

Newsletter

Hawthorn Club

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President's Report

Ross Trompf

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned it was not time to spend money on improvements but to increase our cash reserves, particularly until we have a better idea of the State Government's intent regarding gaming and the Tabcorp and Tattersalls duopoly.

Well, the Government has all but divulged its intentions and apart from announcing entitlements, will be extremely helpful to all Pubs and Clubs especially Clubs like ours which give back to local Communities. I can promise you we are definitely being looked after, and based on last year's turnover, a 100% plus increase to gaming revenue would have been received. Sure there would be increased expenses to come out of that but a very healthy profit would be achieved for the Club.

So, the Board of Directors has recently made some big decisions to spend some of its built up capital in areas such as:

- ♦ **New glycol beer system - have a go at the new ice cold beer on tap.**
- ♦ **Huge technology update with several screens installed around the Club.**
- ♦ **3 new air-conditioners in the courts.**
- ♦ **New snooker cues and balls.**
- ♦ **New Swipe Card system.**
- ♦ **Installation of a sporting internet kiosk.**

The main focus has been to improve the Club and our bottom line.

Whilst not a capital expense, the Club has matched any donations made at the Club to the Bush Fire Appeal up to \$5,000.

Even with the expenditure mentioned, we still boast a very healthy bank balance and well positioned to deal with approaching

changes in the gaming industry. However, more than ever, we need to look towards the future and plan for it.

We are establishing reciprocal rights with Clubs including the Numurkah Golf Club, with its 18 hole golf course, gaming, restaurants, accommodation and wineries nearby.

We welcome approaches from sporting clubs and in the next few months will form associations with:

- ♦ Hawthorn Cycling Club
 - ♦ Old Scotch Soccer Club
 - ♦ Hawthorn Hackers Golf Club
- These Clubs will provide us with new Members and help to maintain our proud sporting heritage. It goes without saying but we ask that you look after these new Members when they visit and make them welcome when they drop in for a drink.

The Constitution Sub-Committee is doing a great job and looking at the necessary changes to the Articles of Association which is covered in some detail by Michael Gillett in this issue.

At the AGM we hope to share with you some exciting news and present plans for a large scale improvements to our current building. This will ensure the ongoing viability of the Club and make us less reliant on gaming as our main source of income.

These are exciting times and we are positioning ourselves to accept the change and challenges that have to be made. We have a declining and ageing population and along with community values, interests, needs and priorities changing, we are not attracting Members as we have in the past. Ensuring the ongoing viability of the Club is paramount and if we need to give a little, then the Board believes it's best to do so and be in control rather than be placed in a position that's forced upon us.

There will be change, that's inevitable, and Members need to be aware of them but there will also be ongoing benefits which will ensure our proud traditions are maintained for years to come.

Stan Leoncelli 50 year Membership

Stan Leoncelli hits a milestone at the Hawthorn Club by becoming the second person to achieve a 50 year Membership. The other person was Ian 'Boots' Harold. Stan's celebration will take place on the Last Friday of the Month in August so keep that date clear and be there to help celebrate this incredible achievement. Imagine that, I was only 8 years old when Stan joined the Hawthorn Club. That either makes me old or Stan very old. **ED.**

\$750 Member's Draw goes off! (Without a bang)!

At long last, the Member's draw which started off at \$200 and going up by \$50 each month reaching \$750 was won in February at the Last Friday of the Month by **Ronnie 'Dad's Army' Illman.**

Graciously, Ron left \$250 on the bar for Member's to have a couple of drinks on him. Well done Ron and well deserved. So it's back to \$200 for March but you have to be there to win it so **be there!**

Sad time for the Club

Members were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Joel, David & Jayne Barrie's youngest son and brother to Garth. It was tragic and without a doubt, every parents worse nightmare. The wake was held at the Club with well over 100 people attending including quite a few Members. A large board full of photos celebrating Joel's short but full life was on display. Once again, to David, Jayne and Garth, who will always be in our thoughts, we are with you through this journey and there for you any time you need us.

Ross Trompf The Brave (or The Walking Dead)

I was having a chat with Madam President a few weeks ago and discovered she was not a happy chappy. In the course of the conversation, she asked me to guess what she will be doing on her 35th Wedding Anniversary which was coming up. Well, knowing the President as I do, I suggested they would be flying off to some romantic and exotic location where he will no doubt be having his way with her. "Nope!" Maybe a lovely and expensive restaurant for a romantic dinner for two after all, it was 35 years ago when Annie said, "I do," which surprised Ross as he didn't think she did. "Nope," came her reply. Dinner for two at home with a lovely gift? "Nope!" It seems Ross is going away on that weekend with his brothers and the anniversary will just have to wait. What a man! Gee, I wish I was that tough!

Air Condition Courts? That's really cool!

The Club has recently installed three split system air conditions (cooling only) - one for each court however, they are nowhere near the size they need to be to effectively cool the entire court but will certainly do the job in the gallery area and have some spillage over on to the court. They were offered to us at a fantastic price and too good to knock back. HERE'S A TIP - if you do use them, place the oscillating fan directly under it and you will find that it does aid in pushing the cold air on to the court. But please be a little vigilant and remember to turn them off when you have finished. The plan is to have the three units wired to a sensor and set for the maximum 19 degrees so if it is a hot day and there is movement in the gallery or court area, the units will automatically come on and most importantly, turn itself off after 10 minutes of no movement.

Rule Changes! (Michael Gillett)

The Board established a Constitution Sub-Committee in October 2008 to consider a number of changes to the Club's Rules of Association. The existing Constitution was last updated in August 2004, and since that time there have been various changes to the legislative arrangements in which the Club operates as well as changes to the business and sporting environments.

All changes proposed will be reviewed by the Board then presented to Members for discussion and acceptance at a Special General Meeting on a date to be advised. The proposed updated Rules of Association document will be available to all Members to review the rules prior to the general meeting. Some of the changes being proposed include:

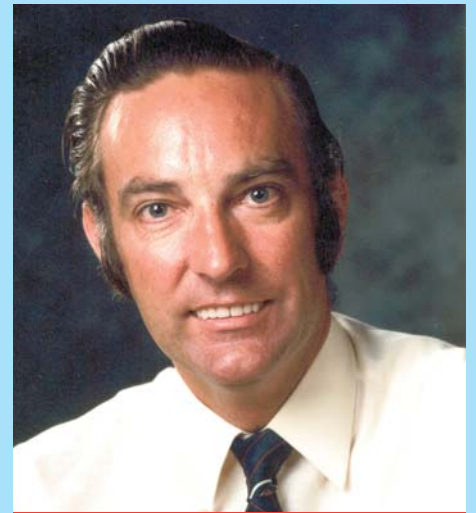
◆ Change the name of the Club to "Club Hawthorn" for the reasons detailed by Ross in his President's Report.

◆ The group of Members elected to manage the affairs of the Club be referred to a Board of Management, and positions on the Board be elected for a 2 year term, rather than yearly as current. It is proposed that the President and half the Board positions be subject to elections one year and the other half the next year. This will provide a level of management continuity across multiple elections and reduce the potential for many new Board Members needing time to come up-to-speed with the affairs of the Club at the same time.

◆ The Membership categories have been clarified with descriptions of eligibility and the privileges and limitations applicable to each category.

◆ The establishment of a Joining Fee applicable to new Members joining the Club. This will offset some of the administrative costs associated with new Memberships and encourages existing Members to retain their Membership.

The updates will correct a couple of existing anomalies but importantly positions the Club for future growth and financial security while maintaining our strong sporting heritage and place in the local community. It is hoped that all Members take an active interest in these constitutional changes and support their acceptance at the Special General Meeting.



5 Minutes with John Ryan

How long have you been a Member?

41 years. Since 1968.

One thing you like about the Club?

The Members and everyone getting on well and interacting with each other.

One thing you don't like about the Club?

No beer garden and bistro. Maybe we should knock it down and rebuild a new one with open spaces and plenty of light.

When you worked, what did you do?

Engineer on offset printing machines with Gestetner for 32 years and when they closed I moved on and set up my own business for 18 years.

How do you spend your days?

4-5 days at the Club playing snooker as well as spending one hour each day walking. I also spend three months of the year overseas and two months travelling around Australia.

Favourite football team?

Hawthorn.

Your favourite drink?

Fosters Lager - the one and only.

Who has had the greatest influence on your life?

In the later stages of my life its been my Pentecostal Church.

Do you have a dream?

For the world to live in peace and harmony.

Which three people would you like to have over for a dinner party?

Obama, the Queen and Bill Gates.

Which three items would you want with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

Fosters, Bible and trees for shade.



At the Last Friday of the Month held on 27th February 2009, Ross and I presented some exciting plans for the Club in the way of new technology.

Those of you who have been

to the Club in the last few weeks would have noticed the new glycol beer system. One of the reasons for change in this area was the quality of our tap beer was poor and we were limited to Carlton Draught and Cascade Light. The new system allows for up to 8 different beers and the quality has been vastly improved. Try it and you will be surprised by the improved quality. You will also find the beer is actually cold. If you catch me at a weak moment (and there aren't many), I might even shout you one!!!

There will also be a lot of new technology being introduced to the Club or improved over the next few weeks and they include:

1. A new server based computer system second to none will allow for better efficiency with the operational aspects of the Club and one that will also expand as the business grows.

2. The introduction of a Swipe Card to signify that you are indeed a Member and allowed access to the Members area as well as receiving discounts for purchases throughout the Club. By swiping your card you build loyalty points as well as receive discounts from other reciprocal Clubs or participating businesses such as our sponsors (Glenferrie Gourmet Meats, Hair House Warehouse and Magic Carwash). It would also allow Members to access the squash courts via the rear car park to eliminate Members walking through to the squash courts during functions. A door swipe system has already been set up to access this area for this purpose.

3. In April, several TV screens will be installed offering a range of programs (Foxsports, TVN, Fox Footy and a host of other live sports) as well as music, films, advertising, general information on the Club, Raffle Draws, Bingo and anything else that can be displayed via television screens.

4. The introduction of a kiosk housing Sportsbet, Tattsлото and a facility to enable patrons to top up phone credit.

Sportsbet is **NOW** available to Members and if you sign up, you will receive a "**Free \$50.00 Betting Voucher.**" While we are waiting for the kiosk to be installed, Sportsbet can be accessed in the Club via a dedicated phone line so sign up now and receive the benefits straight away!!

5. We will be upgrading our website and introducing a Wireless Internet facility **FREE** for Members use. There will be a laptop available to surf the net and to check your emails. Other visitors to the Club will have access to these and some of the other facilities but unlike Members, they will have to pay for access.

With the introduction of this service, Members can have an email address that can be accessed anywhere in the world via webmail. If you don't have your own personal email we can set one up for you at no cost - jsmith@clubhawthorn.com.au

These new initiatives should be up and running by the end of April and we should be in a position to showcase most of them at the Member's night to be held on Friday 24th April (the day after Phil Howe's birthday - he made me say that!)

Also, as a result of the Strategic Planning Day held by the Board of Directors and myself, we have contacted the Hawthorn Cycling Club, the Hawthorn Hackers Golf Club and The Old Scotch Soccer Club to strengthen ties with other sports groups and to grow our Membership. These groups have given us a commitment to look at ways to use our facilities and to become part of this very exciting Club. This will grow our membership and ensure our aims and statement of purpose are to continue for many more years to come.

So as you can see, we are introducing a host of new initiatives aimed at stimulating membership growth and to let the community know we exist and that we are not just a gaming venue. Hopefully we might attract some of the corporate businesses that surround us and give a better opportunity to grow the business.

If any Member wishes to discuss any of these initiatives, you can discuss it with individual Board Members or put it in writing and I will present it to the Board at our next meeting.

As I have always said, I look forward to meeting all Members and my door is always open and I am only too happy to listen to your suggestions to improve "Your Club".

Best wishes **Jim Smith**

CLUB HAWTHORN or Hawthorn Club?

The Board is currently considering a subtle name change from Hawthorn Club to **Club Hawthorn**. This has a lot to do with the fact that we are constantly being confused with the Hawthorn Football Club and in an effort to differentiate ourselves from them, perhaps Club Hawthorn is the answer.

Along with the name change will come a new logo and we have commissioned Phil Howe from Red Locus to look at this for us. The stumbling block is the fee. Phil wants free glasses of red and we are offering him free soft drinks so we may have to settle for free beer as a compromise (after all, he is cheap)! The idea of the name Club Hawthorn will fit in well with the future direction of the Club which is going to be a very exciting phase (more in weeks to come). But with the addition of other sporting clubs affiliating with us such as the soccer, bicycle and golf clubs, and the long term plans to develop our site and establish a restaurant, bar, first class function facilities, kitchen and Club lounge, we believe Club Hawthorn is the way to go. We'll keep you in touch with more news later. **ROSS TROMPF**

Club Championships

The Club Championships are planned for the off-season after this current season is over so make sure you are going to be around for it. This means you can continue playing squash through the off-season and keep yourself fit for the new season. Keep an eye out on the board for the details. **MARK PREMOSELLI**

Multi-Screens

As Jim had mentioned, a number of screens will be going up around the Club hopefully by 24th April which will carry free-to-air and paid-TV programs as well as general information about what's coming up at the Club, reminders about functions, news, advertising, etc. In terms of advertising, this will mean that Club Members could have an ad running over a period of weeks depicting who he is, what he does, special offers, etc. We could also source revenue by offering this advertising medium to businesses in and outside the Club. This is a fantastic initiative and a great way to communicate with Club and Gaming Members. Watch for it.

Two of these people are World Squash Champions and five of them are pathetic! Can you pick the difference?



Turning Rule

If the striker has either followed the ball round, or allowed it to pass around him or her, in either case striking the ball to the right of the body after the ball has passed to the left (or vice-versa) then the striker has "TURNED."

If the ball strikes the opponent after the striker has turned, the rally is awarded to the opponent.

If the striker, while turning, stops play for fear of striking the opponent, then a let is played. This is a recommended course of action in situations where a player wants to turn but is unsure of the opponent's position.

Famous sayings from the infamous

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize." **Phil Howe**
"99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name."

Graeme Forbes

"How can I tell when I'm out of invisible ink?"

Ross Trompf

"My mechanic told me he couldn't repair my brakes, so he made my horn louder."

Catrina Cook

"82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot." **Mark Premoselli**

"I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met." **Wayne Daniels**

Inhouse Pennant, interested?

An idea doing the rounds is the possibility of running an in-house pennant competition next season. Would you be interested? Some Members are not playing Masters due to the late 7.30-8pm starts and having to travel all over Melbourne and if we could hold an in-house pennant over several weeks and start the matches at say, 6.30pm, we could get Members playing again.

The idea is that if we can muster up about 15-20 players giving us at least two or four teams, everyone will be graded accordingly. All matches will start at 6.30pm and be played at the Club so there is no travelling involved. If teams want to stay for supper, you will need to advise the Club a day or two prior or you could just order in some take-away on an ad-hoc basis. Does this interest you? A poster will go up in the Club soon so put your name on the board and we'll see how many are interested.

Michael Grange, where were you?

At the Last Friday of the Month in March, Mike was the winner of the \$200 Cash prize but Mike wasn't present so it Jackpots to \$250. It may be YOU this month. Be there!

What's Coming Up?

APRIL

10th-13th EASTER

24th LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - \$250 Jackpot

26th Sunday NORM'S WALK - Birrarung Marr

MAY

8th Friday - WINE LUNCHEON

10th Sunday MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

29th LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - Karaoke Evening

JUNE

8th Monday QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND HIGH TEA (Date TBA)

26th LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

JULY

SQUASH & RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Date TBA)

24th-26th BENDIGO SQUASH TOURNAMENT

31st LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - Movie Night

AUGUST

Saturday & Sunday GRAMPIANS WINE TOUR (Date TBA)

28th LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - Stan Leoncelli's 50th Year Membership

SEPTEMBER

Sunday FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON AGM (Date TBA)

7th Monday - 18th Friday AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS GRAND FINAL FOOTBALL

25th LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER

Saturday GUEST CHEF DINNER PARTY (Date TBA)

30th LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER

MELBOURNE CUP

OAK'S DAY LUNCH

27th Friday - 29th Sunday BALLARAT TOURNAMENT

27th LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER

18th CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

25th CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON

31st NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Put these dates in your calendar NOW so you don't forget them. We'd love to see new Members attend a few of these functions so we can get to meet you and you get to build a wider circle of friends at the Club.

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