

**Old Carey Grammarians FC**  
**2010 AGM, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**  
**Venue: Bulleen Club Rooms**  
**Presidents Report**

Whilst the success of the historic 2010 senior premierships could be witnessed with excellent numbers on the training track pre-season, it didn't take long for reality to set in once season 2011 got underway. We had stepped up a grade to Premier A and it became very clear that every game was going to test us both on and off the field in terms of our ability, resolve, depth and professionalism.

With the retention of all players from 2010 as well as the recruitment of several quality new players in Carl Peterson, Ben Smithwick, Jamie Carpenter and Matthew Laidlaw we had genuine confidence in our ability to take on Premier A. Trevor Rowe had re-signed as senior coach and was joined by newly appointed 2nds coach Jon Remington. Ian England stepped up and took on the role of Club 18 coach whilst Matt Curry continued on in his role as the U19 coach. Phil Smith would maintain his "back office" role primarily as Trevor's mentor, we were very fortunate to re-enlist the services of John Raft, this time as the Seniors TM.

As mentioned we had excellent numbers on the track, although not quite enough to field a standalone 3<sup>rd</sup> 18 team and this would prove a real issue with the VAFA for several weeks. Whilst we continued to see more players train each week as the season loomed at the time of lodgement our numbers would not allow us to go with a 3rds team. Our concern being that if we did and forego club 18 team we would experience a major drop off in the numbers which would inevitably lead to forfeits once the season got underway as the Club 18 stalwarts would not tolerate playing 3<sup>rd</sup> football. This was conveyed to the VAFA on several occasions who in the end allowed us to transition in 2011 such that we would have to field a 3<sup>rd</sup> 18 in 2012, and not a Club 18 at its expense. Ironically by season's end the Club 18's won the premiership in style and this was a tremendous reward for Ian and his team after a very challenging season whereby upwards of 60 boys played Club 18.

The hard work continued in the off season as we prepared for our historic entry into Premier A. While Trevor and his fellow coaches trained the boys, the committee went about its own recruiting in the form of sponsors; the signing of McClures Office Supplies was invaluable. The club's football budget was expected to grow as we placed greater emphasis on player welfare, fitness and injury management. We made the decision to appoint a dedicated physio to be at training one night a week and attend all senior games on the weekend, this would cost \$11,000. Furthermore, we enlisted the services of new trainers thereby allowing Rachael to focus on managing her team to ensure we would have sufficient coverage at all times. Stuart Kofoed moved from coaching into fitness and conditioning across the entire list. We also purchased wheelie bins so as to provide players with ice bath opportunities after every match. A large quantity of new training balls were purchased at the commencement of the year to ensure players had quality balls at training throughout the entire season.

Look at our on field efforts the seniors finished 6<sup>th</sup> having been in the top 4 for 80% of the season, certainly we can be proud of our first season in Premier A, however I am sure both coaches and players know they underachieved and had the ability to play finals had they been able to convert some close losses to wins. Many games were both won and lost by small margins and despite having the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest scoring forward setup we leaked goals which meant our defensive ability was poor at times. The highlight for the seniors was our 1<sup>st</sup> up come from behind win over OT as well as the magnificent away win over Xavs. The loss to Scotch at EP as well as OM's away cost us dearly.

Looking to the 2nds despite regular good line ups on paper we were unable to maintain our competitiveness at times and quickly got blown out of the water. Jon and his team had to regularly make selection changes as players moved btwn the 2nds and the Club 18, despite

this there were some encouraging individual efforts especially from the younger boys that gave us a glimpse of our future. As reported the Club 18 team went all the way and won the premiership. The U19's showed some great form finishing mid table after the VAFA rejigged their draw mid-season. Until then the Unders looked destined to play finals, the highlight for the year being the goal kicking ability of Rob Shergold. Matt Curry was keen to promote his U19's with Morgan Evans and Matt Parker playing excellent senior football at various stages.

The club was also very fortunate to have VFL players, Jordy Easton, Brent Wallace, Sam Cust and Michael Thompson on release occasionally and play senior football. We hope to see these boys at some stage when their VFL careers are done. Other notable achievements included the selection of players in the various VAFA representative teams including Luke Crozier and Cam Jones playing in the victorious U23 side that won the national carnival. Cam Jones was rewarded with All Australian selection. Jules Rowe and Cam Howat both were invited to join the VAFA's touring party to Ireland and play a series of international rules games including a game against the All Irish team at Croak Park, from all reports both Cam and Jules were great contributors and terrific ambassadors of our club. The club with the support of our sponsors funded the boy's trip.

Off field we commissioned our new Newsletter, the Schiller Report, this allows us now to communicate with our growing database and importantly provide business to business opportunities and player mentoring. We made further changes to the club's website (more to come) as well as the introduction of a club twitter login. The players partied very well and enjoyed several functions including a mid-season cocktail party as well as the best & fairest celebration at the MCC dining room. Chris Laidlaw's opening address on the night was wonderful with plenty of challenges for us all to contemplate over summer.

Again much work was done in connecting with our sponsors, with Michael Cooke heading this up. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous support of our Major Sponsors and Panther Club Members throughout season 2011. I know I speak on behalf of the players, coaching staff and committee in stating how appreciative we are of their support.

The club is indebted to the tireless work undertaken by both Michael Cooke as Vice President and Craig Wallace as Treasurer and the support provided by Sam Hassett as Secretary. Special mention must go to both David Arthur and Rowan Reid for their support behind the bar on Thursday nights and at our home games. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment of the club's entire coaching department, headed up by Trevor Rowe; the same must be said of Rachael, her team and John Pompei, our physio.

Carey Grammar School in conjunction with the OCGA, have again been great supporters of the club, both in providing facilities as well as administrative support and understanding. Jim and Erin at Bulleen are always obliging and have made our job all the easier at times.

So in closing I would again like to thank you all for the support you have given me. Looking to 2012, there is no off season, we are already in training and have in place plans to ensure we make a big impact. We must look beyond surviving, everyone else will be making every effort to improve so too must we.

A Grade, 2012, a massive year ahead!



*Paul Newton*  
*President, OCGFC*

