

Quote of Michael Jordan's from the Chicago Bulls

"I have missed about 9000 shots in my career, I have lost almost 300 games, 26 times I have been trusted to take the winning game shot ----- and missed, I have failed over and over again -----and that is why I succeed."

Cougar's Football Club - President's Report – 2008

Greg Twelftree

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the running of our Club this year. Many people measure a sporting clubs eminence by games and/or Premierships won. In our senior grades this year, I guess by this criteria we have failed – end of story.

But to the true club supporter, the one who joins up every year, the one who experienced the immense highs of 2007 and who knows more than a little about footy – yes it has been a battle to stay in contention but hell there have been some good signs and its pretty well all been local!

Premierships are what we play footy for, but as was have pointed out last year our Club could not sustain the then player payments. We made a tough decision to go local and wanted to still be competitive, a footy anachronism is ever there was one!

I congratulate Gav Moore, our A and B Grad Coach. A more passionate and honest coach you would not find and a good man. With strong and undying support from his family Gav took on the impossible and lost. I don't that he will coach the Cougars next year or even again. It will be to the severe detriment of our Club if we use Gav Moore as a scapegoat for what we haven't achieved on the field this year. It is so important to nurture good Club people such as Gav. He stood up when no one else did, and I thank him.

Our Sponsors

I would like to start my report by thanking the many sponsors of the Cougars.

Wesfarmers insurance is our major sponsor and while John Cox is heavily involved with the CMS Crows, I assure you we are in regular touch and acknowledge his company's generous association with our Club.

Randy Dutschke and Armac Welding have always gone above and beyond the call of duty with their help. If something needs fixing, provided it's got some metal in it, it's done. .I thank Randy and his team.

The Maitland Hotel and the Yorke Valley Hotel are most generous sponsors in more ways than one. It's an old aussie tradition - if you have good friendly pubs in the town you are a long way to solving the country's problems! Thanks to you both.

Neil Dutschke is another local business who has embraced the Cougars and given so much to us. Neil, your many hours of work at the Bob Honner bar and BBQ room and more, has not gone unnoticed – it has been and will continue to be much appreciated by all who is them.

While on the oval bar, the most amazing bar top has been donated by the indefatigable Conrad Alwin. Todd and I had the pleasure of transporting it from Arthurton to the Maitland Oval. Thanks Conrad.

Finally completing the BBQ room was a major achievement. I thank Nick Hoskin who coordinated a lot of the work and to Neil Dutschke, Hank, Tony Clarke, Dick James, Mal Wuttke and other helpers - I say thanks.

We are most fortunate to have a bevy of Premier and Gold Sponsors - Wardle and Co – with Clarkey ever vigilant with the first cross lambs; Elders - call and see Dom; IGA a great place to shop; Andrew B Thiele; Australian Grain Export; Landmark-Arthurton, Adrian Brokenshire and Peninsula Toyota - Thanks Guys.

Please pass your peepers around the oval and Cave signs as these business' all support our Club.

A smooth ride

For the first time since I have been involved on Committee, we have had pretty smooth sailing the whole way through. When I sat down to write this, I asked myself why? The reason is simple – new, passionate, youthful, and keen Club people were elected on our Committee. The health and well being of a football club is always heavily reliant, not only on good players but also on its ability to entice such people into leadership roles. It has been an absolute joy to come to our meetings and watch and hear input from our new members. And of course, the more people involved the less work for all.

But is it work when we are all singing from the same hymn book?

I have decided not to take up a position on the General Committee next year. As outgoing President I am entitled to be on the Committee – a rule in our Constitution which I think is ridiculous and should be deleted but not tonight.

I encourage all here to support Andrew Thomson who has nominated for the position of President, not only is it the natural progression but I believe Thomo is a great leader.

My Committee

To my Committee, I say thanks for a year full of positive thoughts & support even though the enthusiasm didn't flow quickly onto the field.

Amanda Elefsen , my Secretary after a reluctant start - did extremely. Liasing with Michael Wyndam at home games worked like clockwork. I thank them both very much. Amanda, Gary and Chris Honner have also run the Bob Honner Bar.

Brenton Correll has taken on the role of Treasurer. A more efficient one you would not find.

Andrew Thomson has once again looked after the Junior Committee side, He is always great support.

Giles Honner has run the merchandise and his discerning input at meetings is refreshing.

David Clasohm is also new on the board and has looked after sponsorship and of course the new website is coming. Go to www.getsometechhelp.com.au

Adrian Brokenshire and Nick Hoskin have been in charge of the Cave and oval management respectively. They are long term members providing valuable help.

Linda Dutschke is a beautiful person who has successfully run the Oval Canteen. I thank her sincerely for her commitment and am very happy to say she has volunteered to run the Canteen next year.

Rob Penny in his first year has taken on plenty, including membership and running the BBQ room at home games.

The two youngest members Todd Twelftree and Shaun Hasting have been most welcome. Todd has also enjoyed running the social activities with Jake Rademacher & coaching the under 10s.

Thanks guys

The Value of Generation X and Y

After discussion at Committee level, it was decided to ask players in A and B leadership group to meet with myself and Justin McCormack to talk about players and even Coaches for next year. It was a great first meeting and I encourage our 2009 Committee to adopt a similar approach – as that famous quote goes “ ignore youth at your peril”.

We at the Cougars have always left recruiting and outside player discussion to a selected few who have never bothered to seek counsel from leading players. I think tt has been a mistake. The imput provided by Damien Adams who is our League’s Number 1 Ruckman again, Shaun Hasting, Todd Twelftree, Luke Butler and Cameron Webster was most gratifying. Juddy of course provided footy wisdom which is always priceless.

Our General Committee have taken the unprecedented step of interviewing an A Grade Coach for Season 2009. While it is not our task or duty to make an appointment, we will

strongly recommend him to the new Committee. This applicant's CV reads very well – he interviewed well and has specific plans for the Cougars in 2009.

I congratulate all trophy winners. The A Grade Leadership group was a new idea which has proven most successful in bringing the team together.. While I believe Camo's year was down on his excellent one in 2007, Ranga, Curly and Todd went 1, 2, 3 in Club voting. Their most generous enthusiasm on and off the field, has been enormous. Youthful exuberance is marvellous and so so addictive.

Ranga is amazing - his mix of consummate skill and humble nature touches the collective soul of all Yorke Peninsula footballers and supporters.

Our Juniors flew the flag in the finals and unfortunately struck two exceptional teams in Kadina and the CMS Crows. Congratulations Hammer (Barry Smith), Steve Marks and boys.

To Angus Longbottom, his support crew and Senior Colts well done on a hard season. Stick to it guys and we will get there.

Thanks to all the support staff, our trainers, water boys, runners, umpires, team managers, time keepers, BBQ Bar and kitchen staff etc. etc.

I also acknowledge the new players to our Club this year. Bill Gibson and James Sadler-Barker our two new policemen, Dom Meaney– Elders agronomist, Todd Nordhausen who with Katie Bowley makes a beautiful package and Ian Tomney from AWB who have been most generous in allowing us to crop their paddocks. To all others who have donned the Cougars guernsey this year – well done.

Off field help

Tim Chappell's Scoreboard is a major feature at our oval from whichever of Watto's mounds you are parked. Once again thankyou Tim for your valuable contribution.

Thursday night teas are a major draw card and David Davies and his crew who certainly provide great food and entertainment we say thanks.

Cockle has also stepped up to the plate in his role as Club rep on "From The Sidelines" on Gulf FM. This show is the best media based entertainment we could ever hope for and I hope the signal becomes stronger. Cockle provides insightful information before every home game and we love it.

At about 3-30pm every Friday before a home game, there is a working bee at the oval.. Often the numbers are small but the quality is always high, Nick Hoskin gets the oval mowed and watered etc. Other regulars include PR and/or Snooker, Greeny, Conny and Hank. .Please be aware the oval and surrounds doesn't just get itself ready for home

games. It's always a fun couple of hours - please come along and join in – your help will be most appreciated.

I value Hugh Wearing's support as League Director, his honesty, wisdom and complete dedication is much appreciated.

Bar Managers do not just fall out of trees and we have been spoilt with 1st class ones in the past. I thank Perry Oliver for stepping into the breach, organising, ordering and compiling rosters.

Home Base

Under a club administration before me, a Committee was formed to look at the feasibility of relocating our Clubrooms to the Maitland Oval. This committee consisted of Simon Greenslade, Tub Daniel, PR (Daryl Brokenshire) and Rex Davey. We as the current administration deemed it salient to pursue the project, particularly in respect of all former committees and finally come a decision whether we move.

A letter was written by our Vice President Andrew Thomson and sent to members and supporters. The letter asked for “in principle support” – yes or no. The response has been quite remarkable with 85% of respondents in favour of the move. There are been several not in favour - we appreciate their comments as well. We were keen to make a decision at this meeting but unfortunately it is all too hard at this stage.

The Committee of 2009 will keep you informed and no concrete poured until we have held a meeting for all club members to attend to be updated with information prior to making a decision.

For the first time a General Committee decided to offer remuneration to our Trainers. It has been a contentious issue over the years but I believe it has worked extremely well. Our Training Staff are great and Vanessa Secomb, a worthy recipient of the Cougar of the Year Award. We managed to look outside the square and select a non committee person.

I also congratulate Norm Edwards, our YPCT Club Person of the Year. He is just always there cooking up a treat.

Strategic Planning for 2009 and beyond

CYFC General Committee is and should be in the future adopting carefully studied proposals to ensure the long term viability and success of our Club.

1. We are in the process of collating and filing a complete inventory of job descriptions in the Club. This has not been done before. It is the only way of giving members, players and supporters a direct insight into responsibilities and expectation involved in the running of our Club.

2. The lead up to our stellar year in 2007 was the culmination of several years of hard work in recruiting the right type of outside player to complement our local players. Unfortunately, our coaching appointments were made too late for season 2008 and we suffered the consequences. We must not let this happen again.
3. We should use the expertise of past players and coaches when recruiting. This has been done in the past by the likes of Justin McCormack, Daryl Brokenshire, Hank van Schaik and Greg Dyett with great success. As we are all well aware though, the way our inaugural Match Committee operated last year was disappointing. I feel there was far too much interference with our Senior Coach.
4. A website has been on the drawing board and failed mainly due to lack of communication by someone in Victoria. David Clasohm is the new committee man who is going to take on the building and maintaining of our website – it will be good.
5. I believe we need to become vitally aware of the needs and aspirations of the youth in our Club. Our selection of Committee persons is gradually changing and evolving. While we do need a balanced blend of younger and older persons on our General Committee, we should not extinguish the aims of Generation Y and beyond by foolishly thinking we Babyboomers have all the answers. This will almost certainly lead to our demise.
6. Relocation of all Club facilities to the Maitland Oval has the full endorsement of the current Committee. We are in the process of obtaining quotes of the proposed new building.
We are also costing on going maintenance for our Robert Street premises including a new kitchen and replacement of the roof and verandah. Saltdamp is another issue again.

Conclusion

I have experienced the highs and feel lucky not to have experienced the low of lows. Yes, occasionally the track has not always been smooth but at least I know we are on the right one, heading in a sound direction and being totally honest with each other. I encourage you to support Andrew Thomson who has nominated for the position as President. I believe Mal and his new Committee's stamp on our Club leadership will be pragmatic and passionate.

The Cougars Football Club has a great future – it is up to us all to embrace and nurture its growth.

Greg Twelftree