

Chair's Report on 2016

What a fantastic time to become chair again! During my absence a well-established committee has built a strong financial foundation, a new coach has been appointed and he and his team have helped increase the number of members and, last but not least, an agreement has been reached with the Bathurst Estate to grant us a new, thirty-year lease and permission to make changes that will enhance our enjoyment of the Club. Hugh Yarrow, Katie Ballard and Paul Harris prepared the final presentation that got us over the line.

The committee now has to deliver on those opportunities. In order to do this, we have established a small team of committee members which has already started work. We would like to have been further on but we have only just received the draft lease, which is being reviewed by our lawyers. Part of the reason for the delay has been the illness to our landlord, Earl Bathurst, and I'm sure the members join me in wishing him a full recovery. We will keep everybody informed of the progress of the work. To close this section of my report I am pleased to say that the new lease does not require anybody to act as guarantor for the rent during its term, as was the case for the original lease. I'm happy to express the Club's gratitude to John Hardymont and James Trumper who took on that sizeable financial burden back in 1993.

As at most AGM's, we announce the departure of a committee member this year.

Paul Hargreaves has been on the committee for ten years, starting with the Chair of the Junior Sub-Committee and then Men's Captain for the last eight years. As he pointed out, he has worked with three different Chairs, and I am sure that the other two will have been as grateful for all his efforts for the Club as I have been.

Hugh Yarrow formally resigned two years ago but has been carrying out the Treasurer's role "in the background". He finally bows out properly this year and we thank him again for the work he has carried out on our behalf. I am pleased to say that we have nominations for the two positions and look forward to working with the members appointed in the future.

At this stage I would also like to mention Doug Emmott, who for many years has organised the daytime rollups at the club. I understand that he is no longer able to offer his services and I would like to thank him for being the sort of member who helps out at the club in an unsung way.

Finally, I would like to thank this year's committee for continuing the hard work that enables the Club to run smoothly. It's not normally appropriate to single out members, given that it is a team effort, but this year I do have to draw attention to Mike Taylor and Paul Wheeler who have been responsible for two major changes in the way we operate – our membership and court booking systems. The move to ClubSparks has involved a lot of hard work over and above their normal duties and I am delighted with the way the club members took to the new systems, allowing for the normal glitches that always occur when any new system is adopted. In addition to this and his website duties, Paul also established a very successful singles table.

Finally, finally, I ask you all to remember that this is a members' Club and the volunteer committee can only respond and react to matters of which they are aware, so please let us know about your concerns or any suggestions so that we can all look forward to a really exciting 2017.

arp 13/11/2016