

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Sunnyhills Annual General Meeting 2021

A quote from famous tennis star Arthur Ashe *“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”* I know he is referencing his game but I think that sets the scene for our AGM today. Because today, we can put the challenging year of 2020 behind us and look forward to strengthening the club’s stance for the future.

I will however recap over the past year. The highlight of last year would have to be our Open Day, postponed of course like everything else and eventually held in conjunction with the Love Tennis weekend in October. Every year open day is held to process new subscriptions and memberships and prepare members for the interclub season. Gabriel had other ideas. He wanted our open day to be an “event” for the Club, to stimulate interest and engage people from the wider community and overall to have fun. What proceeded was a super fun atmosphere with activities including cardio tennis, touch tennis and a range of lessons for new and experienced players. With the merchandise from the Love Tennis promotion, this set us up for a great day. At last year’s AGM we were faced with some pretty sobering forecasts and numbers. If we had continued along without any action the club would be in a steep decline. Mostly due to a some grants not readily available, low membership and increased running costs for the club. Since the open day membership has increased, diversity at the club has heightened and overall a brighter future now exists.

Your committee realized there was some work to do to get our recovery underway. An important initiative was to engage the services of Scott Beattie. Thanks to Laura, convincing him, Scott volunteered to help the tennis club embark in a strategic planning process. A Strategic direction, we realized was what the club lacked in terms of keeping the club afloat and setting it up to be a facility that will be enjoyed by many for years to come. Scott provided an overview, with a very straightforward approach to this process. He convened a session in February this year where the committee, including Gabriel, set about creating a direction for the future, Strategic Success Pillars (goals) and a variety of Initiatives. We are extremely grateful for Scotts expertise and guidance. A draft outline will be discussed later, but can I say that it has given the Committee confidence that we are acting in the best possible way for your club and it’s membership. We still require input from you all before implementing our new direction.

Of course, some things were still affected as result of 2020 disruption to tennis overall. The Cucksey Shield fell into a hole. Our Carobowl team was unable to defend their valiant effort from the year before, due in whole to players not being available or fit for the level of play. We weren’t in a position to hold

the annual fundraising Quiz night. But contrary to that ... reminding you of the some improvements that did occur at the club:

- Gabriel's Babolat display of tennis and related goods
- Continuation of Performance Training Group for Juniors
- Maintaining Peak Fitness as a valued tenant downstairs
- The table tennis set up which has created a hub of laughter and activity, together with the basketball hoop and WIFI
- New coaches have joined the coaching team

Interclub results were mixed and although frequently interrupted, there were some highlights throughout the 2020/21 season. For Seniors, Open Pressies 2 came first in their section and the Open Mens 2 were second in theirs missing the top spot by only 1 point! Our Open Womens team gained a respectable 4 equal out of 11 teams. Juniors – the super team of Under 16 Boys (including Marissa) won their section and the Under 14 Boys in section 2 came 2nd. One of our gorgeous beginner Boys teams under 13 and 12 year olds came second equal. We are very proud of all members competing in interclub and representing our club in such a competitively and a fair sporting manner.

Following on from the AGM formalities today we will elaborate on the new "Vision" for Sunnyhills Tennis Club and a plan to take us forward.

Thanks again for all your support over the past year. We cannot emphasise enough the fantastic work that goes on behind the organization of this club. Please acknowledge your dedicated committee: Michael Petersen, David Gates, Liz Lombard, Bruce and Fiona Waite, Akemi Robb, Laura Beattie, Amanda Pritchard and Michelle Johnson. (clap)... Although, Bruce, Fiona and Akemi will be stepping down this year, we have exciting new additions to the committee for the coming season. Of course, I also want to say thank you again Gabriel for your continued dedication and constant entrepreneurial approach to coaching services at this club. Its not always easy, and we do appreciate all that you do.

Over to you David. (treasurer's report)

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

As mentioned we are very grateful for Scott Beattie donating his time to help the club set a direction for the future. Which in turn provides confidence that the Club will be here for years to come and be the facility our community treasures. I am sure you are all familiar with how a strategic plan evolves and I also want you to keep in mind this is a three year plan and that we have stated on Pillar 1 to obtain feedback, to share at this AGM before any further work begins. At the planning session in February, the committee had to establish a Vision for the Club. Starting off from what could be seen as a loose vision appearing on the website. ... “We are a friendly” [shown on slide 1 AND 2]. Moving towards “We strive to be the Heart of the Community. Play it. Love it. Connect”

Once the Vision was in place we were able to define three strategic pillars that will steer us towards our Vision (goals): [slide3]

- Great Community Engagement
- Building our Forever Game
- Sustainability

From there, the committee went away to bring together their own initiatives as to how we could achieve these goals. Laura pulled everyone’s contributions together to form the initiatives related to each of the three pillars, as shown here. Its important to note that this is a three year strategic plan. We have done work on strategic pillar 1 and work will be begin on 2 and 3 in the near future. [slides 4,5,6]

Once this was in place and before we could go any further. We had to decide who the Club stakeholders are. [slide 7] And from that to sample a small group from one or two of these stakeholder groups to test whether we were on the right track and representing the greater membership views with both our Vision and our initiatives.

Scott also established a timeline for this to happen, which we are happy to report we are pretty much on target with. [slide 8]

Then a smaller committee formed of Laura, Michelle and myself working with Scott to determine stakeholder groups, and prioritising each group, so that we could “sample” a few target groups with a small questionnaire and gain feedback needed. We also established strategies for several stakeholder groups at that stage. But we decided to focus initially on juniors and parents. Through a process it

eventuated that at the Marbles tournament Scott together with Michelle Johnson would hold a very effective exercise to get a snap shot of feedback on both our new Vision and the initiatives. Michelle was then able to do the same with Midweek ladies at their recent AGM. Which she can elaborate on now ... **Michelle J**

As you can see we have put in a lot of time and effort to get to this stage.

This has given us the ability to now put to you Visions and Goals for us all to work towards. The next step is we want to engage you as a fellow member and get your thoughts and ideas flowing.

Remembering that the committee is only a small group representing the whole membership. We need your input to evolve our tennis club. The next step we see is to prioritise some of these initiatives and assign ownership to individuals and groups within the club. Knocking off some of the easily attained ideas will then give us confidence to attack some of the bigger goals. Your involvement will help. Do you have skills and/or resources to contribute? You don't have to be a committee member. You may not need to give it too much of your time. Any contribution will help.

Thank you for your attention today