

CASEY CANNONS HOCKEY CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Presidents Report

The 2009 has again produced mixed results for Casey. Our senior teams have consolidated in the player lists and with the introduction of several new women and men have increased their competitiveness. This is no doubt due to the coaching staff who have contributed so much time, energy and expertise to the teams. The junior section of the club also made a big commitment in time and energy again this year. This was not however reflected in the results and I know several teams were disappointed with their final ladder positions. We had a reduced number of junior teams this season as Hockey generally and Casey in particular struggles to attract new junior players to the game. This is a phenomenon we are all coming to terms with as the tradition of sport participation by our younger community continues to decline.

I am pleased to announce the two senior coaches from the 2009 season, Lawrie Edwards and Russell Carvell, are keen to continue on again next year and continue to develop our top two teams. This will provide some much needed continuity in the coaching staff. My sincere thanks to all of the players, coaches and team managers for the 2009 season.

As everyone knows the club exists for its members and the playing of Hockey. To make this happen however there are a number of dedicated individuals who continue to serve in support of the players and teams. I would particularly like to thank Michael Dale, Rebekah Hodson, Jeff Reidy and Lyn Wood for their unstinting efforts throughout the year. Whilst I have singled these individuals out there are a large number of parents and players who also assist in running the club and to all of these people I express my thanks for their efforts.

On a less pleasant note I must express my disappointment at the small number of senior players who participate or contribute to the organisation of the club and match days. It seems that a number of people are happy to enjoy the fruits of other peoples work but are reluctant to contribute themselves.

This leads me to consider the future of the Casey Hockey Club. As a senior club we are relatively strong in numbers if not in ranking. We struggle as a junior club mainly due to a lack of numbers in the junior ranks as we try to compete with other clubs, sports and lifestyle to get the players. With 19 teams fielded this year we should have at least 150 senior players and parents to draw on for assistance yet we struggle to fill committee positions and have people assisting. If this trend continues the club will remain stagnant and never grow. Growth is what we need if we are to attract new players and gradually improve our ranking.

Our financial position can best be described as "challenging". Whilst we have now managed to finally pay off the building of our club rooms this has been at the expense of our contribution into a joint fund for major repairs or

refurbishment to the playing area. This fund is run by the school and ensures we have enough money to keep the pitch and surrounds in good condition. Our major creditor is the school and they are extremely patient with us and I am grateful to them for their generous support.

The financial position must however be addressed positively in the coming years. Given the current number of players; junior, senior and vets, we have a potential to raise approximately \$50,000 in club membership and playing fees. However based on the same current numbers it costs the club in excess of \$65,000 to field teams. Clearly there is a shortfall of \$15,000 before we even consider new equipment, trophies, building maintenance and other non playing expenses.

The major challenge then over the next few years is how we can increase the membership numbers to provide more fees so that the playing of hockey is self funding. Sponsorship, events and canteen profits can then be used to provide a fund for the running of the club (as opposed to the game). Failure to do this will mean additional costs being recovered from the players with an increase in fees.

In conclusion then the 2009 year has been a learning curve for me and other new people on the committee. There is much work to be done re memberships and sponsorships for the club to grow as it needs to. The incoming committee must encourage members to contribute both on and off the field. My thanks go to any retiring members of the committee and congratulations to new ones.

Garry Sonnberger
President