



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Moonee Valley Cricket Club Inc

Established 1971

Web: mooneevalleycricket.com.au

Ormond Park

Pattison St, Moonee Ponds 3039



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Strategic Highlights

Planning for and finally moving out of our Ormond Park pavilion occupied a fair amount of our focus during the 2017/18 year.

Some of those matters which diverted the attention of the management and leadership of our club included the realisation that the \$2.5 million redevelopment and expansion of our old pavilion required us to relocate, and then uncertainty over the date.

Along the way we had the threat of needing to move out within two weeks to - who knows where? - and the realisation that rock-solid assurances that the work would be staged in two parts to enable us to continue to occupy the pavilion had fallen by the wayside.

I thank our two ward councillors, Jim Cusack and Nicole Marshall, for helping ensure that the vision of the Moonee Valley Cricket Club and our partners in the football club on what we wanted in a new pavilion stayed the distance, despite the hurdles along the way.

With the distractions of the pavilion project and delays throughout the year, it's a wonder our season stayed on track as well as it did.

Financial Highlights

The uncertainty about where we would be based from week to week, and the difficulty in planning fundraising functions as a result, meant our budget bottom line took a hit.

Revenues were down in several areas, and we expect to have to tighten our belts again for 2018/19 as we operate for a full season out of the portables located in the north-west corner of Ormond Park.

We expect to be back in the new, purpose-built pavilion complex for the 2019/20 season, but will have to be aware of the importance of every dollar up until then.

On-Field Highlights

We expanded from six senior teams to seven for 2017/18, admittedly taking advantage of the NWMCA rules which allowed unlimited doubling up for the Sunday one-day grade.

Four senior teams and three junior sides made finals. Congratulations to Junior

Coordinator Peter Pickering and his Under 14 White team on winning their premiership.

In terms of our playing season, we made significant advances in our top grades with a group of young players who really announced themselves. Playing up to half a team of teens at different times, our First Eleven made the VTCA North A Grand Final and reached the Grand Final of the NWMCA Twenty20 competition.

The talent in our young group - most of whom came through our junior program - gives us confidence for the years ahead.

Life Members

Another junior connection which gave me great personal pleasure was in overseeing the elevation of Matt Thomas and Jesse Felle to Life Membership of the Moonee Valley Cricket Club.

As Junior Coordinator for seven years before my 10-year tenure as President of our Club, I coached both Matt and Jesse in the Under 16s. Our long-term vision when Chris Ayers started the junior program in 1996/97 was to produce quality players and quality people, and I'm immensely proud that both Matt and Jesse have stayed the journey to be ranked as icons of our club.

And in acknowledging Life Members, it was a moving moment when Sean O'Kane was invested as our No. 27 in a ceremony that caught him completely by surprise at the Barooga Over 35s tournament in January.

It gave one of our most committed and dedicated clubmen the opportunity to receive our highest honor in front of family and friends in his home town, and it's a testament to Sean's standing that more than 50 Valley players and supporters travelled to southern NSW for the event - a couple even flying in from overseas.

Committed Committee

I thank our club and our members for the endorsement they have continued to give me in my 10th year as President, and thank and acknowledge the support of our committee - Simon Thornton, Peter Golding, Matt Thomas, Kevin Gardiner, Michael Ozbun, Channa DeSilva, Nigel Cowan Snr, Peter Pickering, Allan Cumming and Brendan Rhodes, and the more recent involvement of Mark Gauci and Daniel Phillips, who have indicated their intention to stand for election for 2018/19.

Go Valleys!

Graeme "Charlie" Walker.
President, Moonee Valley Cricket Club

COACHES REPORT

The start of the 2017/18 season was one full of excitement after the previous season finishing on top of the ladder after the home and away season but bowing out in the semis. Mark Gauci was appointed 1st X1 captain, and everything was in place to go one step further than the previous season.

All the regular faces were there and although we lost about four players from the season before, we had a great crop of up and coming youngsters pushing through.

The 1sts:

The season started like a house on fire, winning the first four games, including an outright and we were top of the ladder and playing great cricket. We had individual highlights weekly and we were the team to beat early on. Unfortunately, this is where our great form ended ... and with a jolt. We went from top of the ladder, winning games to losing the next few in a row, then winning a make-up game in between. It's fair to say though we had lost a self-belief in winning and that's because we had lost our mojo. Several factors contributed to this, but I will say the culture had altered. We won the last two home and away games to make it into third spot and an away semi-final against Caroline Springs. We played out of our skins and played to our potential, and we made it through to the Grand Final against Sunshine. We dominated in parts and we had Sunshine on the ropes a few times, but a Grand Final is played over four strong days, not just in patches here and there, and we succumbed to the pressure and lost. We had players dominate in certain games, but the lack of consistency, along with a showing of undisciplined acts cost us. The side was never settled, and the season was disrupted on a weekly basis, which doesn't allow anyone to play consistent good cricket.

The 2nds:

The Seconds, so much the team that makes finals every year, really played catch up cricket all season...again just like the previous season. This side was led by Michael Ozbun, who had the difficult task of having selection issues every week. The team had several changes weekly but a core of old timers, mixed with youth. It was dealt several cruel blows though the year with dodgy decisions by both opposition sides and the VTCA - once again! Still all that aside, to play out games and have several opportunities here and there to win, showed that the spirit is still alive in some players who play with pride instead of playing for themselves.

The Future

As an 11-year player and coach, I will be back one day. Thank you to everyone who supported me. Remember that the club is bigger than any individual and it is a privilege to play within a club environment, where a lot of hard work is done behind the scenes. For most of you, this is the highest level of cricket you will play, so enjoy it, train hard, work hard and show respect to everyone around you, and the rewards will come.

A fresh face will bring fresh ideas, so listen, learn and implement. You play like you train: so, train hard and the rewards will show.

Lou Raffaele
Senior Coach 2017/18







JUNIOR REPORT

Coaching

Leigh Holder continued in the U14 coaching role, this time with the upper age U14 Blacks while I took the lower age U14s. Effectively our teams moved up from the previous year without substantial change.

The coaching of the U10s and U12s changed also, I believe for the better. Two players from England who came out to play with the seniors, Sean Duckworth and James Wolfenden, shared the coaching for the U10s. Anthony Cafari and Stephen Esmore, young but experienced senior players for the Club, offered to coach the U12s. The effect on the players and parents in these teams was immediate, and I believe it really makes a difference to have younger, current players coaching the teams rather than always parents. Hopefully this can continue in 2018/19.

A special mention should also be made for the fact that Stephen Esmore also took over the training and match day duties of the U10s when the overseas players returned home, and David Baker who coached the U10s for the last two games.

Recruiting

The junior season went well this year, with solid numbers registering in all age groups. The only disappointment for numbers was the U12s, with several players not returning from the previous year. This meant that we fielded one team in U12s and two in U14s. As far as I can tell, this was not particularly a reflection on the club, but more that there are so many other commitments on players' time, both with school and other sports. Similarly, we had a smaller number of U10s than the previous year.

On Field

Under 10s

The new coaches for the U10s meant that it was a different feel for the team, most of whom were first year. The U10s had a good season, winning the majority of the matches. Due to the modified rules under which they play, statistics such as wins and losses can be misleading and the better way to judge is by the enthusiasm of the players. Having said that, they also enjoyed their wins, such as the last round of the season being a win by 80 including a team hat trick.

Certainly, the influence of the two coaches, Sean and James, cannot be underestimated and the fact that they were coaching children who had mostly just graduated from Milo Cricket added to their need to be both teachers and child-wranglers.

Under 12s

The U12s were under the care of Anthony “Caf” Cafari and Stephen “Steve” Esmore. They were also ably assisted by Tony Nilsson as their team manager.

It was a very young group, almost all first year U12s with all that entails for both maturity and skill level. It also meant that most were coming up against the hard ball on the long pitch for the first time.

The results were exceptional. The team played in U12 Division 5 and had a consistent team of 12 really enthusiastic cricketers. They finished on top of the ladder at the end of the home and away and then played off in the grand final, finishing just short in a run chase 6/92 v 6/126 to be runners up. A great season for all involved.

Under14s

Leigh’s U14s were first or second for the whole season in U14 Division 2, and eventually played off in the semifinals. In contrast to the previous year, the team had just enough players for each match, and even was down to 9 at times, but still had an excellent season finishing 3rd in the highest Friday night division.

The U14 Whites started the season slowly, winning only one of the first three games for grading. The team was competitive in these games, but they had a lot to learn about playing two day matches most weeks and understanding the rhythm of the longer game. Fortunately, the two teams they lost to in those three rounds were put into the higher grade and played finals in that grade, one winning the grand final for Division 2.

From that point onwards, the team had to win every game to make the finals, grimly holding on to 4th place for the rest of the home and away season. The team won the semifinal against Dousta Stars 7/174 v 10/173, bowling the opposition out with three overs to spare.

In the Grand Final, the team made 1/89 on the first day, while Essendon made 1/72. Both teams were very cautious not to lose wickets. Those 17 runs were crucial, as Essendon came out swinging on the second day, posting a final total of 6/180. The Whites had to make 92 to win and made it with one over to spare - 4/181. The full match report is on the club website.

Milo

Thanks to the indefatigable Charlie Walker for (again) agreeing to run the Milo programme on a Tuesday night before seniors’ training, before handing over to Kevin Gardiner for most of the season due to work commitments.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The club reported a small but disappointing loss for the 2017/18 season of \$2,723 on the back of a 24.3% reduction in revenue. Revenue was consistently reduced in each of the playing, social and merchandise areas. The club and members will need to be extremely diligent this year in collecting and paying the money owing in a timely manner.

I have recommended to the committee a \$50 increase in senior membership fees this year to partially cover the expected reduction in bar and canteen takings as we will have to operate from the portable buildings for the entire 2018/19 season.

Some thanks are in order. To Michael Ozbun, an amazing effort as Sponsorship Manager and Function Wrangler. A deserving Lindsay Jones winner. To the unsung heroes like Danny, Pat and Mickster - you keep the club functioning in your own way. And to the committee and captains who collect all the money, run the functions, clean up, lock up, score, make the drinks and sometimes even play cricket - it's a thankless task sometimes, but one that makes all of our weekends just a little bit more enjoyable.

Finally, without the incredible efforts of our retiring Vice President, Simon Thornton, my life as Treasurer would be very hard. Thanks, Simon.

Peter Golding
Treasurer

OUR SPONSORS

