

2018-19 St Monica's Netball Club Presidents Report

The AGM is a chance to reflect on our trials and tribulations for the past 12 months.

I didn't realise I would become the President of the St Monica's Netball club until just prior to the last AGM. I was perhaps a little unprepared for the role and my sporting background (including coaching and umpiring) has not been in Netball, although I have had lots of experience in sports administration.

I certainly had to lean very heavily on my fellow committee members for guidance, especially when just after the AGM our Secretary resigned from the position, and the duties of this position has been shared by the current committee for the last 12 months.

Throughout the winter season of 2018 a number of matters had been bubbling along that made us decide that we needed to get a concrete idea what our members, and our junior member's parents, think around some key aspects of playing in the club. This was also an opportunity to get thoughts and ideas on a range of subject areas affecting our club.

As soon as summer was underway we began considering how best to survey members, and what questions to ask and how we would interpret the answers and have those answers drive our policy and approach throughout this winter season, and we wanted to get this out prior to the Christmas break, and have time to review and formulate, essentially, our strategic plan for 2019. This you got very early in the new year.

I'm very happy to say we have been able to achieve much of what we intended and more, and it is down to the hard working and efficient members of the committee that we have done so. We continue to reflect on what we can do better, and we continue to seek the input from members, but we can't just continue to do more, while our committee membership shrinks.

We continue to push Council about our facilities, including the situation of only 1 court with lights.

Our newest committee member Elliana Valente has made a big impact on developing the senior side of the club, social media – Instagram, seniors FB group, newsletter, and assisted us in securing sponsorship with the Sussex Hotel, and this money is going to further assist us to offer development opportunities to our club members in the coming season.

Alana Dowdell has been working weekly to do the bulk of the score recording and this has been a great help to me.

Sally Saint VP and Coach Coordinator helped us set up the connections for the junior and senior clinics, and coaching development morning with Dani Johnson, and all of these opportunities were well supported, and appreciated.

Emily Craft works hard behind the scenes ensuring we have umpires for our games, and we had at least one young member attend the recent SAUCNA Umpire training day. But we need more.

Umpire numbers continues to be an area of "risk", both to our club and across the association umpire numbers have fallen. This is directly being attributed to some bad behaviour from players and spectators. As umpire numbers fall, umpires are having to umpire more games, and it is noticeable that the majority of complaints at the city courts come from the 3:30pm timeslot. We have considerably stepped up communicating our expectations around conduct by everyone, coupled with new codes of conduct. Everyone registering with our club agrees to abide by a code of conduct.

Our club has a very good reputation, it matters greatly to me when people phone up enquiring about playing and say, "I've heard good things about St Monica's Netball Club".

I would like to lastly say a very, very, big thank-you to Claire Brooks, our junior coach, club Treasurer, co Secretary, canteen manager, sports voucher submitter, and.....more. Claire shoulders more than she should have to because we have missing committee members, but her efficiency keeps us all ticking along, and without her we would be very lost. Thanks Claire.

Regards,

Judith Lukas