



**LARA SPORTING CLUB INCORPORATED
49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
25TH NOVEMBER 2024
7.00pm**

Present: B.Chavasse, B. Gillett, P. Kelly, R. Cook, B. Ritchie, C. Stone, L. Goodwin, B. Kelly, D. Lindorff, M. Verity, L. Morrow, D. Roth, C. Wilson, J. Van Doren, C. Spence, C. Baum, C. Moon, D. Van Doren, F. Timmers, K. Timmers, J. Speirs, D. Wilkie, S. Wilkie, G. Wilson, L. Wilson

Apologies: K. Vinken, D. Gillett, H. Speirs

Confirmation of AGM minutes held 27th November 2023

Accepted on the motion of: D. Van Doren Seconded: D. Wilkie

Reports

1. **President-** Peter Kelly presents his report to members.

Accepted on the motion of: D. Wilkie Seconded: F. Timmers

2. **Financial-** Brett Gillett and Katelyn Shirley from Davidsons presents the financial report to members.

Accepted on the motion of: D. Wilkie Seconded: F. Timmers

3. **General Manager-** Brendon Chavasse presents his report to members.

Accepted on the motion of: D. Wilkie Seconded: F. Timmers

4. **Declare the outcome of the nominations for the following positions**

Secretary- Carol Stone **Proposed by** Brett Gillett **Seconded by** Andrew
Gunther(3 year)

Treasurer-Andrew Gunther **Proposed by** Brett Ritchie **Seconded by** Bernie Walker(2 year)

Board-Caroline Baum **Proposed by** Kathy Carassiti **Seconded by** Brett Gillett(2
year)

Board-Bev Kelly **Proposed by** Carol Stone **Seconded by** Bernie Walker(2 year)

Board- Craig Wilson **Proposed by** Andrew Gunther **Seconded by** Brett Ritchie(1 year)

Accepted on the motion of: C. Spence Seconded: J. Van Doren. All in favour. Carried

President- Lou Goodwin **Proposed by** (Board Member) **Seconded by** (Board Member)

5. Resolution to approve LIFE MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Elly Stone Proposed by B. Brady Netball Section

Dianne Van Doren Proposed by B. Brady Netball Section

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Speirs updated the members on the cricket submission to CoGG for an extension to the cricket nets. Result of this grant is expected 13th December

G. Wilson would like to acknowledge the support from LSC to the Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk and they look forward to future relationships between the 2 groups

F. Timmers would like to thank the board for the efforts. Also to acknowledge the staff at the club. They are very welcoming and always smiling

Chairperson closes meeting at: 7.44pm

Presidents Report

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present to you my final report as President of our Club. I acknowledge it has been a privilege to have served the Club as President for the past 8 years and it is now time for the next generation of Board members to govern the Club into the future. It is the end of another chapter in my life but the start of the next chapter for the Club.

I remember vividly the first meeting I had with Konrad, Brett and Dennis asking me if I was interested in coming back to the Club as President. The Club at that stage was going through some difficult times and I realised we needed to go in a different direction to realign us for the future. I can say now, with the utmost confidence, we have achieved that direction and with the road ahead full of prosperity and growth.

We also have another senior Member of the Board finishing his involvement with the Club in Brett Gillett. I want to pass on my sincere thanks and congratulations to Brett for his dedicated commitment to the Club over a period of 19 years as a Board Member and 25 years as an Executive Member of the Cricket Section. That is an incredible record of involvement for anyone at the one Club and, I have no doubt, will never be broken. We are very fortunate to have had Brett involved and the Club is in a very healthy position thanks to the work Brett has given us. Enjoy your free time now mate as a well-deserved rest.

THE BOARD

At the beginning of my first term, we had to go on a recruiting drive to rebuild the Board and its Members. Over the period Carol Stone came on as Secretary, Caroline Baum, Reg replaced our good mate Konrad who resigned due to health issues, Brett Richie, Lou Goodwin and Andrew Gunther. This team made up one of the most dynamic governance groups I have ever been involved with. I cannot thank you all enough for your support and commitment to our Club and your abilities to deliver the decisions and directional needs for the Club throughout my entire time.

We are very fortunate to have Lou taking over the position as President of the Club. Lou is more than capable of filling the role with distinction and diligence and I wish her all the very best.

As I mentioned above, it is now time for the current Board Members, along with the inclusion of Bev Kelly and Craig Wilson, to be the new generation of the Board. I also bestow on Reg and Brett R the title of Ministers of Wisdom as the senior in age Members of the Board.

The Club is a very sound position, both structurally and financially, thanks to the efforts of the Board and our GM.

I finally want to mention how our very good mate Konrad had to resign his position on the Board due to ill health. Konrads involvement as a Board Member and President has had an incredible impact on us all and I thank him on behalf of us all for the work he has done for the Lara Sporting Club over a very long period of time. We wish you mate all the best in your battle with the illness you are being confronted with.

THE SECTIONS

To the Sections and their Executives and Committees, I pass on my heartfelt thanks for your support throughout my time. We have been confronted with many different types of issues over the period, some pleasant and some not pleasant, but we have come out of it all in a very healthy state.

I can now look at the people involved in all our Sections with confidence knowing that the structures you have all put in place will deliver the on and off field successes you so richly deserve.

You are members of the biggest Sporting Club in the Geelong region so be rightfully proud of your involvement and all the best for the future.

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

There has been a lot of restructuring and changes to the roles of our General Manager and staff personal during my Presidency. Firstly, on my arrival, our now General Manager Brendon was employed as the Venue Manager which to me didn't fit the direction we had in mind for the Club. Over the following years Brendon's role has been expanded to the General Managers title. Together we have been involved in many discussions on what his responsibilities should be, and it has taken a lot of hard work to get it right. I will say that Brendon has now settled well and truly into the GM's role and is doing an exceptional job. His value to the Club can never be underestimated and I thank him for being able to work through all the issues we discussed and come out the other end as really good mates.

To the Staff, as I mentioned, the Board and Brendon had to deal with quite a few issues relating to the staff structure and staff personalities. As a result, we now have a very sound staff structure and one which contributes to the success of the Club.

One part I would like to mention is the Bistro and its previous performances. The catering component of a Clubs hospitality business is always difficult to come up with the right balance of staff and menu. With the appointment of Arvin, the Bistro is now in profit mode and the presentation of the food and quality, along with the staff, has had a lot to do with the improvement. I thank Brendon and Arvin for their efforts in turning around an extremely important part of our Club.

FACILITIES

Our facilities are now recognised as one of the best in the region. With the completion of the Netball/Tennis facility last year and now the completion of the Baseball/Oval 3 facility we are two thirds through the precincts Master Plan of upgrading everything to do with the Clubs facilities. The final project of the MP is the upgrade for Oval 1. We have currently submitted concept plans to the Council Officers for their review and then inclusion in the Council budget for 2025/6. There is still a long way to go to achieve this result, but we are confident of getting there.

Another set of projects we completed in the past few years was the total renovations for the Gaming Room, Bistro and Sports bars, the Kitchen and the addition of a state-of-the-art meeting room.

To the credit of Brett and Brendon we were able to fund all these projects from Club funds and not have to get any borrowed funds.

The internals of the Club now look amazing and so patron friendly. Well done to all involved in these projects. The Football Section are currently involved in pursuing the building of two elevated coaching boxes on the western side of the oval. Concept plans have been completed and the project is in the Council system getting approval and final costings.

IN CLOSING

It is now time for me to finish my time as President of the Lara Sporting Club and I can assure you it has been a privilege for me to serve in the role. I now sign over the responsibilities of the Governance of the Club to Lou and the Board and Brendon, as General Manager, and wish them all the best for the future.

Peter Kelly
President

Lara Sporting Club Financial Report

This year the club has continued to work with the City of Greater Geelong to deliver the major part of stage 2 of the Master Plan with the opening of our Multi-Sport pavilion and Baseball ground realignment. These new facilities will allow our sporting clubs to provide our players with the best facilities in Geelong. While the new Baseball field is top of the range there is still a need for lights on the baseball diamond to allow them to train during the winter months.

The club has also continued our internal renovation plans with the creation and fit out of our new media and meeting room. This room is open for community use and since its opening earlier this year we have built up a list of regular users and is booked out most days. While this room may seem small compared to our kitchen renovations last year it is another step in the complete refurbishment of the entire club. I'm sure the new board will continue the club upgrade and I look forward to seeing what's next on their agenda.

The board continued to have discussions with council over stage 3 of the Master Plan which includes new change rooms for ovals 1 & 2 a new canteen and gym. To assist in speeding the next stage up the club has financed concept drawings which have been passed onto the council.

I am proud to announce that this financial year the club had total revenue of \$4,425,241 with total expenses of \$4,038,511 for a trade profit of \$386,730 and a net profit of \$191,150.

Our major areas of revenue were.

- Gaming \$1,979,739 (down from \$2,018,402 in 22/23)
- Bistro \$768,318 (\$638,449)
- Bar \$657,580 (\$656,476)
- Sporting sections \$749,386 (\$663,861).

In line with our increase in revenue our expenses have also increased from last year rising from \$3,705,388 in 22/23 to \$4,038,511 this year.

Our major expenses being:

- **Employee expenses \$1,224,000 (\$1,051,020 22/23)**
- Administration expenses \$359,029 (\$373,928)
- Occupancy expenses \$291,343 (\$332,194)
- Direct expenses \$736,704 (\$711,731)
- Other operational expenses \$2,059,668 (\$1,833,392)
- Sporting expenses \$811,810 (\$641,815)

The clubs' total assets have increased to \$3,427,606 this year up from \$3,361,179 in 2022/23 and our total liabilities have dropped to \$1,520,590 from \$1,645,313 last year.

I would like to thank the members, sections, staff and the board for their hard work getting us to the financial position we find ourselves in. I will not be continuing in my role as Treasurer of the Lara Sporting Club I have enjoyed the 20 years I have been on the board after I first got talked into joining the Lara Sporting Club committee in 1994/95.

I am confident we have the right mix of people on board to lead us into the future.

Brett Gillett
Treasurer

General Manager's Report

It is with pleasure I present the General Manager's report for the 2023/24 FY.

This FY has seen a mixed bag of financial success. The cost of living 'crisis' resulting from repeated interest rate hikes in the earlier part of the year had a significant impact on our budgeted revenue most evident in the immediate effect on our gaming revenue. However, we successfully witnessed somewhat of a turnaround in the last three months of this FY. While our overall gaming revenue was only slightly down from last year (circa \$40,000), it was well below our budgeted revenue by \$200,000. Our bar sales performed to par with last year

but again, were down on our budgeted revenue by \$25,000. Finally, our bistro has performed better than any other time since I have been at the Club with an increase on last year's already impressive revenue by \$130,000 and exceeding budget by \$102,000 for the first time ever earning a net profit. No small part of this great improvement goes to our Head Chef Arvin. Thank you, Arvin, for your professionalism, dedication and too often dealing with repercussions for going against the trend to get our bistro where it is today.

I proudly continue to work with our Sections on improving their facilities and ensuring the Club offers them the best we can. This FY we finally gained control over the very impressive Multisport Facility at Oval 3. Baseball finally has a home and diamond that can be the envy of their comp. We now have the option to create a new home for our women's and junior's Football and Cricket should the respective Sections wish it. Additionally, Lara now has the ability to host multi-game comps with ease and professional facilities. We are very fortunate to have access to not one but four ovals for training and games, a feat unmatched by any other single club in our region. Finally, we will soon see boundary fencing for oval 3. This will be completed before winter season 2025.

Moving forward, our Sections still have plans for upgrades and improvements. A priority list was created by the Board and along with Section approval sent to the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) for their reference and planning. We all collectively still work towards lighting for the baseball diamond, upgraded lighting for ovals 2 and 3 and coaches' boxes for oval 1 among other projects. The Club has also committed \$20,000 for the oval 2 cricket nets upgrade should our grant application be successful.

It is this Club's main strategic priority to see stage 3 of the Lara Recreation Reserve Master Plan funded and completed by CoGG. This includes demolition and rebuild of our away rooms and canteen and a full refurbishment of our gym and home rooms. The Club has already invested \$10,000 in concept plans which have been submitted to CoGG for funding opportunities. The Board and I will continue to lobby council and state government to get this project underway.

We are now one year into our three-year strategic plan. I am most happy to say we're well ahead of where we planned to be today! The Board has created two sub-committees to ensure we meet our strategic plan goals: the Strategic Plan and Community Engagement sub-committees. Each committee meets regularly to plan, organise and update conditions and events to ensure we are moving forward. The level of dedication and excitement by our Board members is very encouraging for our Clubs future.

It is with both trepidation and pride that this year we say goodbye to two major players in our Club: Peter Kelly and Brett Gillett. Both Pete and Yapper have literally bled for this Club over many decades. I however, have only been privileged enough to work with them these last 8 or so years. As a young fresh faced and brand-new Venue Manager, with no experience running a venue, I navigated the waters of near-insolvency for the Club for 12 months before Pete and Brett came onboard and together, along with our Board members, we regained control of our finances and set the Club on the successful future it now experiences.

Brett's time as Treasurer quickly shown to me his absolute love for this Club. Over the many years it was not unusual to see Brett and I meeting 3-4 times a week discussing both our financial success and hardships, how we would get through them, what corners needed to be cut or prioritising our goals. Brett's calmness and ease with dealing with the tough decisions had quite an impact on me that I doubt he will ever know. Thank you, Brett for being there next to me helping me guide our Club to today.

I knew Peter Kelly was a titan of the Club before I knew him. The Board at the time would certainly defer to his experience and judgement on procedural and governance matters that was hard not to respect, and he wasn't even on the Board at that time.

It is very difficult to put into words the level of respect I have for Pete and importantly his management and communication style and experience. I take an enormous amount of pride in the role I have played in the success of this Club. However, so much of that success is based on the profound impact Pete has had on me both as a person and as a manager. Pete has mentored me away from just managing simply the day-to-day operations of a club and more to the strategic planning and goal setting like all successful businesses.

While this is the end of an important era from these two massively important persons of our Club it is also important to note that both these people that love this Club so much are comfortable enough to move on and let others take their place. What better proof of our success is there than that. Peter and Brett, this is not goodbye but rather best of luck with your new chapters.

In finishing up this report I can say the Lara Sporting Club remains financially viable, we have strong governance in our Board, we have stability in our management roles and we continue to influence and expand into our community. I'm wholeheartedly looking forward to 2024/25!

Brendon Chavasse
General Manager