

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2002/2003

### *Welcome to my report for 2002/03.*

It was a season where we once again tested ourselves on many fronts and finished by achieving so much. First, we decided on the big move of our top two teams to the VTCA. A new competition, new opposition, new challenges and both teams made the finals with the First XI unfortunately going down in the Grand Final. We showed that in our first year in the VTCA that we are definitely not out of our depth, but we must keep striving to better ourselves when we again take to the field.

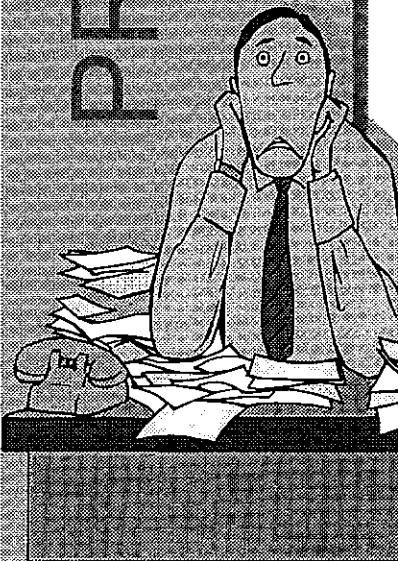
The lower XI's were up against it from day one. No home ground, at times short on numbers, changing captains and in particular, the 3rds playing in the wrong grade. Both teams stuck it out with the 4ths winning most games after Christmas. Well done to all teams and this experience reminds us that it is the spirit in which we play and how we represent the Club that is most important.

Thanks to Rex Bennett, who this season took on the position of Captain / Coach. Sexy Rexy's experience as a leader, a cricketer and with the VTCA undoubtedly assured the Club had a smooth and competitive beginning in the new competition.

Thanks also to the guys who were originally selected as Captains and to those that stood up when Captains were required. Joe Bonfa, Geoff Smith, Glen Eismontas and John Talone - I know at times things got tough but you all persisted and helped the Club tremendously.

The great man, Mick Harvey was Chairman of Selectors, and though work commitments took much of his time, he was still there doing what he could and for just being Mick - thank you.

I believe that this is what makes this Club great and unique. The times when required, someone always steps up to the mark to do the job. We had early concerns with filling key committee positions, but finished with Matt Gauci as Vice President, Odie Talone again as Secretary, Tony Gleeson in the important Treasurers seat, Graeme "Charlie" Walker as Junior Coordinator, Sandro Capocchi in charge of functions, Joey Ansaldo in Canteen, Mark Gauci - Pavillion Manager and Joe Bonfa looking after equipment. All had work and family Commitments, but I sincerely thank you for all you



have achieved throughout the season.

It is also the efforts that mostly go unnoticed. Whether it be Tony Gleeson always helping to clean up the rooms or maintain the nets area, Dean Jukic repairing the rooms or helping Mark Gauci erect the honour boards, Tom Taylor fixing the plumbing, Matthew, Luke and Anna helping Sambo make cocktails and those that helped Joey with the afternoon teas all season. There are too many to mention but it is these extra things that need to be acknowledged.

None more so than the wild man of rock 'n' roll Charlie Walker, who for the first time in the Club's history was honoured with consecutive Lindsay Jones Memorial Awards for Best Club person. Congratulations and thanks again Charlie.

Ian "Spider" Beel again prepared our turf wicket. It is only 2 years old and already regarded as one of the best around, but what else would you expect from Spider!

A thanks to this seasons sponsors, including business sponsors Aim Installations, Frankie's Pizza, Ascot Splicing, Collins Plumbing, Chicken Machine, Lincoln Salon and North Suburban Sports Club and individual sponsor, Dom Alois. Your support and contribution has been beneficial and in turn, it is extremely important that all Club members utilise their services, to create a win-win situation for all.

Every season we need to secure sponsors to maintain the effective operation and administration of the Club. This area we are continually trying to improve, and while we have the foundations and assistance in place we ask the "sales managers" amongst us to consider becoming our Sponsorship Manager for the up-and-coming season. A big thank you to Mark Gauci with his tee-shirts, Rex Bennett, Jules and Charlie Walker for their efforts in obtaining these sponsors.

Our future looks exciting, in particular ten junior teams (including 2 girls teams) coming through the ranks and each having their own successes - much to the efforts of Charlie Walker and the Junior Committee. Although this is fantastic it is important to remember that we still need to attract players and supporters to the Club as they are all welcome, as you well know!

I wish to congratulate all award winners and in particular, Sambo who after many years as a player, committee man, club man and whacky funster was honoured with life membership - well done, Big Fella!

We also said farewell to Shane and Sharon Golds and Family as they moved to greener, more sunnier pastures. The whole family will always be part of our club and will be sadly missed, we thank them for their generous contributions over many long years.

Finally, I wish to thank all the ladies of the Club. You play a huge part in the success of the Club and I hope that you continue to feel welcomed, entertained and relaxed. And ladies, I know that many of you have been crying yourselves to sleep but it had to happen sooner rather than later, but to my new wife Jules thank you for your patience, understanding and support - you know how much it means to me.

I hope to see you all at the AGM (I am currently writing this on my honeymoon in the Maldives) and looking forward to more laughs, successes, challenges and a drink or two in Season 2003/04.

**Cheers,**  
**Darren "Spud" Nagle**