

Welcome and thank you for attending the 2015/16 Annual General Meeting. The 2015/16 season has been a success both on and off the field and I shortly I will share with you some numbers that make the future of the club shine very brightly. I will leave the financial details of the off field to Danny Taylor, but please rest assured that the club is in a great financial stand point and potentially one of the most financially stable clubs in the league.

The season we had 6 Senior teams

Seniors – 6

State League – Finished 7/12 with the best record since joining the state league competition

AAA – 12<sup>th</sup>

Single A – 11<sup>th</sup>

D – 8<sup>th</sup>

E – Tied in 5<sup>th</sup> (Best Men's result by ladder position)

Womens – 4<sup>th</sup> (Lost Semi Final in B Division Finals by 1 run)

And 12 Junior Teams

Colts 1 – 4<sup>th</sup> – Lost Semi Final

Colts 2 – 9<sup>th</sup>

Colts 3 S – 4<sup>th</sup> – Lost Prelim

Junior League – 1<sup>st</sup> – Won GF

Junior League 70 – 11<sup>th</sup>

Intermediate League – 4<sup>th</sup> – Lost Semi

LL Majors – 4 teams

Machine Pitch – 2 teams

This puts us around the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> largest club in the Baseball WA structure. A fantastic result and one that needs constant attention as coaches, scorers, team managers and other volunteers are at a premium and growth can only keep occurring if we have these helpers.

### **Committee**

At the last AGM it was fantastic to see we only had one person have to complete 2 roles for the first time that I can remember. To all those put up their hands and assisted to run the club this year thank you so much.

As everyone knows I had some personal issues to start the year with my family causing me to be absent from the club for 6-8 weeks. I really wish to thank all the committee and players for your support during this time. Special thanks to Benn Grice, Troy Flynn and Daniel Taylor for stepping up and taking all the heat from me, ensuring all umpiring duties were organised, coaching appointments sorted, bills paid etc etc.

As I also announced at the Wind Up's, I not be seeking re-election as president this year. I have had a great 3 years as president and now feel that the club needs someone with fresh ideas, has more time to give to the club and lives a little closer. That being said, I will not be leaving the club entirely. I am willing to stay as a general committee person assisting with getting the imports sorted and housed, and also liaising with the council regarding the facility as the new president gets their feet under them.

Thank you to all that have helped me in my time as president. I hope I have served you well and I believe I have helped put this club further on the path to continued success.

### **Facility**

Speaking of this facility; for the past 12 months I have been having on-going discussions with the council around the current management license and a new Lease Model they would like to introduce.

I will not bore you with all the details however the model which has allowed us amazing amount of financial stability may be completely changing. Then impact on the club is still being assessed and communication from the council is challenging to say the least.

The latest update is that the Management License will remain in place for the foreseeable future. The council is working on many of these and I have requested the Baseball Club/Hourglass Reserve be pushed to the back.

A quick summary is that we will have a Lease rather than a Management Plan and as such all outgoing costs will be on us, power, water, vandalism etc.

On top of this, Danny and I have been working for 18 months on a Telstra issue here at Hourglass, and I am happy to note that this has been rectified and we are going to be expecting a credit from the council.

### **Moving Forward**

Financial stability needs to be of the utmost concern of the club. For the past 5-6 years we have relied on the income derived from this facility to keep fees low, the pressure on players and parents to fundraise, attend functions and to seek sponsorship has been almost non-existent. Danny will be reporting a pretty decent profit for this season however I am often challenged on the amount of this. We derive around \$40K a year from this hall, however will post a figure less than this.

Last season we purchased an extreme amount of equipment to refresh and also account for the rapid growth of the club, however the biggest drain we have from a club is the fees. Please see the table below for a small snap shot of how we compare to some other clubs in the league. The question is do we slowly raise fees, or are we content with the profits we are making year on year. I will leave this with the new committee.

	<b>Rockingham</b>	<b>South Perth</b>	<b>Swan Districts</b>	<b>Gosnells</b>	<b>Melville</b>	
SL/AAA	\$385.00	\$455.00	\$475.00	\$395.00	\$420.00	
Lower Grades	\$305.00	\$395.00	\$375.00	\$380.00	\$380.00	
Colts	\$210.00	\$455.00	\$310.00	\$290.00	\$290.00	\$315.00
Junior League	\$180.00	\$230.00	\$280.00	\$260.00	\$295.00	
Little League	\$160.00	\$210.00	\$250.00	\$190.00	\$230.00	

A large driver of success needs to be premierships for State League. The pinnacle for Baseball at an amateur level in Perth is the place where you want and need to win. We saw this season that success brings money to the club in forms of bar takings, registrations, canteen sales and merchandise sales. The more the State League win the more enjoyment is shared within the club walls.

The past 2 years has been a focus on the State League squad and this needs to continue, without forgetting the lower grade players who make up the above mentioned drivers of profit, but acknowledging that resources need to put into this area to allow for a focus on winning at the top level.

One small area this can be focused is in Uniforms. The need for players to “own” a number should be gone. A player in E grade who has no aspirations to play State League shouldn’t have a number that no one else at the club can wear. Having players running around in numbers 100+ looks very silly! The state league squad should also have their own set of Home and Away uniforms that are the exactly the same. We are the only club without a viable Home and Away option, let’s find a sponsor and get these players looking the same on the diamond.

Again – Thank you to everyone for your support of the club and of me as president. To the current committee you have done a fantastic job, thank you.

I look forward to standing in the crowd next year and beyond and supporting the club in any way possible. My kids are a few years away from playing, but they are future Rams and I look forward to being back on the diamond with them when the time comes.

Thanks again

Stuart Johnson  
President