

Hoppers Sports News

The official Newsletter of the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club
Summer 2008



President's Report

By Darren Hellmann

On behalf of the Board of the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club, I hope this Summer Edition of the newsletter finds all our members in good health.

Netball finals are upon us, the cricketers are preparing for their short Christmas break, the footballers are already on the training track, the golfers have completed their rounds and the fish have been biting. More detailed reports from our Member Clubs are contained further on in this newsletter and I encourage you to read them to keep up to date with what is happening in YOUR Club.

The highlight of our social calendar, the 6th Annual Hoppers Crossing Sports Club Ball and Awards Night will be held on Saturday 21 February 2009 at the Italian Sports Club. The cost for the night is \$55 per person and includes a sumptuous 3 course meal, beer, wine, soft drinks, and entertainment. The HCSC substantially subsidizes this event so we encourage all our members to come along and enjoy what will be a great night as we recognize the contributions of many of the worthy volunteers within our Member Clubs. Ticket enquiries can be directed to either myself or our friendly staff.

The Board of the HCSC continues to work diligently to ensure the best possible facilities are provided to our Members. We have recently provided more food options to try to overcome the fact that we do not have a bistro at this stage. We have also purchased a Cappuccino machine which is proving popular with the customers, as well as supplying more ventilation to our outdoor lounge making this area even more comfortable. By the time you read this there will be new signage installed on Hogans Road and outside the venue entrance which we hope will make our venue even more popular and increase our membership and profitability, thus being able to pass on even more benefits to our Members.

We have also re-worked our membership structure which means we are able to offer significantly discounted membership packages for those members wishing to commit to membership of the HCSC over a longer period. We trust that this new offer will be taken up by the majority of our Members and more details are contained within this mail out.

Our new membership cards will include special discounts available to all Members and we encourage you to support these businesses wherever possible, as well as any other sponsors of our Member Clubs and businesses that chose to advertise on the dedicated TV screens within the Clubrooms. There are great offers available to advertise on our Multiscreen TV for less than \$1 per day so if you are interested please contact one of the duty managers and they will assist you.

The Club recently held its 3rd Annual Charity Golf Day which proved to be a great success, with over \$7000 being raised on the day. Just on 100 golfers (we use that term lightly) were treated to a good day at Melton Valley Golf Club with the winning team being the Hollingsworth's. This years NAGA Award was won by the group from K&G Cartons. We would like to thank all Members and Sponsors that supported this year's event, especially major sponsor Kerry McDonald from Patios and Screens Direct.

The proceeds from the Charity Golf Day were distributed amongst the local Service Clubs. \$1000 was donated to the Apex Clubs of Werribee and Hoppers Crossing and the Lions Club of Werribee, whilst \$1200 was donated to the Rotary Clubs of Werribee, Wyndham, Hoppers Crossing, and Laverton/Point Cook for the purchase of Shelterboxes which contain emergency supplies (food, blankets, medical supplies etc) which are dropped into areas where they are needed when disasters occur.

The Board continues to have ongoing discussions with Wyndham Council regarding the relocation of our change rooms to an area between the two ovals so we are able to commence with stage two of our development which will involve a Bistro and improved social areas for our Members. As mentioned in previous reports, the changing landscape of the Gaming Industry has thrown future plans into uncertainty to

a degree but we continue to move forward towards our long term goal and we are currently preparing a business plan to submit to WCC which we hope will persuade them to commit to our change rooms in the next Capital Works budget. We fully appreciate the importance of developing our amenities into the future for the betterment of all our Members.

As a Sporting Club, we continue to work with WCC to ensure our grounds are in the best condition possible, which is a very difficult task given the current drought conditions. Please be assured that much work is being put into ensuring that we can supply acceptable grounds to facilitate the many teams involved in Football and Cricket. Thanks to Greg King for his ongoing work in this area.

It is with regret that we advise that Martin Beekes, our General Manager of the last 12 months is moving on with his family to take up a significant role in Country Victoria. Martin has been involved in making many significant changes to the Club during his short time with us, and we can move forward knowing that much of the hard work has been done over the last year to raise the standards and image of our Club.

I would like to think, and I hope our Members agree, that the levels of service have improved in his time with us and our staff need to be congratulated for the way they have embraced the many changes that have taken place, some more difficult to accept than others. We wish Martin and his family all the best for the future.

As the holiday period approaches, we wish all our Members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Cricket Club

On behalf of the Committee of the Hoppers Crossing Cricket Club, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome new members to the club and hope that you enjoy your time at our great club. To our loyal band of returning members I trust you are all fit and ready for a charge at premiership glory.

A club as large as ours faces many challenges on and off the field. For us to continue to prosper, we need to maintain and develop the relationships with our sponsors and be able to attract new sponsors who reflect the values and ethos of our club. To this end, Josie McNamara and Darren Hellmann are to be commended on their endeavours in delivering a number of new sponsors for this season. In the tough world economic climate that we now face, their efforts have been truly remarkable.

To our sponsors, both new and existing, firstly thank you for your commitment and contribution to the club and I welcome your partnership with us as we strive to maintain and improve upon our success on the field of play. I remind our members to continually support our business partners whenever possible, for those new to the club, our sponsors are listed with more detail on our club website.

I trust all members have now taken the opportunity to have a detailed look and have added to their favourites, our new club website. The site is being continually updated and the work put in by our Website Manager David Marino has been sensational. The committee are extremely proud of the finished product. The website belongs to our members and as such if you have any suggestions for changes or things you feel should be added, please let David know.

The performances of our First XI thus far, apart from a hiccup in the first game, have been very commendable. To win the last couple of games on the trot have well established the side within the top two, giving us a good springboard leading up to the Christmas break. However, the performance from the side in our last match against Sunshine Druids, where the boys chased down a very imposing total of 327, with their reply of 5/431 in 83 overs was a truly remarkable effort. The win made even more remarkable by the batting efforts of Will Gardner with a great innings of 89 and Ian Timms with 209.

Ian's innings was by a fair margin the finest I personally have witnessed at this level of cricket. To add to the theatre of the occasion he also broke the long standing individual club batting record set way back in 1980/81 by Jeff Neal of 208. Timmsy has proven himself one of the clubs finest players over his career at Hoppers, so this is a great reward for his efforts to now "own" this record. I am sure all would join me in congratulating Ian on his innings.

Games like that one can be season defining games, they can give the side some impetus when things are not going well, only to think back to their efforts during the Druids game to give the side a lift, knowing that the teams best efforts are good enough to beat any opposition on the day. Lets hope the side can use this game as a base for more record breaking achievements as the season progresses.

Our remaining senior sides, from the 2nds to the 7ths, with the exception of the 3rds, who this season are in a much tougher grade having been pitted against other clubs 1sts, are all well placed and if they can maintain their present form, should go into the break well placed.

I would like congratulate the new coaching team on their efforts thus far. Captain/Coach Trent Said has developed a great rapport with the playing group, gaining their respect very early into his coaching tenure (could get better at names though, just ask Jason Mitchell!).

The efforts put in by Trent's assistants Shane McEachran, Shaun Borlase, Craig Swan and Colin Baynes have also contributed to the great atmosphere around the club, particularly at training sessions.

The condition of the grounds, most notably the number two oval continues to be a major talking point, even to the extent of gaining some media attention in recent weeks. The ground, albeit bereft of grass coverage, continues to be deemed safe to play on, thus we will continue to do so, whilst constantly monitoring the surface. The effects of the drought continue to bite hard however the efforts of the committee, the Sports Club board and the council to try and maintain our playing surfaces have been extensive, so your continued support and understanding throughout this period is well noted and appreciated.

The club welcomes this season's visitors from the UK, Stuart Rose and Oliver Freckingham. Both boys have settled in well and are popular members of the playing group. My sincerest thanks also must be extended to Peter Breadmore and his wife Sue for taking the boys into their home and making them feel part of their family. This is a huge commitment, and without the generosity of people such as Pete and Sue we could not continue to offer this experience to our overseas guests.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the excellent work being conducted by our junior committee, led by Junior Administrator Russell Latham. With many issues to confront considering the size of our junior program, their efforts go largely unrewarded, however without the hard working dedication of these guys, this club would not be able to continue to produce the talented batch of youngsters filtering through to our senior ranks.

As most people would be aware, the club sustained a devastating act of vandalism in October which resulted in the curators shed being burnt down. The total cost of the replacement of the shed and contents has gone well into the vicinity of \$80,000+, and fortunately most of it was covered by insurance however the inconvenience caused by delays in replacing everything has been felt by all in the club. What possesses people to do things like that astounds me, but I must thank the Werribee Police for their efforts in trying to find the culprits, and to those who also helped with the cleanup and replacements of goods, thank you.

Let's hope the remainder of the season continues to produce winning results.

Steve McNamara
HCCC President

Angling Club

The fishing Club have had a late start to the season due to the bad weather and have been limited in our opportunities to get out on the water.

We did make amends when the boys fished off Mt Eliza on the 6th December, with two boats departing from Patterson River and both catching plenty of good sized snapper. Gary Hovey bagged out with yours truly landing a 4.5kg snapper and it was one of the best days we have had at the Angling Club.

Be watching the notice board for upcoming trips.

Membership of \$25 is now due so get it to me as soon as possible please.

A special thanks to everybody for their support in the raffle for Stan Davidson, especially those who took responsibility for selling tickets and those people/Clubs who donated slabs such as the Sports Club, Angling Club, Golf Club, Football Club, and Cricket Club.

Football Club

This year was a tough year all round for the football club both on and off the field. Our preseason was restricted by ground issues with the Council not allowing any football club to do a preseason on Council facilities until late February. This was very frustrating for both the seniors and juniors with the seniors having to train all over the place and the juniors not able to start until early March.

On top of the late start to our preseason and oval no 2 being unplayable for games, our main oval was closed for a month after Round 7 which really logistically was a huge nightmare for the committee and coaches.

But I can tell you when the going gets tough, the tough get going and the extra workload that the committee and some members took on was a real credit to their commitment to still provide an avenue for our members to play football.

We were fortunate that during the month the seniors were not fixtured to play at home but we needed to find grounds for seven/eight junior games each weekend. We moved games to Price Reserve Werribee South, Warringa Cres Reserve and Lawrie Emmins Reserve in Laverton North. We also did move some games away to other clubs which was our only option to at least allow for the games to go ahead.

In this month the additional workload people took on was huge with members having to meet at Hogans Rd at 6.00 am on the Sundays to load up their cars and head in every direction to set up the other grounds and canteen facilities (although these were limited). Then of course they needed to come back to Hogans Rd to put everything back.

I really want to thank the following people who did all this for you;

Mick Matthews-Mallia, Racael Munn, Andrew Calleca, Amanda Taverndale, Les and Ros Dickson, Glenn Outten, Stan Kodric, Vince Jansen, John Tselepis, Luke Phipps, Adam Taylor, Janine Grubb, Sam Pruscino and Liisa Vann. (I hope I didn't forget anyone, if I did I apologise).

This really could have financially disadvantaged the club however the committee decided to host the junior finals for two weeks at Croft Reserve, also ran the canteen at the club when the Sports Club had the fights and ran a sausage sizzle at Safeway one Saturday. This was additional workload that the same members took on with Glenn Outten and Liisa Vann mainly looking after the canteen for the fight nights and Les, Ros, Sam, Glenn and Liisa on the sausage sizzle at Safeway.

It is a real credit to this year's committee/workers/members that despite the games lost and revenue that could have been lost from the canteen, the club still managed to make a surplus for the year.

The water restrictions may get worse before they get better. The uncertainty around what will happen if the State Government increases the water restrictions from stage 3A is a concern and the unknown factor is what impact that will have on all sporting grounds in Melbourne.

In 2008 we did not win a flag in either the juniors or seniors but the following no doubt adversely affected our on field performance/preparation;

- Limited preseason
- Restricted training for all sides with some nights four junior sides training on the no 2 oval at the same time.
- Under 14s down training one night a week for most of the season
- Injuries (which I will mention later on)

Overall though whilst on field success didn't come there were some real positives that came out of the season. To name a few;

- The strong performance at the business end of the season by the Under 18As. Of the 25 players in the Preliminary Final side, 19 are still eligible for the Under 18s next season. This is a sound basis to work on in 2009 for the Under 18s and seniors.
- This year there were 38 players who played seniors with 17 of these under 22. Well over half of the 38 players came up through our juniors which is great to see.
- In the preseason we saw 5 of our players being offered contracts at Werribee FC to play VFL. This is encouraging to us as a club and shows that the senior match committee and junior coaches are developing our players to play at a higher level.
- Although the Under 14As lost the Grand Final they will know they were good enough to win the game. They played Williamstown Juniors four times during the year and they won 2 of these games.

- After a poor start to the year for the Under 16As they finished the season strongly and just missed out on the finals but they defeated St Bernards on the run home who were the premiers. The 16C's also had a strong season making it to the Preliminary Final.

I could go on but needless to say there are real positives for the club moving on.

The Seniors had an indifferent start to the year and after round 6 were outside the five. A stronger performance in the second half of the season saw them play finals. Whilst they lost the Elimination Final their effort was encouraging.

The depth of our senior list this year was tested with 14 players all out injured come the finals. Some of these injured players were critical if we were to be successful this year and we really missed players such as Chris Barry, Andrew Venner, a fit Doug Thomas, Daniel Jensen, Shannon Downey, and Robbie Evans and so on.

I have no doubt that with Michael Frost at the helm again in 2009 as senior coach that he is the right person for the job.

I want to really thank all our sponsors this year for being the financial backbone of the club. Westpoint Ford was again our major sponsor. To Chris Byrne and his team at Westpoint, thank you and I really hope that one day when ever someone things of the HCFC, they think of Westpoint Ford at the same time.

Our other major sponsors in 2008 were PC Mobile Welding, Patios and Screens Direct, The Big Picture People, Rolling Bearings, Whitson Harrington & Associates, Outwest Concrete and Symmetry Physiotherapy. Thank you to you as well and I hope we have a long association.

On the Senior Presentation Night I was thrilled to announce the following inductees as life members;

- Andrew Whitson
- Brent Walker
- Adam Taylor

Andrew has served the club for over ten years. He was Treasurer and a valuable member of the committee and executive for 5 years. His astuteness helped guide the club in the right direction from a business sense and a vital support to me and previous presidents.

Both Brent and Adam played their 300th game for the club this year and have shown true courage and commitment to the HCFC.

One other award I want to mention is the Best Clubman for 2008. This year this was awarded to a well known identity at the Sports Club in Phil Gilotta. Congratulations Phil on receiving this award which was thoroughly deserved.

The junior presentation day this year was held at the club and was a great success and will continue in this same format next season.

I want to congratulate all trophy winners in the seniors and juniors but I believe all players are winners as they play this great game of ours.

To the 2008 committee, I really am so proud of your efforts this year. The extra workload you took on when we needed to and sacrifices you have made for the club is second to none. I want to thank you on behalf of all members, and myself personally, in particular your partners/families for putting up with you not being home for so many hours.

To the Season ahead in 2009, no stone will be left unturned in the quest to find the winning formula. Since the conclusion of the 2008 the football department headed by Shane Buckingham as Football Director has been laying the foundations for 2009. Also with Glenn Outten the Junior Administrator and Cameron Nicholls the Junior Coaching Coordinator, interviews have already begun for the junior coaches next year.

Good luck to the Steve McNamara and the Hoppers Crossing Cricket Club for the 2008/2009 season.

Netball Club

The current Netball season is drawing to a close with Opens (under 21), two Under 13 and two Under 11 teams competing in the Saturday morning competition at Mossfeil Reserve. The Opens (Panthers) were beaten in the Semi Finals but have improved on last year and the 13B side (Tigers) are in their first Grand Final. We wish them all the very best! The senior team playing Thursday night in Altona (Puma's) finished on top and are also in the Grand Final. Good luck to all our teams in the finals and well done to all girls that have represented the Club this season.

We are still looking for girls interested in playing Netball on Saturday mornings, as well as coaches and anyone interested in helping out. We are keen to get an Under 15 side playing next season which starts early February 2009. Interested persons can contact either Maxine 0425753651 or Carolyn 0406499623.

Our Christmas break-up/presentation day/AGM was held at the rotunda opposite the Sports Club on Saturday 7 December and it was a good turn out. Our executive remains unchanged but we have four new faces on the committee which is very encouraging.

Yours in Sport.

Darren Hellmann
President

Golf Club

The Hoppers Crossing Golf Club has wound up 2008 with its recent trip away and presentation night.

In November the trip away to Thurgoona (near Albury) was attended by some thirty-nine who enjoyed the luxury and comfort of a coach trip up and back. Both the course and accommodation were excellent. The weekend winner of the Sports Club Award was Shane Hall.

The Hoppers Crossing Club's Reggies outdoor area was the venue of the presentation night on a pleasant summer's evening. As usual, all awards were keenly contested with only a few points or less separating some players:

Club Champion	Paul Kirby
A Grade Winner	Deon Walker
B Grade Winner	Paul Kirby
Putts Champion	Brendan Sullivan

Season 2009 kicks off with our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14 January 2009 and our first game at Bacchus Marsh the following Sunday. New members are always welcome.

In closing, special thanks to Paul Hollingsworth and his Golf Club committee for organising the year, Darren Hellmann and his Sports Club committee for their continued support and all Sports Club members and guests for their support of our fundraising during the year.

Norm Gregan
Publicity Officer

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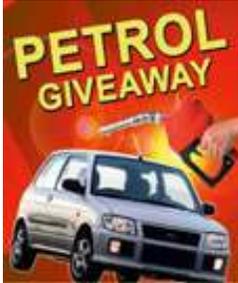
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MONDAYS



Petrol Giveaways
Win Petrol Vouchers
every Monday night
between 8pm – 9pm

WEDNESDAYS



Free Poker
Australian Poker
League presents Free
Poker at the HCSC
every Wednesday
night. Registration is
from 7pm, with game
commencing from
7:30pm.

THURSDAYS

Joker Poker
Pick the Joker and win
a great prize every
Thursday night
between 8pm – 9pm.



Mystery Prize
Win fabulous mystery
prizes every Thursday
night between 8pm –
9pm.



FRIDAYS

Members Night
Social club members
enjoy a great night of
fun with raffles and
draws from 8pm each
week.



SATURDAYS



Punters Club
Join the Punters Club
for only \$5 to be in the
running to win a great
prize! Race 3 to last
Melbourne race of the
day.

SUNDAYS



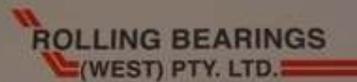
Free Poker
Australian Poker
League presents Free
Poker at HCSC every
Sunday night.
Registration is from
6pm, with the game
commencing from
6:30pm



Highs & Lows
Win great prizes every
Sunday night between
6pm – 10pm simply by
guessing the correct
sequence of numbers
that are generated on
the Bingo Board.



Experience
Melbourne's Finest
Leisure Centre



Shell Lubricants
Recommended
& Sold Here

