



2023/24 President's Report

The 2023/24 season will likely be remembered as one of the wettest in recent memory with consistent disruption to playing schedules for all of our junior, senior men's and women's groups. As we all know, cricket and wet weather don't mix and it is sincerely hoped that the weather in the coming season will be kinder to us.

In addition to the weather, the season presented challenges in many ways with reduced playing numbers in both our junior and senior men's playing ranks and no silverware secured in any grades. Our senior women's team bucked this trend with an enthusiastic cohort that played in the true spirit of cricket and provide an exemplar for the rest of the competition.

Thanks

The scope of activities required by a community based club to deliver a cricket program across junior and senior divisions (men and women) is ever increasing and cannot be achieved without the assistance of the many volunteers who give selflessly of their time throughout the season.

I would like to thank the junior team managers and the senior captains and all who assist on match days with scoring, umpiring, ground set up and all of the logistics involved in getting a team of players onto the ground.

In addition I would like to thank the office bearers who put in many hours during the season and in many cases have done so for numerous years. In particular special thanks must go to:

Peter Embelton – Junior Coordinator
Darin Warburton – Senior Coordinator
Katie Spence – Womens and Girls Coordinator.
Heidi Poppett – Secretary
Richard Field – Treasurer
Chris Agapow – Grants Officer

I would also like to thank our Major Sponsor "The Gregory Ward Team" from Ray White Buderim whose generous support contributes to improved amenities for all of our teams.

Volunteers

All community clubs are only as strong as the volunteers who contribute their time to the running and management of the club. It is evident that the current work load at USC Cricket Club is concentrated on too few and more volunteers are required to ensure the ongoing viability of our organisation. Rest assured that a role can be found for anyone who wishes to contribute. I encourage anyone who is considering contributing to contact either myself or any of the committee to identify an opportunity that suits your particular skill set or availability.

Finances

Many thanks must go to Richard Field who in his first year as Treasurer has established processes and introduced governance measures which will underpin the financial stability of the club in future years. The club is in a sound financial position with recurring revenue being provided by clubhouse tenants and prudent management of costs. We will continue to strike a balance between minimising playing cost and maximising benefits for all club members whilst continuing to invest in the construction of critical infrastructure.

Infrastructure

The Club's Ballinger Park training facility was improved by the addition of one training net and significantly improved safety outcomes via installation of net separation and roof coverage. This was undertaken with the support of the Sunshine Coast Council and an additional federal government grant secured via the office of local member Ted O'Brien. Local property developer Cube Developments must also be thanked for their generous donation of the concrete for the project.

The limitations of the Club's playing infrastructure, in particular the absence of change rooms and amenities at USC Oval represent our greatest challenge and is a threat to the ongoing viability of the club. Development of this infrastructure which will have a capital value in excess of \$2m is essential if we are to retain and attract players and to deliver opportunities for our female playing group.

In an effort to progress this further, USC Cricket Club has formed a strategic partnership with the Mountain Creek Junior AFL Club as a joint tenant of USC Oval. The resources of the AFL are considerable and are aligned to USC Cricket's requirements for change rooms and club facilities. Demonstration of annual usage of a sporting field by male and female; junior and senior participants provides a far more compelling case for investment by all levels of government when compared with a stand alone organisation. We look forward to working with Mountain Creek Junior AFL Club to accelerate the process of the delivery of the critical infrastructure required to make USC Oval a viable and valuable venue.

Conclusion

Once again I would like to thank all who have contributed to the successful running of the USC Cricket club for another season. I look forward to working with the generous members of our community who are prepared to volunteer their time for the upcoming season to ensure that we provide the best possible cricket experience for all of our members.

Noel Ward

**USC Cricket Club
President**