President’s Report

Well another season has come and gone!

Season 2016 has been a very strong one for the Wodonga Hockey Club with many significant accomplishments coming to the fore. These have only been possible due to the building blocks that have been strategically positioned over the last couple of years and is a direct result of a lot of work and commitment by not only this year’s Executive, Committee Members, and our many volunteers, but also over the last couple years! By working as one we have been able to continue on our journey in making the Wodonga Hockey Club a Club of “choice” providing an “experience” that attracts new players as well as sponsors that results in growing hockey participation.

It would be a miss of me if I didn’t to start by thanking my fellow Committee Members, in particular the exceptional Executive Committee i.e. Della Poppins, Vanessa Flanagan, Glenn Delaney, and Melissa Pontt for their unwavering support and assistance during 2016. There is no doubt the Committee has worked extremely hard to ensure we remain a strong, inclusive, community orientated, and professionally ran sporting organization that has the best interests of its Members at the center of everything it does. And like previous years, we have also tried to make it fun along the way!

As many of you know, an enormous amount of effort goes on behind the scenes to make this Club function smoothly. Once again our Club has been very fortunate to have had Vanessa Flanagan fill the role of Club Secretary. There is no doubt that Vanessa’s contribution to the Club, not only this season but the last couple, has significantly contributed to the Clubs efficient and smooth running. Her passion for this Club and desire for it to be successful cannot be questioned. I would like to thank Vanessa for her support and encouragement whilst I have filled the role of President over the past three years.

This season Melissa Pontt took on the challenging role of Club Treasurer – under the guidance of previous Treasurer Glenn Delaney. Mel has done an incredible job and she should be proud of her efforts in guiding the Clubs finances this season. A key objective was the ongoing refinement of the newly adopted fee collection processes. Mel achieved this plus more. Mel also took on the challenging responsibility of rolling our new uniforms and merchandise. An experience she won’t forget in a hurry but one appreciated by all Club members.

I will leave the announcement of the Clubs financial results to Mel, but wish to say I’m very pleased with the year-end position, and that it is a reflection on this Committees hard work and strong financial control. The Club has never been in a stronger financial position. This is critical if we are to maintain our freedom in respect to forming future Club direction.

I would also like to call out both Della, as Vice President, and Glenn Delany, for their terrific support and guidance over the season to both myself and the wider committee.

To each of the other members of the Committee, all our Coaches and Managers, players, parents, and volunteers, thank you all very much for all of your time and effort. The Club cannot function as well as it has, or driven it’s self forward in a positive direction, if not for all of us working together as one. You have all done a terrific job!

Club sponsors remain critical to Clubs ability to function and to create a “financial foundation” which enables the Committee to formulate strategies that enables us to grow our sport. As in the previous couple of years, the Club has been very deliberate in ensuring any “partnership” we enter in to with remains *mutually rewarding* for both entities. This will ensure longevity in the partnership.

To this end I would thank all of our significant 2016 Club sponsors i.e. Blazing Stump, Linfox Australia, Quest Apartments Wodonga, Signs By Knight, Hume Bank, Norske Skog and Aspire. I would also like to thank all the businesses who got behind our players this season in the form of individual player sponsorships. Without our sponsors, all of what has been achieved over the last few years would not have been possible.

In 2016 the Committee has worked very hard at embedding a number of activities put in to place over the previous couple of years, as well rolling out further initiatives to drive the Club forward and to make this progressive sporting organization a ‘Club of Choice.’

The 2016 initiatives have included;

* Reducing junior fees to only $75 – includes registration, insurance, affiliation, game fees, training fees and a new uniform
* Further increased our sponsorship base over the 2016 season – adding Aspire to the table
* Rolling out a new playing uniform for all members at minimal cost – built in a new uniform replacement program to the fee structure
* Re-affirmed our commitment to “Registration Under the Stars” event at the Cube in Wodonga
* Conducted our first pre-season training camp for the Div. 1 Women
* Once again increased Club profile by advertising on a billboard in Melrose Drive
* Fine-tuned our registration process – incorporating game fees in to the overall registration process – further enhancing our web site for on line registration and payments
* Club participated in the Albury Wodonga Relay for Life
* Undertook a very successful 2016 Hookin2 Hockey program
* Participated in the Wodonga City Councils Children Fair
* Grew our Facebook followers to now an unbelievable 856 followers!
* Increased our financial support for our Clubs junior State representatives
* Successful conducted or annual Trivia/Silent Night auction, Dave Chandler Cup, Junior and Senior Presentations, Junior “Get Together”, Life Member Communication session, fund raising BBQ’s, and Club Day

Further to the above listed items, I also wanted to specifically call out;

1. Finalist in the 2016 Hockey Victoria Community Club of Year Award – terrific recognition for the Clubs efforts in being an active member within the Community it resides in.
2. Growth of Border Indoor Hockey – this Club created competition continues to grow in playing numbers, attract new players to our game, increase skills of those participating, and importantly create an on-going revenue stream. Encouragingly, we have seen participation grow from 80 players in 2014 to 140 this summer. I ask all members to support this competition as it’s critical to our growth plans.
3. Increased Playing Numbers - The Committee is proud to say that key initiatives around increased media publicity, the Indoor competition, working closely with HV Road Show and local schools, and providing more competitive junior registration fees (only possible due to our increased sponsorship base line), has delivered for the third year in a row growth in our playing numbers, especially juniors – the life blood of our Club. This season we were able to field a team in all junior and senior divisions/age groups, standing independently.
4. Clubs Financials – The Committee is very proud to announce a significant profit once again for the third year in a row. The Club has been able to improve its overall financial position compared to last year whilst at the same time increasing our services to our playing members, as well as decreasing playing costs for our Juniors, U9’s and H2H children. This has been possible by providing disciplined financial control, increasing our sponsorship base, as well as successfully applying for a number of grants.

Please refer to Clubs Treasurer Report for details.

On the subject to the Wodonga Hockey Centre, the Committee continues to work with both HAW and the City Council on ensuring we have a suitable a playing surface. As you will be aware we missed out on recently announced funding by the Wodonga City Council as it continues to try and engineer a solution around its Baranduda Fields Sporting Precinct. The Club remains committed to its Wodonga presence and this fact is recognized by both HAW and the City Council. The Executive continues to work “alongside” both HAW and the Council to ensure the best outcome for its members.

I was honored to be President of this wonderful Club for the 2016 season and to work alongside a terrific Committee which is made up of some of the most passionate hockey people you could ever meet. The Wodonga Hockey Club is an amazing Club. A Club which is based around fun, family, and fair. I wish the in-coming Committee of 2017 all the best in their endeavors to make this Club an even better one!!

Go Doggies!!

Kyle Brereton

President | Wodonga Hockey Club