

Chairman's Annual Report 2020

Les Carter - Chairman

I hereby present my sixth Chairman's Annual Report for this great club.

As your club reaches its sixtieth year of operation since its formation back in 1960 it is really amazing to think of the growth that has taken place over that time and the remarkable service the club has provided not only for the immediate community of Hexham but to the much wider community that it services now. The founding fathers and all subsequent officers and staff of this club should all take great pride in what has been achieved over those 60 years. Who would have thought 60 years ago that it would be able to boast a membership of 7000 members? But that is what we now have on our register.

As for this year 2019/2020 from the outset it must be realised that the effects of the corona virus has had a profound impact upon the club and hospitality industry across the nation and your club is no exception to the rule. It has resulted in a dramatic turnaround in trade over recent months with the limitations placed upon us and other venues across Australia. The forced closure of the club in March/April resulted in the laying off of staff, the discontinuance of any trade and the cessation of all of regular functions. With that in mind it is comforting to know that it will not mean the end of the club. This is due basically to our sound financial position which will see us ride out this nationwide downturn across the economy.

2019/20 has been a difficult year for the Board and Management alike as we continue to make every effort to enhance your club and its financial future and stability. I can assure members that it has been quite exhaustive as we search for alternative income streams apart from the obvious poker machine and bar trade which have held us in good stead over the past decades. This is becoming much more evident in the very difficult economic times that we are currently experiencing and that are ahead for the foreseeable future.

Financially we remain debt free – apart from the usual ongoing trade expenses. As I have said before over past years that many other clubs in our region would love to be in a similar position. We have, at present, no plans for major or large scale capital expenditure which would perhaps entail going into debt so I expect this position to remain for the immediate future. In looking at our Financials it must be stressed that the profit is the crucial figure at which we should focussing before taking into account depreciation. This figure for the year of **\$358,000-00** is quite outstanding.

Whilst trade has generally been quite strong depreciation of property and our assets and the ongoing waste water expenditure are the major factors in keeping us very wary of our financial position. Certain areas of our trade have shown a pleasing increase and in particular I refer to our cafeteria and our functions as well as our bar and gaming areas. It should also be noted that the foresight in placing the solar panels on our roof space is beginning to show fruition with our power expenses being reduced somewhat. Water usage has been reduced mainly through necessity with restrictions placed upon all of our community as a result of drought conditions. Despite this I must say that our two greens do look a picture at present.

The facilities of your club are becoming more widely recognised with many corporate organisations using them for various functions including presentations, training seminars and celebrations. Along with our drive to attract wedding receptions we continue to anticipate further growth in the functions area.

Organisations such as Newcastle District Bowling Association and Thornton Soccer Club have held major presentation functions here and have spoken highly of the quality of the catering supplied and of the comfort of the venue. We can expect more of these functions – all of which enhance the reputation of Hexham BC. With more functions comes more financial gain.

On a community front we have joined forces with State Emergency Service in becoming an evacuation centre in times of natural disaster such as fire, flood, earthquake etc with local residents now all aware of our open door in such times.

Despite the general uncertainty surrounding our economy I feel certain that under our present management your club will continue to provide the community with the services that the membership enjoys and that its reputation will continue to be enhanced.

In closing it would be remiss of me to not recognise the efforts of our management team and staff – and that includes Ricky and Lily and their fabulous team in the bistro during the past twelve months. Our General Manager, Jennie, and her team make this club what it is today and I sincerely thank them. Also I must give a big expression of gratitude to my fellow directors for their time and input into ensuring this ship stays on course.

Les Carter Chairman

Footnote

It would be most remiss to not mention the work carried out by the staff, those of whom remained on duty during the shut-down period of the Corona Virus outbreak. To say the very least all were nothing short of magnificent. Every one of them performed so many maintenance tasks around the club including painting, scrubbing chairs and tables, carpentry work, tiling and so many other small but necessary tasks including assistance on the greens and gardens. They are all to be highly commended. We are indeed fortunate to have a staff such as ours.