

Hoppers Sports News

The official Newsletter of the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club
Winter 2008



President's Report

By Darren Hellmann

There have certainly been some significant changes at the Club since our last newsletter and the AGM on the 31st March.

One of the most significant of these has been Staff changes. Since the start of the year we have bid farewell, for a variety of different reasons, to June, Vivienne, Jenny and Norma. All were employed for many years and were important people in the fabric of the Club and on behalf of the Board, Staff and Members of the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club I would like to wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We have a new Assistant Manager, Sharon Grech, starting with us and we are confident that some of our existing staff will recognize opportunities and step up and take more responsibility in the running of the Club. Martin and his staff continue to do a great job in serving our members.

The landscape of the Gaming Industry has changed dramatically over the last 6 months. For those members who are unaware, and without boring you with too many details, the Victorian Government has put an end to the duopoly enjoyed by Tabcorp and Tattersalls. This means that in August 2010 there will be an auction for the purchase of machine licenses as well as considerable costs involved in purchasing software. Clubs Victoria are currently lobbying the Government on behalf of Clubs to have a ceiling put on the amount of money Clubs will be charged to ensure their ongoing viability. Depending on their success, it is estimated it could cost the Club anywhere between \$1.9 to \$4 million dollars to maintain our current situation. There are still many issues to be resolved and much information to be obtained before we have a more accurate assessment on where we will end up and we will keep our members informed as further decisions are made that impact our situation.

The AGM held on 31st March was certainly an "interesting" affair. As a Board of Management, it is our responsibility to listen to the concerns of our members and make changes as are appropriate. There were many suggestions made, some realistic and achievable, some not so.

Having taken note of some recommendations, regular visitors to the Club would have noticed the new Plasma TV in the lounge for the watching of all sport on Fox Sports and Pay per View boxing matches. We have also moved the leather lounges from the outdoor lounge into the social area thus creating a comfortable area to relax in. Also, we have purchased a food machine allowing us to provide hot snacks within 5 minutes, and most significantly replaced our existing beer lines with a Glycol system. This will supply colder, better quality tap beer whilst minimizing loss and wastage. Cold tap beer is now available on match days from the back bar! More improvements are planned for the future as funds and opportunities present themselves.

As we are a Sporting Club, one of our main priorities is the condition of our grounds. We are most disappointed with the standard of both ovals at present and are putting as much pressure on Council as possible to work with us in finding a solution.

We continue to work towards having a meaningful time line for our planned extensions, although this has been made even more difficult to realize given the uncertainty surrounding the future

structure of the Gaming Industry and our position in it. The fact is that all Clubs in Victoria that had redevelopment plans have temporarily shelved them until they have more information regarding the future of the industry.

Regardless, we are about to aggressively lobby Wyndham Council to see what sort of assistance we can obtain in getting the first stage of development (new change rooms) to fruition. A business plan is currently being devised and new drawings being worked on. The Board fully appreciates the importance of developing our amenities into the future for the betterment of all our Members.

Good luck to all our Sporting Clubs in their on field and off field endeavours and please support them wherever possible.

I look forward to seeing you around the Club in the near future.

Netball Club

This season just completed saw us field 4 junior teams and one senior team in local competitions.

Our Open girls (under 21) and U13A's made the finals but were knocked out in the first week and our U13B's and U11's narrowly missed out.

The senior girls playing on Thursday nights in B Grade finished on top and have won their first final. Good luck to the girls for the rest of their campaign.

The new season for the juniors starts on Saturday 19th July and we are looking at growing the Club by inviting any girls that would like to play Netball in either Under 11, 13, 15 or Open grades to contact Carolyn on 0406499623 or Maxine on 0425753651.

Cricket Club

It has been a hectic off season for the club beginning with the recruitment of former Hoppers player and current North Melbourne CC 2nd XI captain, Trent Said as our new Captain / Coach, taking over the role vacated by David Tipper.

I would like to thank David for his endeavour and commitment to the club under trying circumstances last season, I am sure the club will bear the fruits of David's work for some time to come. I wish David every success in his future endeavours and hope he will be a regular around the club this season.

It has been a tremendous coup for the club to pick up a person of Trent's experience as both a player and coach, and at only 28 years of age, has many years of quality cricket ahead of him.

Another major plus for the club is the recent appointments of Shane McEachran as assistant coach (Bowling) and Shaun Borlase as assistant coach (Batting). The leadership qualities of both these players shone through in their first season for the club last year, and both have shown a real willingness and passion to take on greater responsibilities. David Dodemaide has also returned to senior ranks at the club as an assistant coach responsible for wicketkeepers.

I wish all of the above good luck and every success in their new roles and hope they can deliver us to that elusive 1st XI flag for which we have coveted for so very long.

The coaching panel are putting the finishing touches to their pre season training schedule and players will receive notification shortly on starting dates.

A meet the coach's day will be held at the footy club's home game against Albion in round 15 on the 19th July where we will put up the marquee and have a BBQ while supporting the Warriors in what will be a crunch game for the club. I hope to see all our players in attendance.

An extremely welcome addition to the club for this season is former Hoppers young gun Gavin McCallum who will return to the club after two seasons at Altona North (Clearance Pending). Gavin expressed a great desire to return to the Cats to once again play with his mates and his experience with both bat and ball will significantly strengthen our side.

The only significant loss to the club is top order bat Adam Brodie who will be unavailable to play until after the Christmas break because of family and work commitments, Adam's contribution will be sorely missed however it opens up an opportunity for a young bloke to put his hand up and establish himself in the top order.

To Greg King and his hard working team, I wish the football club every success as you head towards the pointy end of the season, we hope you have a great finals series and I encourage all at the cricket club to come along and support the boys in their endeavours.

Football Club

The football club is locked in battle for fifth position after 14 rounds of the home and away season, and will need to keep winning to launch another assault on the WRFL premiership. There are 4 big games to go with three at home. All sports club members are welcome to come and support the mighty warriors. We look forward to seeing you at Hogans Road Reserve.

Upcoming matches:

Round 15. Saturday 19 July 08
Hoppers Crossing v Albion at home

Round 16. Saturday 26 July 08
Hoppers Crossing v Port Colts, away

Round 17. Saturday 2 August 08
Hoppers Crossing v Sunshine at home

Round 18. Saturday 9 Aug 08
Hoppers Crossing v Glenorden at home

Golf Club

Don't forget the Golf Club plays the last Sunday of every month and is always keen for more players to jump on board. For more information, contact Barry Hammer or Paul Hollingsworth at the Club.

Hoppers Sports News

The official Newsletter of the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club
Winter 2008



Weekly Events

Mondays

Win Petrol Vouchers!
8:00pm – 9:00pm

Thursdays

Joker Poker
7:30pm – 8:30pm
Buy a ticket and try your luck!

Fridays

Happy Hour
6:30pm – 7:30pm

Beer & Meat Raffle
From 7:00pm

Win 50 beers, slab or meat tray. See our friendly staff for tickets.

Lucky Membership Draw
8:00pm – 9:00pm

Be in the venue with your membership card and you can win the weekly jackpot
Two draws each week at –first at 8:00pm and second at 9:00pm

Saturdays

Punters Club
From 12:00pm

Pick the winner and placing in the Melbourne races – the best score wins the jackpot!

Don't forget that Foxtel is now showing throughout the venue!
Keep an eye out for information of upcoming pay per view boxing.