



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023 / 2024

Sunday, 23rd June 2024

Welcome all to the 2023/2024 Highfields & Districts Railway Cricket Club Annual General Meeting.

It was another busy season starting with 2 sausage sizzles, one in Highfields and one held at Bunnings Northpoint which we profited \$2300.

The club was successful in gaining a grant from Variety Club Qld and receiving 12 tablets & cases to use for live scoring for both Seniors & Juniors - total value of \$4740! Thank you to Alan Donges for making this happen.

On the 23rd of September we boarded a bus and travelled to Chinchilla for a trial match with Crossroads CC, turned out to be a great day and topped off with a win.

The club hosted the Schaeffer Shield over a weekend in November which included feeding and watering over 60 people by our amazing volunteers.

We held a fun games Bunko night, which was well attended and much fun was had by all.

The club continues to hold Friday night raffles at our favourite watering hole the Royal Hotel and we thank all the volunteers who get there on a Friday night to sell the tickets.

The club welcomed our new club coach Tim Connolly to the Bulldog family, a very welcome addition. It was a tough initiation for Tim but he brought some great knowledge and leadership skills along and has re-committed for another season thankfully.

The season start was a testing one with injuries setting us back and Andre not permitted to return as a result of changes to government visa requirements. Unfortunately, A-Grade captain Kurtley Nielsen also sustained a season ending injury early, so Ben Anderson stepped into the role and we thank Benno for your commitment through the season.

Thanks to Reserve grade captains Justin Edwards & Joey Marsh for steering the lads around and for your passion and commitment to the Bulldogs.

Thanks to B grade captain Peter Spence for your efforts not only this season but over many seasons of commitment and Bulldog spirit.

Thank you also to C grade captain Brad Siddans for your commitment to the C grade team again this season.

The Div 1 T20 team reached the Grand Final but unfortunately went down to Souths on the night.

Our juniors have had another great season under the leadership of Junior VP Brett Lyons, thanks for your dedication Brett, you have done an outstanding job over the last 3 years.

Also a huge thank you to all our junior coaches, parents and care givers who continue to support their children.

Annika had a vision to grow our junior base and the successful outcome was 89 registered juniors and 48 registered Blasters, well done all involved, especially Dane Little who ran and organised our littlest cricketers over 12 Friday afternoons. Thanks to all.

Annika was recognized for her efforts with a Qld cricket Volunteer of the month award and also to Dane who was recognized as the clubs junior volunteer of the year award. Congratulations.

Congrats to our players who gained rep honours, Jack Hollist, Josh Cranston, Connor Cranston, Riley Canning, Braith Gamberini, Harry Town, Myles Ehrlich, Ben Sullivan & Keiran Cornish.

We have recently engaged with a company called Club Map. They will help us with strategic and operational planning, structure around volunteer positions/roles within the club, modern way of fundraising, securing sponsors, grant writing & much more. This has already been put into practice for the upcoming season with hard work being put in behind the scenes predominantly by Annika, Tim and Dane.

Thanks to Tim Ehrlich who has taken on the position of Sponsorship Manager for the club. He has been extremely busy securing new sponsors for the new season and beyond. Keep an eye out for news regarding who the new sponsors are. Thanks Tim.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing sponsors for their commitment and monetary support over the past 3 seasons: The Royal Hotel, D-Blinds, Golden Green Mowing, Jensen & Co Lawyers, Precision Steel Framing, Fix and Clean, Charleys Place, Ben Leisch Ray White Toowoomba, Bradford Consulting Group and Paragon Homes.

We have made a firm commitment to actively recruit new players to the club and that has already begun with the intent to strengthen numbers. Exciting things have started with the recent visit by Xavier Bartlett which was very well attended by over 30 juniors on a beautiful winters day and a visit by Jack Wildermuth last Sunday morning. Plans are in place for more visits by Jack in coming months.

The concrete for our brand new practice wicket was poured last Tuesday. Fantastic to see this project finally progressing after some to-ing and fro-ing by local council. Thanks mostly to Alan Donges for his persistence in this project, Alan secured a grant through Qld cricket for the concrete.

Massive thanks to our hard working Executive, Committee and volunteers: Secretary, Annika Ehrlich, Senior VP, Tony Anderson, Junior VP, Brett Lyons, Treasurer, Alan Donges, Blasters Co-Ordinator & Child Protection, Dane Little, Uniform Co-Ordinator, Dylan Harvey, Social Media, Sandra Morrish, Patron, Brett Nielsen, General committee, Anita Honan, Tim Ehrlich, Greg Caldwell, Bill McNaughton, Ian Caldwell, Robbie Glover & Ben Anderson.

Special thank you to John Lee for your tireless efforts in continuing to produce fantastic wickets for us to play on week in week out. Shout out to Brendan Galvin and everyone that helped in the canteen, covering, uncovering wickets, raffles and generally helping around the club. Thank you



Last season culminated with our annual banquet and awards night held at the Royal Hotel on the 20th of April 2024. Special mention to MC Jamie Pukallus who did a fantastic job and made the night run smoothly. The night was well attended and we enjoyed a Q & A session with special guest Jack Wildermuth.

Personally I will never forget this evening as I was extremely surprised with being honoured with Life Membership of the club. I would like to thank each and everyone who was involved with this decision and I will be forever grateful.

It has been a privilege and an honour being your President.

Good luck and best wishes for the season ahead - Go the Bulldogs!

Tony Morrish

President