Mrs. Roslyn Humphreys (Member no. 103397 – online).

*The Chairman clarified that 10.4(c) under the Club Rules, that when a motion is passed at the AGM, a member is entitled to propose under this Rule if we have 30 members or more that would like this motion to be sent to all Full members of the Club, instead of the attendees of the AGM.*

The Chairman then requested members online and in the room to vote on the Lumi system.

The Chairman declared the voting open on this matter. He explained how to vote on this motion.

The Chairman announced that there were over 30 members supporting the vote being completed by all members. That this motion had passed.

### **Continuation of questions**

\*Member wanted to discuss drinking in seats in the Members' Reserve. He felt that there have been a few minor incidents and he would like to address that members are able to be responsible citizens. He felt like this is working well and the issues have been blown out of proportion by the media. The member wanted to know what the Club is doing to find alternative dining arrangements and deal with the large demand for dining.

\* Member did not state member name or number

*The CEO advised that the goal has been to increase dining options, such as the refurbishment of the Hugh Trumble Café, with more outside dining available. It was also mentioned that there will be two new dining facilities within the Members' Reserve over the next couple of years and the restaurants surrounding the MCG and in the city are doing well off the back of our events.*

Mr. Jeremy Wood (Member no. 32718) asked would the Committee consider the option for members to table questions to the Committee directly and responded to with them to be circulated to the membership base so they are aware of the Committee's views.

*The Chairman advised that anything that is directly sent to the Committee and deemed relevant, the Chairman answers personally via phone or email. At every monthly Committee meeting correspondence is tabled that needs to be brought to the Committee's attention.*

*The Chairman noted that he will look at a more structured option.*

Mr. Mark Burt (Member no. 216818 - online) asked if the Committee would consider external change rooms that would allow for cyclists to change into appropriate attire, or for members who come to games from work and allow them to change into correct clothing.

*The CEO noted that we will not be able to build facilities in the Yarra Park, however we are looking at some outward facing toilets and change rooms in the redevelopment project.*

Mr. Neil Oliver (Member no. 24722) asked about pitch invasions and what the Club is doing to stop these.

*The CEO noted that social media has created more pitch invasions as people like to boast and promote doing so. He said that the Club treats this matter extremely seriously and has many things in place to try and stop these. They are fined by the Government and we will continue to work on stopping these occurring.*

Mr. David Lanigan (Member no. 4914) wanted to know why members who leave a bar to head to the toilet, and the example given was the Percy Beames Bar, are being asked to re-join the queue. He mentioned that this is very disappointing as they should be able to return to the bar with ease.



*Mr. Josh Eltringham responded that this is an area that is being worked through with staff. The Club would like this to be an easy process for members, returning to the bar without queuing. Mr. Eltringham noted that we have a number of new staff and labor shortages and this will improve with time.*

Mr. Keith Christie (Member no. 3289) wanted to report that over the past two weeks alcohol affected members have invaded the 50-Year member room and it has not been a nice experience.

*The CEO recommended that members tell nearby event staff that this issue is occurring and implored the members to report it and get it fixed immediately. He noted that this will be a focus for the event staff moving forward.*

*The Chairman also noted that disciplinary matters will continue to be communicated to members in newsletters on what the trends are.*

Mr. Lachlan Sear (Member no. 71724) asked what the Committee's thoughts were on the lack of parking at the MCG and what is the loss of revenue?

*The CEO advised that car parking is a real issue for the Club, there are safety issues within the park land, particularly when it is raining. It can be a dangerous situation and the Club works with Victoria Police closely on safety. The weather determines when it is open and closed, which can be frustrating. The Club has lost some revenue from the loss of car parking and have discussed with Government to replace the revenue. The Club is also looking at increasing parking for people with disabilities and are working with Richmond Football Club on an option. The Yarra Park Master Plan will hopefully address some of these issues and provide more options.*

Mr. WJW McAuley (Member no. 28300) asked about the Club having an anti-terrorist plan with Victoria police and drone policies.

*The Chairman noted that the Club has to be careful about how much is said about these issues as they are confidential and the Committee are actively talking to authorities about risk management, inclusive of drones.*

Ms. Amanda McNeill (Member no. 222935) asked if seating could be provided for members with mobility issues at the Committee Room end of the Long Room. Can the Club look at adding seats at this end, within the Long Room?

*The CEO advised that we would take this on notice for management to review and assess.*

Mr. Jason McSpeerin (Member no. 77397) asked was there any consideration for different ticketing requirements for AFL Grand Final, any fully ticketed options?

*The CEO advised that we did review all options for AFL Finals, and management have listened to the members and there is both strong preference for both reserved and unreserved seating. The Club wants to protect this option moving forward.*

Mr. Joseph Canny (Member no. 72191) stated that he felt that dress standards have dropped within the Reserve and asked what is the Club doing to monitor these standards and how will they be addressed?

*The CEO noted that this does challenge the Club and we continue to monitor the standards and staff are continuously briefed on the requirements.*

Mr. Graham Daff (Member no.16588) made a statement about being a member for 20 years, and wanted to note that the MCC facilities and privileges are not available everywhere and paying a membership is not a burden.

*The Chairman thanked the member for his comments.*

The Chairman advised that the Club will look to move quickly and orchestrate the postal vote for all eligible voting members completed as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED..... CHAIRMAN

DATE .....

#### A.G.M. APOLOGIES - 2022

Surname	Christian Name	Membership No.
Wood	Karen	12595
Crawford	David	14357
Crawford	Maureen	82509
Long	Norma	20544