

## ***President's Report***

***Mark Freeman***

On behalf of the Committee of Management, I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the 2019-20 season for your reading.

During the off season the club decided to take a new direction with the younger players that we are trying to get to the club, therefore dropping the 5<sup>th</sup> XI team. This coincided with a drop in the number of junior teams from 4 to 1 (U14), which is sad given the number of talented cricketers that have come from the RCC junior program and have or are now regular 1<sup>st</sup> XI or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI players.

The season started with the excitement of our ground and training facilities recovering very well from the winter weather and the continuation of discussions with Council and CV about the new Multi Purpose Indoor Training Facility and the Pavilion Upgrade.

Our on-field performances were mixed across the grades; with the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI finishing 10<sup>th</sup> and only one win out of the finals. The Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the T20 competition and 6<sup>th</sup> in the 2-day competition to narrowly miss out on finals in both. Our Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were very competitive in a lot of games but just couldn't find a way to get across the line with a 4 Wins/ 9 Loss record for the season. The Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had two very contrasting seasons, going winless in the T20 competition for the first half of the season, then coming out and winning 8 one day games out of 13 to win the minor premiership in the last game. Unfortunately, a strong Melbourne outfit outplayed them in the semi-final, but nonetheless a fantastic season considering the start they had. Our Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI dominated all season finishing the home and away season on top and won their first final with a fantastic last wicket partnership of 35 (Zac Corcoran & Tom Humphries). In unique circumstances the season came to an abrupt end due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our boys were awarded the Premiership they so richly deserved. The Women's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI had a challenging season with captain Kelly Tarr having such a young group to work with. At various stages during the season Kelly had an average age of 13-14 in her team once you exclude her from the calculations. To their credit they were competed in the right spirit and strung together 5 wins across both competitions. Finally our Men's 4<sup>th</sup> XI were disappointing from a win/loss record but at times showed glimpses of really good cricket, with some good individual performances as well.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our respective coaching panels led by Male club coach Gavin Kellar and Women's Head Coach Kim Littlejohn. The assistance provided by Darren Roe, Richard Armstrong, Steve Box, Len Hayes-Rosario, Graeme Fox, Akshay Kodoth & Tyson Freeman was greatly appreciated by all players. The support provided by our new Head of Cricket Operations Jason Hartill and his two assistants in Jason Evans and Jas Harrison was also greatly appreciated, given the multiple tasks they were performing.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our numerous captains Pat Ashton, Michael Campbell, Jordan Roberts, Sam Wade, Bhavi Devchand, Deb Loughnan & Kelly Tarr. It is a challenging job captaining any team and you applied yourselves exceptionally well and provided the much-needed leadership for our players to continue their cricketing journey.

A big thank you to Chris Furzer, & Michael Oxworth for the wicket preparation at our 2 venues. We would also like to acknowledge the support provided by Maroondah City Council's Sportsfield team and Maroondah Leisure.

Once again, we were very fortunate to have a large number of volunteers who make a significant contribution week in week out. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who put in a massive amount of time and effort to ensure that ours and the opposition players, officials and spectators are well looked after. A big thank you to our regular scorers Jan & Lindsay Howard, Jeff Beaumont, Peter & Dianne Kaspar, Janet Mosbey, David Sykes and Sue Tarr who's scored for their respective teams this season. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Our scorers also undertake other duties with Jan and Lindsay Howard and Peter Kaspar's contribution towards The Ram of the Year and Presentation

Night Awards over many years. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Kate Timms who runs a very efficient bar, and to Carmel Walshe who does the dirty jobs of cleaning both Jubilee Park pavilions and Proclamation every week during the season. Thanks very much Kate & Carmel. I would also like to thank Siena Harvie and Elyse Harvie for their contributions in running and the canteen and kitchen.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of my wife Mandy, in supporting Siena and Elyse managing the match day food preparation responsibilities. They were ably supported by many players parents and partners, which ensured that our reputation within the Premier Cricket ranks as a club that looks after their own and all visitors was maintained. Thank you also to Tony Dineen who coordinated the roster for match day food preparations.

This season Bernie Holland took on the task of Match Day ground set up on Saturday's. Despite the intention of Bernie not having to be there each Saturday morning, he did find himself there 95% of the time and was ably assisted by Jason Hartill and a band of fathers. Thank you Bernie, Jason and fathers for your efforts, it is greatly appreciated.

To our hardworking committee comprising of John Cassidy, Mike Dudley, Chris Nash, Tamara Mason, Peter Kaspar, Deb Loughnan, Jason Hartill, Jason Evans and Jas Harrison thank you for the time and effort you have contributed to the running of our club in 2019-20. Personally I would also like to thank the committee for the guidance and support they have provided me in my eight years as President.

To our many sponsors The Coach & Horses Hotel, Saxon Sports, Cricket Framing, Bendigo Bank Heathmont & East Ringwood, Harcourts Ringwood, Paul's Supa IGA East Ringwood, Epic Good Foundation and Giles Foster Scholarship, Original Joe's Croydon, AFI Branding, Michael Sukkar, The Firehouse Ringwood, House of Golf Ringwood, Menzclub Eastland, Eastland Shopping Centre, Genesis Ringwood, Sporting Fine Art, New Balance, Eastside Fencing and Grill'd Eastland, thank you for your ongoing financial support of RCC. We hope that you will be on board again in 2020/21.

To our Player Sponsors, Golden Rams & Ringleaders, thank you very much for your financial support of the club for the past season. Each season the cost to operate our club increases so your contribution is greatly appreciated in trying to help us remain financially stable. We trust that you enjoyed the season and will be on board again in 2020/21

To our key partners in Cricket Victoria & Maroondah Council, thank you for your ongoing support of our club. You both play a major role in the success of our club. We look forward to your continued support next season as we work towards to realising our dreams of the new Pavilion and Multipurpose Indoor Training Facility coming to fruition.

Congratulations to all of our award winners this season.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Gavin Kellar as Head Coach of the Male program for the past 9 seasons. He has been instrumental in the development of our playing group both as cricketers and young men. Your commitment, dedication, effort and guidance to the club has been greatly appreciated by all. We look forward to the next generation of the Kellar family (James, Mitchell and Gemma) starting their cricketing journey at RCC when the time is right.

Finally, thank you to all Members of the Club for electing me as your President for the 2019-20 season and look forward to working closely with you all again next season.

#GORAMS

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