

The Valley of Peace Cricket Club Inc

Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

Gentlemen

On behalf of the Committee, it is my pleasure to present the 60th Annual Report of the Valley of Peace Cricket Club for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Deaths

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the passing of Albie Duckmanton. The Duckmanton family have kindly donated a seat overlooking the ground at the Valley in memory of Albie.

Committee

I would like to thank the committee for 2014/15 for their contribution to the smooth running of the club. In my first year as President I have come to greatly appreciate the time, expertise and hard work that they offer throughout the season.

Grounds and Guardians of the Grounds

It is not only the committee members who have worked hard. The Club also needs to offer a huge thanks to our groundsmen, Andy Bell and Josh Bayliss, who have done a terrific job with pitch preparation, and to the indefatigable John Le Comte who is just a legend for his contribution to the Club.

Other club members who also need acknowledging are our Guardians of the Grounds and their convenor, Geoff Olsen. They look after the plantings and gardens; lawn mowing; roofs and spouting; removal of wind damage and leaves; painting; cleaning windows; spraying; building and general maintenance. Each individual task is undertaken with purpose and enthusiasm to ensure that the clubhouse and grounds are presented immaculately for each game.

General

Cricket Clubs, especially those with unique traditions such as our own, have the increasing costs of maintenance and on going demands to keep them at an expected high standard. This is proving harder and more expensive every year, even with the generosity of donations and Community Trust funding.

There is always something new that requires repair or attention and there is also the need to move forward. With that in mind, the Committee has made the decision to erect a new maintenance shed behind the kitchen. It will house the existing mower, the recently purchased pitch covers and other grounds equipment that are struggling to find a permanent home at the Valley.

The Committee has also undertaken to renovate the kitchen and bar areas. Some will say this is long overdue. While still retaining the general ambiance,

new cupboards, drawers, benches, storage areas, appliances and flooring will update and enhance the existing building.

Committee Reports

Club Captain's Report – Ian Gilmour

The Valley of Peace was scheduled to host thirteen games and to play six away games during the 2014/15 season. This included four games in Australia. Three games were lost due to the inability to field teams, once by the Valley in regards to the away fixture with Millbrook, and twice due to the opposition – Corkers XI and the Canterbury Club XI.

Of the sixteen games completed, four were 'internal' – Captains/Presidents, Fathers/Sons and the two old boys games. Of the twelve 'external' games, the Valley won seven and lost five. This is a disappointing win/loss ratio compared to the previous season. There were some notable performances by Valley members and these are included in the table below:

	2014/15 Games	Result	Performances
1	Millbrook	Won by 95 runs	N Boyle 52
2	Christchurch Golf Club	Lost by 90 runs	
3	Police	Lost by 119 runs	
4	Deans XI	Lost by 22 runs	
5	Hawkeswood (Away)	Lost by 9 runs	
6	London NZ	Won by 41 runs	B Larter 70
7	Australia Over 60's XI	Tie	
8	St Bedes OB v STAC OB	St Bedes by 96 runs	R Drake 51 S McLeod (4/21)
9	Millbrook (Away)	Cancelled	
10	Honest Trundlers	Lost by 4 wickets	J Davidson 77
11	Corkers	Cancelled	
12	Peninsula Goatherders	Lost by 13 runs	G Bongartz 66no
13	CC OB v CBHS OB	CBHS won by 4 wickets	A Gould 72 M McClintock 65
14	Fathers v Sons	Fathers by 1 wicket	Jack Harris 98
15	Canterbury Club	Cancelled	
16	Captains v Presidents	Presidents by 2 runs	T Music 77
17	Logan Village (Away)	Lost by 8 runs	T O'Loughlin 66
18	Caloundra CC (Away)	Lost by 1 run	
19	Honest Trundlers (Away)	Lost by 7 wickets	
20	Yandina (Away)	Lost by 5 wickets	

There may be a number of factors that relate to the drop in performance, not the least that cricket can be a fickle game and there are a number of results, particularly on tour in Australia, where the game could have easily gone the other way. It must be recognised however, that inconsistency must be expected when teams are being arranged in a piece-meal fashion due to the lack of numbers from the club for given fixtures and frequent late withdrawals being replaced by relatively unknown stand-ins.

I must acknowledge at this point the great work by captains and those who have stepped up to fill teams were necessary. Their contribution has been valuable this season. It must be said though that the club cannot expect to continue in this fashion and meet our goals.

Fixtures such as the Honest Trundlers, Peninsula and Wanderers have developed their own community of members who wish to be included year after year. This is healthy for both the club and those games in particular. It is something that needs to be fostered across all fixtures.

The pool of active players that we draw from was thin this year and there needs to be an injection of players who wish to regularly play three or more games per season. It is understandable that circumstances change and some members can no longer give the time they once could but we are not replacing these players when they move on with regulars at the same rate.

This year the Cricket World Cup caused issues for the Valley as players were drawn away to these events leaving the Club scrambling to fill teams. As a Club captain I hope I don't see another local World Cup in my tenure.

Another issue that arose this season is the problem caused by games scheduled around a long weekend, particularly Easter and Waitangi weekends. It quickly became apparent that there was some reluctance from visiting teams to play on these weekends even if it was a date they traditionally occupied. We need to carefully consider how we handle this scheduling in the future.

Congratulations to Ben Larter who is the recipient of the H Waters Cup this season. Only Valley members in a winning home team are eligible for the cup.

The Committee extends its sincere thanks to those who took on the responsibility of captaining games throughout the season.

I would like to encourage all members to once again consider putting forward sons, grandsons, family members and friends as potential members of the Valley of Peace. Please contact me with any nominations.

There are fifteen games scheduled for the 2015/16 season. This includes thirteen home games and two away games. There one midweek game. All members and invited players are encouraged to opt to play in any game or games during the season.

Please note the away games are:

- Deans XI at Glentunnel
- Millbrook XI at Millbrook

Partners and families are encouraged to join the players at these fixtures.

Thank you for all your support over the 2014/15 season and we look forward to seeing you at the Valley during the coming season.

House and Supply and Hosting – Cameron Pickering

Another enjoyable and profitable season has been experienced in the kitchen and bar. Three main factors have contributed to this. Firstly, the popular, traditional lunch has continued and was effortlessly provided this season by Miss Kate Cartwright. Secondly, the efficient running of the stock and supplies in the bar was supplemented by the usual raffles that also included the very popular 'home grown' venison packs. Thirdly, the work of all the hosts who gave so generously of their time and culinary skills to help prepare the lunches, man the bar and to share historic playing experiences with players and guests was greatly appreciated.

Grounds – Derek Banks

One thing never changes when preparing the grounds each season – no two seasons are the same! This year we started with a ground sodden after an extremely wet winter and then devastated by numerous feral deer driven down from the surrounding forests by the cold. Their hooves left pockmarks in the wicket block and outfield up to 100mm deep. We were forced to repeat the autumn top dressing and over sow in the spring, which proved to be the start of a summer drought.

Adding to our problems we were looking for a new groundsman. In this respect our luck changed and we were fortunate to secure the services of not one but two young groundsmen from the Christchurch Golf Club. Both are cricketers and have proven to be willing, capable and extremely good to work with.

We have purchased an easy to use cover for the wicket block, at no cost to the Club, and while we experienced an extremely dry summer, it was used on two occasions to great advantage. We are grateful for the work that Geoff Olsen has put in to this project. Geoff also did sterling work in eradicating the deer problem, which has been getting worse over the last three or four seasons. Initially organising a shooter to reduce the deer numbers and then converting the meat into meat packs that were raffled each week. The proceeds of the raffle will offset the cost of an electric fence. The fence has been erected under Gordon Fulton's supervision and should prove to be an effective deterrent to the feral deer in coming seasons.

The season cannot pass without mention of the work done by Bob Masefield and his Goatherders. Fifteen men were organised for a day to clear the fence line on the eastern boundary of the playing area. They also erected an outstanding new fence, which vastly improves the playing surface and reduces the time spent searching for cricket balls. We thank all involved, and particularly Bob, for undertaking this project. We must also thank Andrew Davidson for his assistance with the fencing materials for the project.

Once again I thank John Le Compte for his ongoing work on the grounds. His tireless energy has been invaluable in looking after those endless jobs that make all the difference to the state of the ground.

Guardians of the Grounds – Geoff Olsen

The grounds are looking good with various activities taking place at the moment. Leaf removal was co-ordinated by Nick Thomas and the morning was well supported by a good number of Guardians. Blair Hartland has cleaned the guttering on all buildings and other maintenance jobs have been attended to.

A working bee may be required prior to the first game and after the completion of the maintenance shed. Work has started on the new shed with the concrete foundation being poured in mid September. Funding providers have agreed to an extension on supplying receipts due to unforeseen delays.

A contractor has mown the outfield to remove the long grass to enable the John Deere mower to be used for weekly mowing. There has been some additional tree and branch removal, stump grinding and chipping near the score box and Brent Bailey has supplied and planted a new Gingko tree. No deer this year as the electric fence has proven to be an effective deterrent. It has allowed the grass to grow but there will sadly be no venison for the raffles this year.

Funding – Geoff Olsen

We have been successful with two applications for funding from Pub Charity and the Canterbury Earthquake Trust, and unsuccessful with an application to the Lion Foundation.

Finance and Accounts – Phil Smith

Unfortunately two fixtures didn't get played at the Valley due to opposition pulling out. This is a rare occurrence and for it to happen twice in one season is very unfortunate. Despite this, net catering income showed a modest increase of \$125 over last year (during which two fixtures were washed out).

Ground hire income increased by \$2000 compared to the previous year. Subscriptions were down \$150 from last year and this remains a frustrating aspect of the Club with a number still remaining outstanding. Donations were down by \$9435 compared to last year. Grants received blossomed to \$26,232 but the Club needs to be aware \$10,000 is set aside for the construction of the maintenance shed and another \$10,000 for the kitchen redevelopment.

Ground maintenance costs increased by \$2383 to \$10,180 and included \$4130 for tree related expenses. Repairs and Maintenance costs doubled compared to last year with water pump (\$574) and hand mower repairs (\$577) and ride-on mower servicing (\$1260) blowing costs out to \$2809. Printing and Stationery costs include the writing-off of \$2238 worth of unsold books, but that aside, costs still increased by \$360.

Total expenses increased by \$5130 compared to the previous year and follow on year-on-year increases of \$1800 and \$1400. The net result is that the club

had an excess of income over expenditure of \$19,682, which compares favourably to an excess of \$5800 in the previous year.

Funds on hand were up by \$18,900. Book stock has decreased (as mentioned above), Plant and Equipment has increased by \$6233 (pitch covers) and all building extension debentures have now been paid. The remainder of the Balance Sheet remained static compared to last year.

Website (www.valleyofpeace.co.nz)

Just a reminder to all members that from the beginning of the year a Valley of Peace website has been in operation. The Club is indebted to Scott Banks who has spent many hours creating and maintaining the website. You can view information about the Club including fixtures, match reports, news, a picture gallery, history and contact details. The Club envisages that this form of communication will take on a larger profile in the future. Please familiarise yourself with the website and any comments or suggestions would be welcome.

Subscriptions

No change is proposed to subscriptions for the coming season.

Scott Cartwright
President