



Essendon Hockey Incorporated

2023 Annual Report

2023 Presidents Report

I begin today by acknowledging the Wurundjeri people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

Welcome Members

For those who don't know me, my name is Michelle Walkerden and I've been the Board Chair/President for the last two years.

2023 has been a really mixed year, with some fantastic achievements and improvements worth celebrating but also some challenges and unfortunate situations which we will need to work on in 2024.

I want to talk firstly about the large change our club made at the start of the year, when we moved away from our historical structure and to one Executive team, supported by subcommittees. We no longer have 4 Secretaries, 4 Treasurers and a complex structure. We have taken another step forward post our legal amalgamation to really come together as one club. I would like to thank all those members who supported this change at our special general meeting held last November.

For the first time in 2023, our club has listed all membership fees on one page, with alignment across the playing groups on the fees payable. We have also reviewed all our perpetual trophies and ensured we have new trophies that represent the whole of club. It was an absolute delight for me personally to see a new best Club Person trophy, the Ray Toner & Gerry Dwyer, trophy be introduced and awarded to a Junior parent, Jacki Karp. It's fantastic to see that we now have a number of trophies that can be won by anyone at the club.

We don't want to throw away our history. It is important that the legacy of our two clubs are kept and celebrated. But we do need to keep moving forward on this journey and to really support each other, across all teams and playing groups. There remains work to do and there are learnings from this first year that will be shared with the 2024 Committee.

And as I've called out for many times this year, we need you, we need club members to help, we still are looking for volunteers and people to assist so that the effort is shared by more members and more members have a say in the running of the club.

We have received external advice to build our structure. We have deliberately made the structure so that volunteers can choose what they can contribute. Not everyone wants to attend monthly meetings - there's a number of roles they can still help us with.

We must support our volunteers. We must empower our volunteers. Without you, we don't have a club.

A few highlights from me this year

- Trying new things such as the new Structure and the Canteen Levy. The Canteen Levy was needed as there was significant effort previously going into rostering canteen duties - and then chasing people when no one turned up. The new levy, while a pain for Anna to administer, saw less work required from Team Managers and Gary trying to manage the canteen rosters. For those who don't want to do canteen duty it is a small fee. For others it is annoying to pay a fee to have it reimbursed, however I believe it's worth knowing everyone is contributing either through doing their shifts or paying others to do their shifts.
 - The success of the Junior Section. The growth in player numbers, including indoor, and the group of umpires who are developing in that section. An excellent year. Thank you everyone who has contributed - from the work Ian has done with H2H through to the Age Group co-ordinators - well done Sophie & Committee.
 - This year the club won two premierships - congratulations to the Mens 50+ team and our Under 18 team. Premierships can be a rare thing in hockey. Saviour that feeling and let's look forward to more on field success in 2024. Congratulations to all our other teams making Finals this year
 - Congratulations as well to Pup & Liv. It's been a highlight to see you both debut together in the Hockeyroos. I doubt there was anyone from the club who didn't witness that fantastic event and were cheering you both on. Congratulations as well to our Hockey Club Melbourne and Adelaide Fire players and to all other representative players in 2023.
 - Further to Pup & Liv and the WPL team. I would like to call out their significant contribution through showing the initiative and managing a special Peter Mac round this year. Through this round over \$4500 was raised to fight cancer. A great initiative where our club has been able to help others.
 - I also would like to mention an U12 player, Anya. As part of our amalgamation I believe it's really important that people at the club know more about each other. I put a call out for someone to create some write ups of members of our club to be shared. I didn't expect a young girl from our U12s to take on this role! Anya has written a series of articles which are on team app. Initiative like Anya's, the willingness to spend a few hours for the benefit of others, we need more of at this club. Congratulations Anya.
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- The Wilcon Development squad kicked off their inaugural training sessions this month. This elite junior training which was Kris Wilson's idea and he has funded for the next 5 years. The program sees a small group of talented juniors selected annually to receive specialist training. Maartje Goderie, and I love to say "Dual Olympic Goldmedalist", is leading the squad. This program we believe will see Essendon develop highly talented players for our future PL squads. In addition, Maartje will be running some junior coach development sessions through 2024. This is just brilliant and it's something all at Essendon should be really proud of and I suspect a few clubs are envious of.

While we are talking about Kris Wilson & Wilcon Projects, I would like to take this opportunity to present Kris with a framed PL squad shirt acknowledging his sponsorship in 2023 and for providing funding for the Wilcon Development Squad. Thankyou Kris for your extremely generous contribution.

As well as acknowledging our successes, I would like to spend a couple of minutes on our challenges.

- The club is struggling to communicate with our members. We have a broad and varied age groups and backgrounds and people today have many ways they like to receive information. At Essendon we use Team App for all internal messages & information. Can I ask all of you to download the app and turn on the notifications. We see our club would be significantly stronger and successful if people knew what was happening at the club and can support those initiatives.
- The middle & lower grades of our senior clubs have suffered this year. We had to withdraw a men's team during the season and players have had to shuffle around to fill teams. Our PA & PB women have both unfortunately been relegated as a result of their tough seasons. We also lost points in mens & womens due to errors in player selection. I put my call out again, if you have time spare, can you help at our club? To have coaches and team managers available on game day would have made a difference to these teams. We have work to do to retain members. We have work to do to on selection. We need more coaches. For those of you who filled in, who helped these teams, who stayed and did what they could - thank you.
- I also want to touch on that as President, my year was actually really tough. I have felt the rath of some members who believe it is ok to judge, belittle and actually be very rude to me. And I wasn't on my own. No volunteer, in fact no one, should be treated the way I was this year. This sort of behaviour is not acceptable at Essendon or in Hockey generally.

As I step down as President I would like to reflect a little on my time at Essendon. My sister and I started playing at ELHC in either 1989 or 1990. My mum also played, coached, was PL team manager and was President. My sister went on to play in PL premierships and coach PL and other grades & age groups. Both my sister & I met our partners at Essendon, all 4 of us playing hockey at Essendon. My step son, my step brother, all my nieces & nephews - all played at Essendon. 3 generations. When thinking about our shared time at the club it's really through the connections and friendships that we have made over the years that have been what is important. It is what makes us a club. It's what is special

I want to talk about 3 premierships, none of which I played in, but all form part of this legacy, this meaningful history from being part of Essendon Hockey

- I recall sitting at Nat Joiners house and interviewing coaches for our State League One team, to appoint Keith Wrigley .. and later that year ... win our first PL Premiership - how good was that!
- Just as exciting was the brilliant WPL team victory last year. How proud all of Essendon Hockey is of your ladies because we love how you play and love how you present yourselves off the field.
- and thinking back 20 or so years ago to Keats holding onto to that MPL premiership cup, beaming and holding my niece Ella in his other arm. No one cheered louder than me

Each of us has our own history, our own connections, the bonds we have made here at our club. That is what a club is about. That is why we care. That is why we are here today and why there's so many people in the room today. Because it matters.

We must go forward as one. We must all support each other.

I ran into Zali Ward at the clubrooms this weekend. How proud are we all of Zali. But she spoke of how lucky she is to play at Essendon. She is thankful, she is happy and she is playing wonderful hockey that we all want to see. We need more of this. We need to feel we belong at Essendon.

In closing, I would like to thank all members and their families & friends, but particularly those who volunteered at the club again this year. The club cannot exist, let alone succeed, without you all.

As we look forward to 2024 it's fantastic to see some new faces will be joining the Executive Committee. There is work to do at our club, but also an amazing legacy of people, connections and a shared past that we need to bring together for our future.

I wish the new Executive Committee and all members a very successful 2024 and beyond

Thankyou

Michelle Walkerden

President 2023

2023 Treasurer's Report

The 2023 Financial Accounts for Essendon Hockey have not yet been audited. The audit conversations are just kicking off for this year ending 31st October 2023.

During 2023 the Financial Accounts for 2020, 2021 & 2022 were audited. Following some preliminary work before presenting to the Auditor, all were signed off as a True and Fair view of the Associations Financial Position and confirmed they Comply with the Australian Accounting Standards.

For the year ending 31st October 2023 the club made a profit of \$40k

Membership Revenue increased \$46k on last year due to more summer and indoor competitions and an increase in fees due to the increases in Hockey Victoria's Team Entry's and other club costs. This was offset with the Team Entry cost that increased on last year by \$45k.

Our sponsorship was remained significant in 2023 at almost \$48k, although this is down on the prior year and not helped by not having the Grant Writer or Sponsorship roles filled by volunteers during this year.

It was pleasing to see in 2023 with the school / day time revenue diverting to Moonee Valley City Council that we actually made additional revenue in 2023 than last year. Of course last year we did have a field out of action for a period of the year.

Our canteen did well, with additional revenue and gross margin dollar contributions to the club

Our Balance Sheet remains strong. Essendon Hockey can continue to pay our debts as they fall due.

This year and into the future, we have a Finance SubCommittee operating. This group's role is to look at the overarching finances of the club. This group then proposed recommendations to the Executive. One of these objectives was to reduce the Business Loan due to the increased interest rates. You will notice that the Business Savings Account and the Loan account have both decreased in value as a result of this deliberate initiative.

Our Asset base has increased due in particular to the construction of the new seating on the South field. A capital works grant of \$11.5k was received from EFCSC reimbursing costs paid for the new seating. We thank our sponsor the EFCSC for this significant contribution. The Federal Government also contributed to these seats and we thank them for this contribution.

You may notice we are holding funds in our Balance Sheet for future expenditure. In particular the Alan Berry Scholarship and the Wilcon Development Squad. We are extremely grateful for the donations we have received and the ability to fund this award and program into the future in our benefactors' names.

Tabled are the Unaudited Financial Statements as at 31 October 2023.

Presented by Michelle Walkerden CPA on behalf of

Anna Huston ACA

Treasurer

Copies of the Financials of Essendon Hockey Inc were shared with members at the AGM in November 2023. Should you have any questions or require further information please reach out to treasurer@essendonhockey.com.au

The 2023 Financials will be audited over the next few months. The audit reports for the years to 2022 as mentioned above follow at the end of this report.

2023 Women's Vice Presidents Report

We had a great start to the year with our Premier League squad winning the Pre-Season Cup! They continued the rest of the season with some great results and made the Grand Final. Unfortunately, Camberwell was the better team on the day.

Our PLR team also made finals but was unable to reach the same success as the previous year. Masters 35+ and Midweek teams made the finals with Pennant D just missing out.

In 2023 we fielded a total of nine teams - PL, PLR, Pennant A, B and D, Metro (Bomberville), Masters 35+ and 45+ and a Monday mid-week team with four of our teams making finals. While we had a number of new players in the club, we sometimes struggled to field full teams! We never had to forfeit a game even though some of the teams might think that would've been a better result! Good consistent numbers across the mid-grades to training which was reflected in a better second half of the season with team performances. Congratulations to all those who participated in the 2023 season.

Congratulations to Aisling (Pup) Utri, Zali Ward, Olivia Downes, Ciara Utri and Iris Milham (umpire) for making Melbourne One. Pup and Olivia were also busy making their first appearance for the Hockeyroos, with Pup scoring a goal!!! Zali and Juliette Sheriff played in the Victorian U21 team and Iris in the Indoor team. Erica Trahar and Deb Adams went west representing Vic Masters 40+. Congratulations on your efforts.

I would like to thank the following:

Our coaches: Colin Sheriff, Maartje Goderie, Ryan Gration, Erica Trahar, Paul Richards, Deb Adams, Meredith Pelosi and Sharon Breeze.

Our team managers: Sue Thurlow, Meredith Pelosi, Lee Burns, Philip and Catherine de Kock, Cathy Manning, Penny Byrne, Jacki Karp and Kim Bouchier.

Our summer team managers: Jenny Monk, Louisa Tanner, Jo Francis and Tim Clark.

A special thanks to Sandy "Sandman" Jeffs - who filled in numerous times when needed as a Goalkeeper, including travelling to Mentone on a Sunday afternoon. Legend.

And finally, all those who have supported me in the little jobs that you did for me. Much appreciated.

Leanne Richards

Vice President - Women

2023 Men's Vice Presidents Report

Brendan Harrington

Vice President - Men

2023 Junior's Vice Presidents Report

Overview

2023 has been a great year for the Juniors with increasing player numbers, increased parent involvement and some new initiatives. We have had another 20% increase in player numbers, with just over 200 juniors registered at Essendon! We had many teams move into higher grades this year and several finished just out of finals in 5th place. Our first U18 team in years won a premiership and had fun playing mixed for the first time since U12.

Term 1

Indoor Club Champs - teams entered in U14 boys and girls and u16 boys

HV Roadshows – In Term 1, we conducted 15 days of HV Roadshows in 6 schools in the North Melbourne / Moonee Valley area, reaching over 1300 students. This program was so successful that all 6 participating schools have registered for the 2024 Term 1 roadshow program. This is a testament to the skill and enthusiasm of our coaches (Chris Taylor, Tyson Alcock, Bri Richards and Tara Nikolau). The word is getting around, as we now have 10 schools engaged for roadshows in Term 1, 2024 and 2 more expressing interest for Term 2 or Term 3.

Hookin2Hockey – In Term 1, Hookin2Hockey had 48 registered participants, many of whom were new to the club. The program was well received by the children and parents, with several of the older children progressing into our U10 teams. We also had 25 children aged 7 or younger, which should provide a sound basis for progression into U8 competition in 2024. In Term 2, 30 players registered for Stick2Hockey, with all except 1 progressing from our Term 1 program.

Term 2 and 3

Winter Season teams:

- Under 10 = 3 teams (half field) Term 2,
- Under 12 = 1 Mixed Shield B, 1 Mixed Pennant, 1 Girls Pennant
- Under 14 = Girls Shield A (promoted after round 3), Boys Shield B, ½ Mixed District (combined with PEGS)

- Under 16 = Boys Shield A, Mixed District
- Under 18 = Mixed District (only avail competition)

U12 Girls Pennant – Finals

U18 Mixed District - Premiership won

We had difficulties with the U10 competition in Term 2 and after 3 rounds we withdrew from the HV draw and played intraclub games. A better system in Term 3 enabled all our teams to play in the competition again.

We moved from having one u14 team (district) in 2022 to 2 shield and a half district team in 2023. We combined with Pegs and had training at both clubs and coaches from both clubs and the team wore PEGS top and Essendon socks..

One u16 female played Junior Hockey for another club – as no suitable team at EH , played PL/R for EH.

Term 4

Junior Summer Social - Tues night for all juniors - mini games and sausage after, running alongside H2H. Approx 80 children most tuesdays.

Hookin2Hockey - 20 athletes signed up for Term 4 HookIn2Hockey - 10 of which are new to the club. Three of these progressed into Summer Social. Retention is high, with 14 or more attending on most weeks.

Indoor hockey – 7 junior teams – playing at Melbourne Sports Centre Parkville and Vic Uni

Under 12 - Mixed shield, Mixed pennant x2, Girls

Under 14 - Mixed Shield, Girls

Under 16 - Mixed Shield

State Representatives: U18 State team: George Eaves (GK) and Hannah Lambert-Johnson, U15 (South Australia) State team: Charlie and Lucy Chappell, U13 State team: Ebony Giles, U13 Indoor State team Ebony Giles, Train-on Grace Brown

Regional Representatives: 24 Juniors were selected in the Tigers teams representing our zone at the Regional competitions held in Melbourne. Some others played for regional zones.

Umpires: Several U16 and U14 players umpired U12, U10 and indoor hockey this year.

End of Season Presentation: Our 2023 Hockeyroos Ash Utri and Liv Downes presented the awards, and local pizza was enjoyed by kids and parents alike.

Wilcon Development Squad: Starting Nov 2023 - new club initiative to develop elite players - selected from juniors within the club and led by double Olympic GOLD medalist Marrtje Goderie.

Parents playing hockey: Several juniors parents have started playing hockey for the first time in 2023, or returned to playing having not played for decades!

The Junior Section wishes to thank

- All the parents and family members for their involvement and support of hockey
- All the many coaches and team managers
- Mel Fernandez for her final year running the Tigers zone
- Nick Nikolau for all the help and support with juniors equipment over the year

Our aims for 2024

- Develop a strong hockey presence within north west Melbourne through the Hockey Roadshow and subsequent Hookin2Hockey programmes, leading to junior competition hockey and the opportunity for talented players to join the Wilcon Development Squad.
- Continue to grow the Essendon Hockey community by having a welcoming and inclusive environment, and provide opportunities for players of all abilities.
- Encourage junior players as well as parents to be involved with umpiring and coaching
- Develop pathways for progression from junior to seniors for players at the Shield, Pennant and District level.

Junior Section Committee

Sophie Nightingale - Junior VP

Ian Lewis – Hockey Roadshow/Hookin2Hockey Coordinator

Belinda McArdle - U10 Age Coordinator

Jacki Karp - U12 Age Coordinator

Tory Greer - U14 Age Coordinator

Leanne Howell - U16 Age Coordinator

Drew Grimmett

Sophie Nightingale

Vice President - Juniors

Auditor Reports:

NICHOLAS E BURNE

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Members of Essendon Hockey Incorporated:

Report on the Financial Report

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Essendon Hockey Incorporated (hereafter the Association) which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2020, the Income Statement, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Committee's Report.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I have conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the

financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 including giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 October 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards. ASRE 2015 requires that I comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of the financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my review, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

NICHOLAS E BURNE

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Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, I have not become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report of the Association is not in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2012 including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 October 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards as referred to in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the financial report, which describes the basis of

accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Essendon Hockey Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the report may not be suitable for other purposes.

Nicholas E Burne

Audit & Assurance

4/12 Trentham Street,

Sandringham, 3191

Melbourne, 20 May, 2023

NICHOLAS E BURNE

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Melbourne, 20 May, 2023