

Dear Bear family

I hope this email finds you safe and well.

Ordinarily, at this time of the year I am required to pen the Presidents end of season report, but after a very tough season, I felt it appropriate to write this open letter to all of you.

In what was my 14th year as President, this was without a doubt the toughest. It was full of challenges that we just could not foresee

As was discussed at a members meeting in December, the Committee, with the best interests of the club at heart, made a couple of decisions for the 21/22 season that, for various reasons, did not turn out to be as positive as intended

There was an opportunity for us to fill the bye in division 5. As a committee, after undertaking our due diligence, we came to the decision that it was a wonderful opportunity for us to expose our talented kids to a better grade of cricket. From here, and prior to formally accepting the offer, we undertook to call all of our players and enquire as to whether or not they would be playing the 21/22 season.

At the time, with new players that we had put clearances in for and the existing players that had said yes, not maybe, we had a total of 74 players that wanted a game weekly. This meant that, not including our members that had committed to filling in, we had 74 players that we had to get a game for every week. We decided to put in 5 teams, knowing well that there are always unavailability's.

What we didn't account for, was the lack of motivation to play, due to the trepidation of mixing in large groups and being indoors at the club. When Covid numbers ramped up in October / November, it became increasing more unnerving for us all to socialise and as a result, the playing numbers were just not there. We decided to do another ring around to the playing group to get a clearer indication of who was committed to playing.

In the 1st week of December, that number had dropped from 74 to 52. We no longer had enough players to fill the 5 sides, so we dropped the C3 side in the lowest grade, leaving us with the 2 1st XIs and the 2 2nd XIs. This meant a number of players were playing in higher grades than they had played in before. Not everyone enjoyed this and due to the Div 5 sides losing heavily at times, players dropped off again. This, and having to let our coach go due to not being the right fit, was tough

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It was only due to our “Old Boys” and our talented junior boys and girls, that we were able to fill that 4th side, and we continued to do so until the second last round where it was just too difficult and we forfeited the side for the last 2 games of the season.

There have been some amazing stories that have come out of this decision to put sides into Div. 5. With over 12 kids selected to play 1st XI cricket for the first time. 4 of our kids were actually selected and debuted for the Melbourne Premier Cricket Club, and one for Essendon. In addition, we also had 5 kids play Craig Shield, 12 kids played other rep cricket and we had 10 girls play cricket for Essendon Premier in their Community Cup side. These 10 Ladies will play Premier Cricket for Essendon next season. All of this fills us with immense pride

What’s next?

Well, as you will appreciate, the work of the committee is never done and we already have our sleeves rolled up and are working really hard on next season. So far, we can announce:

Season 22/23 sees the Bears celebrate their 100th Birthday and we plan on celebrating in style. There will be a wonderful Gala night to celebrate the club as well as a couple of new initiatives – watch this space for some very exciting announcements as the Bears raise their bat and then head towards 200

Facilities

- By the end of October 2022, we will have **new nets**. These nets will be built at the foot of our ground where the container currently is. These nets will enable us to train safely and more effectively as a group as we will all be on the same ground

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Juniors:

Junior Coordinator

We currently have someone, another one of our players, that is excited by the opportunity to get involved and help develop, drive, and grow our Junior Program. He needs help though and would like it to be a shared role. If there is anyone that would like to team up with this person and work with he and I, please reach out. You may be new to the club, you may be joining the club, you may be a life member. If you have the desire and motivation to get involved, then we want you please

Woolworths Program for kids under the age of 10

- We have already met with Cricket Victoria and with their ongoing support, we have begun to execute our plan to have this program start immediately. We need to develop our next waves of grass roots Bears.
- **Patrick Didham** and **Amy Hoang** have both put their hands up to champion this program and we are absolutely thrilled. 2 of our juniors that have come through the grades and are both wonderful people, role models and cricketers
- **Sunny Fernando** our friend, Assistant Senior Coach at Essendon Premier, and professional Level 1 cricket coach has committed his services to running a 4-week program for kids under the age of 10

Girls Cricket

This season not only did we send 10 girls to Essendon, but we had 2 of our own girls' teams entered into the boys competition. Whilst the girls went play finals, they had a wonderful year and had some wonderful success, in fact, we were the talk of the competition, with many of the other clubs praising the girls and the club for taking this approach. Next season, we will have 3 junior girls sides

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Women's Cricket

We are very excited to announce that we are currently looking into entering our very first Senior Womens team. Craig is doing amazing things in this space and we are now looking for an Experienced leader to Captain this team. There are other exciting conversations happening at the moment that will prove to be a massive boon to our club should they eventuate. Unfortunately, it is still a little too early for us to make any announcements yet though, so watch this space

Sponsors

I am very pleased to announce that all of our major sponsors have recommitted for the 22/23 season. We are incredibly grateful to all of our sponsors as the club cannot survive without their support



TTS Real Estate



IGA East Keilor



Moonee Ponds Club

Est
1922

We are now in the process of contacting all of our Club 500 Sponsors in the hope of having them recommit to the 22/23 season

If anyone knows of or owns a business that is interested in becoming a sponsor of the club, please have them contact me and we can discuss the various packages that are available

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Changes to the 22/23 season

The club is very excited to announce the appointment of Robert Turnbull to the role of **Senior Coach**. Rob was a professional cricketer for over 13 years in England where he played County Cricket. Rob, prior to moving to England to be with his now wife, Jo, played First XI cricket for Northcote. He was also selected to play cricket for Victoria, but unfortunately injured his back.

Rob knows what it takes to make it and has coached from U10s right through to Professional outfits. He is measured, professional, clear in his message and is incredibly excited by our youth.

Rob and Jo have spent the last 5 weeks getting to know the club and believe we are the perfect fit for them. Robs son, Bailey, has played half the season and shows promise of being a very good bat for the club

Good luck for the upcoming season Rob. Watch this space for "An Interview with the Coach)

Training Captains:

We are seeking to appoint 3 training captains to support the coach. This will enable the coach to focus his time on coaching and developing our playing group. We are after a:

Batting captain – to coordinate the padding up of batsmen and timing their 8 minutes in the nets

Bowling captain – to ensure we have 4 bowlers in each net and to coordinate the rotation of bowlers throughout the session

Fielding captain – to ensure that the training drills that are set up by the coach are being completed properly and with the right intensity

You do not need to be a player to take on any of these roles. In fact, it is desirable that you aren't a player and that you'd just like to get involved with the playing group. **The roles are not gender specific** and are easily learnt.

Training

In addition to having the new nets completed for the new season, the club will now **train on turf 2 nights per week**. This will ensure we are providing our players

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with the best possible opportunity to improve their game where it counts, in the middle

2022/23 Committee

All of the above outcomes and goals are not achievable without a motivated committee that works in unison to succeed. Committees are not formed for us to just catch up with mates and have a laugh. Committees are tasked with ensuring that we are doing what is in the best interest of the club as its current custodians and to make sure that all of the duties are carried out to make the club a great place to be.

Please find a little further down a break down of committee roles for the 2022/23 season. At every AGM, all roles are spilled and filled. Some members immediately nominate themselves to go straight back on, some wait to be nominated and some that cannot attend send in proxy nominations.

In taking on a role on the committee, it is expected that you will be able to attend 1 meeting a month. During the offseason, these are held online and are generally the first Monday night of each month. During the season, these meetings are generally held at the club on the 1st Tuesday of the month. These meetings, depending on the agenda, generally run from 2-3 hours. It will be expected that you will present on your portfolio

It is very important to know that you are not required to carry all of the work out yourself. If you take on a portfolio, it is your responsibility to ensure that the work for that portfolio gets done, but delegate. For example, if you are the Bar Manager, you are not expected to order, stack, refill, and work behind the bar every night. Enlist the help of 1 or 2 others that aren't on the committee and then delegate. This ensures that 1. You are not burning yourself out and 2. We are developing the next generation of committee member

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If you are interested in joining the committee for the new season, please read through the below PDs and contact me.

You do not need to have done it before. You may be the parent of a Junior, a partner, a sibling, a friend, a sponsor, a member etc and believe you have the time and desire to jump on board – please do. It can be hard work, but let me promise you, when you have a great season, it is incredibly rewarding and satisfying

I hope you all have a wonderful off season and look forward to catching up again soon

Warm regards

Leo Italiano

President - Moonee Ponds Cricket Club inc Aberfeldie Park CC

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Committee Roles 22/23

President: - Leo Italiano will be standing for reappointment

Responsibilities:

- Council correspondence for pavilion, nets, leases etc
- Sponsors Days
- Past Players Days
- Chairing committee meetings
- Being the “Face of the Place”
- Overseeing / being involved in the recruitment / retention process
- Holds 1 vote out of 4 on the Executive, plus the deciding vote if tied
- Direct report for all of the below roles
- Support the Junior Coordinator

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Vice President: -

Responsibilities:

- Stand in for the President when not available
- Responsible for another major portfolio, ie bar / Cricket Ops etc
- Being involved in the recruitment / retention process
- Holds 1 vote out of 4 on the Executive

Secretary:

Responsibilities:

- Recording and then dispersing committee meeting minutes
- Is the 1st point of call for all incoming and outgoing correspondence
- Emptying the PO Box Fortnightly
- Filling out and submitting forms for Council, Associations etc
- Attending / ensuring we have a delegate present at all Association Committee meetings
- Holds 1 vote out of 4 on the Executive

Treasurer: (Could be leader with assistant)

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for ensuring the accountable management of Senior and Junior Club funds
- Setting budgets with the Executive

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- Recording all incoming and outgoing monies
- Maintaining a record of memberships payments
- Ensure all bills are paid
- Maintain MYOB
- Holds 1 vote out of 4 on the Executive
- Raising sponsorship invoices

Sub Committee

Clothing Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Ensuring pricing and quality is to standard every season
- Collate, submit, and then disperse all apparel including headwear
- Maintain a stock on hand registry
- Liaise with the Exec and Sponsorship manager before the beginning of every season to determine apparel sponsors

Sponsorship Manager / Fundraising Coordinator (with the President)

Responsibilities:

- 1st port of call for all Sponsors along with the President
- Fortnightly emails sent to all Sponsors
- Coordinate Sponsors Days
- Ensuring all packages are vetted by the Exec prior to releasing them every year

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- Encourage our members to provide leads on sponsors for us to follow up

Ground/equipment manager:

Responsibility:

- Ensuring all training equipment is in good order
- Ordering balls for all grades
- Ensuring all match balls get back to the coach
- Ensuring all stumps, cones etc are to standard
- Curator communications and ensuring curator is paid by putting invoice into the Treasurer weekly
- Deal with council on ground matters
- Coordination of covers (put roster together / system in place)

Junior Cricket Coordinator (Can have others reporting to you)

Responsibility:

- Reports directly to the Exec and will be included in budgeting for the junior program
- Implement a 5yr and 10yr strategy with goals that are set to be achieved yearly regarding growth, success etc
- Running the Junior program through appointing coaches that will report to them
- Registration days
- Junior recruitment
- Ensuring all coaches are entering scores into My Cricket and paying match fees and send Media Manager weekly match reviews

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- Ensuring all Junior memberships are paid in liaison with the Treasurer
- Overseeing the Woolworths program
- Build strong relationships with Cricket Victoria (President to be involved here)

Club house Manager /Bar/Food Manager

Responsibility:

- Ensuring the bar is fully stocked by using our sponsors
- Coordinating Thursday night meals through our sponsors and Saturday night BBQs
- Responsible for both of these areas for club functions
- Checking for all supplies, ie toilet paper etc
- Clubroom cleaning roster

Social Events Coordinator

Responsibility:

- Establishing a social calendar for the seniors and Juniors in conjunction with the committee
- Responsible for delegating function responsibilities to committee members at meetings
- Liaise with Media Manager to create and distribute flyers

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Media manager

Responsibility:

- Ensure all club electronic media is up to date, professional and well presented
- Manage club website
- Ensure all captains and junior coaches are providing weekly write ups on match results and then publishing them
- Advertise our sponsors
- Creating ideas for club promotion etc
- Ensure all Captains are entering scores on My Cricket

Grants Officer:

Responsibility:

- Be across every single grant that there is
- Present to committee
- Apply for everything we qualify for

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