

President

From a personal point of view, the 1991-92 season has been very satisfying. If a successful season is measured by premierships alone, then the club had a sensational six months. In last season's Annual Report I mentioned that a new pitch would be built and be operational for our first and second elevens in time for the first game. With the guidance of Doug McLaggan and through the efforts of a few solid workers this was achieved and the result is a remarkable success. The feed back from our senior players, the umpires and opposition clubs is that this new wicket is the best in the Luscombe Shield. A real pat on the back for all those guys involved and a special thankyou to Doug, without whose help the dream would never have been realised.

Our unusable practice nets have been an ongoing concern for many years originating from an Essendon City Council blunder in positioning of the nets. It is the committee's intention to build two, maybe three nets, in the area just down from the clubrooms with the wickets to run at the same angle to our existing new pitch. Peter Gardiner has drafted a plan for this facility and has offered to oversee this project and to lead our club in negotiations with the Essendon City Council. Peter, as many of us know, has a very good knowledge of how councils operate and is hopeful of gaining financial assistance from council to erect these practice nets. On behalf of the whole club, I thank Peter for his efforts.

It was an exciting time for the club with three teams making the finals and two getting to the Grand Final. Unfortunately only the First Eleven went all the way. Congratulations to Greg Peters and all the team as this is a fantastic achievement. The Twos were very unlucky in retrospect but are sure to be a fine team in the coming season. I thank Sandro Cappocchi for his efforts. It was his first year as a captain and his performance with the bat was just outstanding. Congratulations to Shane Williams for his excellent year with the Third Eleven. It was Shane's first effort at captaining an eleven and was unlucky not to take out a flag first up. He also completed an outstanding season with the bat. The Fourth Eleven captain, Doug McLaggan is a real bonus for our club. Not only as a captain but for his reliability at training and all his experience and assistance at working bees, pitch laying and clubroom improvements. The Fourths were not quite up to it in the Semi Final but we are especially proud of the boys' efforts in that side. It is great experience to play in a final. Season 1991/92 also saw a Fifth Eleven side created with the masterly Peter Bevis as skipper. Word from the "F Troop" is that they had a most enjoyable season and are all geared up to not only win their first game in the coming season but to making the "dollar special" an integral part of their match day cricket.

Many thanks go to Greg Meyers for donating much appreciated cleaning materials to the club and to Laurie Mayne for his Man of the Match awards each week. Laurie also donates his Most Improved Player trophy each season, won this year by Steve Battison. Thankyou Laurie.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my committee and record my appreciation of their efforts in making the club what it is. The canteen was again run superbly by Ruby Elliott and Robyn Storey with their band of loyal helpers. The counter meals on Thursday nights after training were just fantastic and a great money spinner for our club. As we all know, the Moonee Valley CC afternoon tea on a Saturday is second to none. Well done girls! Sadly, I have to inform members that the hard working Ruby Elliott is taking a rest from canteen duties next season but will no doubt be down to watch Darryl play and keep an eye on the canteen to see that her high standards are maintained. It is now up to other members to fill the void that her leaving will create. Cricket just won't seem the same without Ruby chasing us all for her Saturday raffle. On behalf of all the past and present committees, members and friends at the club, I would like to thank you Ruby for the many years of cooking and running of the canteen. Without your consistent contribution over so many years, the members would not be enjoying the first class facilities, the use of our new wicket and have access to the quality equipment that we now do.

My thanks to Michael Harvey who was our club's Equipment Manager. He did an excellent job for the season with purchasing, distributing and maintaining the clubs gear. Scott McLeod has had a learning year on the committee and as social manager and I thank him for his efforts. John Talone had the unenviable job as Pavilion Manager and did his best to keep the clubrooms clean but this job could be made a lot easier if members treated rooms better. Thanks John. Once again, the bar was run very well by Terry Nagle. Thanks to you Terry for all you have done for the club.

Finally, I would like to thank my Executive Committee for their faith and their support throughout the year. Vice President, Ian Denny was always on hand to offer advise and his experience and judgement is invaluable. Warwick Nolan was again an outstanding contributor to our club. Not only with his Treasurer's duties of budgeting figures and collecting monies, but also for the many hours he and Dianne spent on his computer updating the club's statistics, reports and the clubroom memorabilia. Last but by no means least, I am indebted to Darren Nagle for his many, many hours spent for the club both at Ormond Park and at Association meetings, delivering match reports and dealing with the club's paper work. Good on you, you big Boofhead!! It is a bonus for the club that Spud is not only a tireless committeeman for the club but he is also a model of endeavour at training and in a game.

I thank you all for your support during the season and hope to see you all at the Annual General Meeting.

Ray Storey