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CARLINGFORD BASEBALL CLUB INC.

**Annual Report
2003-2004**



Agenda

1. To receive, consider and accept the minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive, consider and, if approved, accept reports from:
 - The President
 - The Treasurer
 - Junior Teams' Coordinator
 - Senior Teams' Coordinator
 - The Koala League, and
 - Any Committee Member or Office Bearer who may wish to table a report.
3. Election of Executive Committee Office Bearers for the position of:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Junior Teams' Coordinator
 - Senior Teams' Coordinator
4. Election of General Committee for the position of:
 - Grounds Officer(s)
 - Equipment Officer(s)
 - Canteen Manager(s)
 - Uniforms Officer(s)
 - Social Committee
 - Fundraising Officer(s)
 - Umpires' Development Officer(s)
 - Coaching Development Officer(s)
 - Junior Teams Registrar
 - Senior Teams Registrar
 - Publications Officer
 - Junior Teams' Recorder
 - Koala League Representative(s)
5. Election of Public Officer
6. Election of Auditor
7. Election of H.B.L. Delegates (Juniors & Seniors)
8. General Business

Equipment Report

As Equipment Officer this last year, my work was systematic. I worked with Ed McCue and Leslie Warren who were previously in the position. I was aware of their systems and the plans for refurbishment and enhancement of the Club's equipment for the betterment of the players and coaches.

With 19 teams, including the Koalas, to kit up at any one time over the last winter and summer seasons, much of the Club's equipment was signed out. This allowed time for repair and enhancement of the equipment as the season went on.

A rule change that combined the Under 10 and Under 9 competitions encouraged the purchase of smaller catcher's gear in the summer season. Some of the 8 years olds seem so tiny when they are in their catcher's 'armour'.

In this year, as in the past, the purchase of new playing balls remains the most costly item in the equipment budget, with \$1500 easily spent on balls alone this season.

In the coming season the regular purchase of match balls, score books and line up pads is expected, but other purchases are also anticipated. A few senior kit bags are looking close to replacement and some of the younger teams can look forward to using new bats next summer.

MOYA MÜLLER, EQUIPMENT OFFICER

Junior Teams' Coordinator's Report

Winter Development has started and the junior winter comp has commenced. Baseball in the Hills is now a year round sport.

This year was a very successful one for the club. We fielded 12 teams, 7 of these in graded competitions with 6 of the 7 making the semi finals. We had two teams – the 16 Braves and 14 Cardinals – who got through to the Grand Finals with the 16 Braves winning their division.

Without our wonderful volunteer coaches and their expertise, coaches assistants, together with the managers, scorers, umpires and base coaches, baseball would not run as smoothly or be as enjoyable for everyone. A big 'thank you' to all involved for your efforts during the year. Thanks also to parents and friends who have helped out in the canteen this year.

Players from our club have been picked in various representative teams during the year. They include: Daniel Woodbury, Adam Spencer, Daniel Shaw, Andrew Muller and Travis McDonald. Congratulations boys on your achievements!

Please be aware that we like to encourage players to participate in Winter Development (usually Sunday mornings) and to attend clinics to further develop their baseball skills. The club website www.carlingfordbaseball.com.au has all the details.

This coming year will the Club's 30th anniversary. We look forward to seeing you back at baseball and participating in the special events, including the Christmas party, which are planned.

HELEN TOY, JUNIOR TEAMS' COORDINATOR

Minutes of 2003 Annual General Meeting

CARLINGFORD BASEBALL CLUB INC

Held at Carlingford Bowling, Sports & Recreation Club

Monday May 5, 2003

In attendance

Moya Muller, Mark Highfield, Wendy Spencer, Matthew Spencer, Andrew Borg, Debby McDonald, Ross O'Shannassy, Myra Gurney, Helen Toy, Kath Hutchinson, John Butt, Patrick Fazzone, Mike Bell, Gai Trau, Val Hutchings, Steve Gosper, Garry Butler, Mikael Desaix, Ian Cummerford, Brian Cashmore, Dave Aiston, Greg Klein, Paul Anderson-Turner, J. Roese, Leslie Warren.

Apologies

Craig Cusbert, Heinz Muller, Maureen Borg, Bill Gurney, Glen Ettridge, Marilyn Bell, Mike Trau, Gail Cashmore, Andrew Murray, Sharon Murray

The meeting opened at 7.50 and the President welcomed members and life members.

Myra Gurney was asked to read the minutes of the 2002 AGM in the absence of Secretary Michael Lock.

Motion that the minutes be accepted as published

Moved: Ross O'Shannassy Seconded: Brian Cashmore ... carried

President's Report was read by Moya Muller as published. Moya advised the meeting that this would be her last address as President.

Brian Cashmore asked about the issue of the disaffiliation of NSWJBL. Moya explained the situation from what she said was her perspective. She said the issue had been driven by Ryde-Hornsby Baseball Association with the aim of removing the junior level from the administration structure and to effectively force out Cheryl Barnier and John Yard. She noted that from Carlingford's perspective, what NSWBL had to offer was negligible compared to what was offered by NSWJBL.

Wendy Spencer advised the meeting that David Williams, CEO of NSWBL, had been removed on this day and that now all NSWJBL representative players would be able to play under the NSW banner as they had been able to previously.

Motion that the President's Report be accepted

Moved: Ross O'Shannassy Seconded: Patrick Fazzone ... carried

Treasurer's Report as published, was spoken to by Wendy Spencer. Wendy advised the meeting that her aim as treasurer had been to break even and to keep fees as low as possible. This had been accomplished with the help of sponsorship from Challenge Recruitment and Carlingford Bowling Club. Sponsorship had enabled the club to purchase a batting machine for general club use. This purchase has highlighted the need for the installation of a batting cage.

Wendy said she would be stepping down as Treasurer after 3 years in order to allow new blood to be brought into the committee. She thanked club and committee members for their support.

Ian Cummerford asked why trophies for seniors were not noted in the report. Wendy replied that the seniors' trophies were to come and the aim was to have a joint presentation for both juniors and seniors.

Patrick Fazzone questioned why the canteen takings were higher this year. Wendy answered that the aim was to have the canteen as a service to club members and visiting teams rather than a fund raising venture. This year the canteen had covered its costs.

Brian Cashmore commented on the fact that there were insurance costs listed for 2002 but not 2003. He was advised that insurance for the club came through NSWJBL as part of our affiliation fees and that therefore additional insurance for Carlingford was not necessary nor was it currently available. Moya Muller added that player's insurance was also provided via NSWJBL affiliation.

Mark Highfield asked what sort of equipment had been purchased this year. Leslie Warren advised that she had purchased new umpires' gear as well as new catchers' gear for the kits. This was part of the cyclical replacement of equipment.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted

Moved: Brian Cashmore Seconded: Kath Hutchinson ... carried

Mikael Desaix was asked to present the Senior Teams' Coordinator's report. He amended his published report to say that "once again we have a 5th team and so we will need to play more away games." He also noted that we have picked up an A grade team from Holroyd Giants.

Moya told the meeting that Mikael was both a player and a coach and had put in a lot of effort for which she wished to thank him. She also noted that Mikael would be doing his Level 2 coaching course, for which the club would be paying.

Motion that the Senior Teams' Coordinator's Report be accepted

Moved: Ross O'Shannassy Seconded: Garry Butler

Helen Toy presented the Junior Teams' Coordinator's Report. She commented that it had been a successful season overall. The 14 Braves were premiers of their division with Matthew Spencer as coach for the first time.

There had been concern over player numbers, something that was district-wide and not restricted to Carlingford. Another issue of concern this season had been related to grading. She stated that her aim in the position was to foster fun and enjoyment of the game, not just to focus on winning. Finally, Helen noted that there were a few Carlingford players who were taking part in winter development opportunities.

Motion that the Junior Teams' Coordinator's Report be accepted

Moved: John Butt Seconded: Mark Highfield ... carried

Moya conveyed her thanks to Helen for a job well done.

Senior Teams' Coordinator's Report

WINTER 2003

This season the club entered 5 teams in the Hills Senior Baseball competition. The A graders had a good season with many tough games and made it through to the semi finals but got knocked out in the first round. The team in F grade had it tough and finished 5th. Then there were the 3 teams in G grade. A grade that should have been split in two conferences. John Yard did the right thing however, for the semi-finals, splitting the first eight teams in to two conferences that meant all of our G grade teams had a semi to play. None of the sides took home the big trophy but one team from each conference finished runners up. A very exciting season in all, that was well run by Hills Baseball League.

SUMMER 2003/2004

It was a good season for Carlingford senior baseball. We saw 6 teams out there competing in the Hills Baseball League for the first time this summer. Hills having taken over from Metro League this summer

With three of the teams making their way through to the semi finals, there were some pretty good baseball to watch for those interested. In F grade we nearly repeated last summer's feat by having two Carlo teams in the Grand Final. However one of the teams got beaten in the final, 9 runs to 8. The other F side played brilliantly in the Grand Final and beat Hawkesbury 11 runs to 4. Carlingford Red in H grade also made it all the way to the top but unfortunately lost the Grand Final to Oakville. A fourth team could have made it to the semi finals but could not fill a side in the final round and missed out.

Although we did not have sufficient interest to field an Under 19s side this season, please note that there are still opportunities for all juniors, 14 and up, to play with the seniors in which ever grade is appropriate. There are a few out there playing with their dads this winter.

WINTER 2004

Another winter season has just begun. The Club is again fielding 5 teams in the Hills Baseball Competition with the A grade team from the previous winter season back in action. Our home ground is Muirfield High School and with Upjohn as an overflow ground our teams should be pretty comfortable with plenty of home games.

I wish them and our other 4 teams an enjoyable, and hopefully successful season this winter. Please give them your support

Also, a big 'thank you' to Andrew Borg, our club's President, and to the committee for all your help and assistance in the past year.

And don't forget! All you Dad's out there who play baseball, give you kids your support next summer by becoming a coach or pitch in (pardon the pun) in some other way for all our baseball kids.

See you on the diamond!

MIKAEL DESAIX, SENIORS' TEAMS COORDINATOR

The breakdown by age group (previous year in brackets) was:

AGE GROUP	PLAYERS	FEMALES	TEAMS
Under 8	23 (25)	1 (4)	2 (2)
Under 10	31 (24)	4 (0)	3 (2)
Under 12	31 (32)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Under 14	30 (21)	0 (0)	3 (2)
Under 16	11 (21)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Total Juniors	126 (123)	6 (5)	12 (11)
Seniors (combined)	110 (93)	2 (1)	11 (10)
Total	236 (216)	8 (6)	23 (21)

As expected, the younger players can be seen to be progressing to the older age groups, while the oldest are leaving the club. As long as we continue the recruitment effort for the youngest players, and work at retaining them through the older age groups, the club should continue to grow.

MATTHEW SPENCER, REGISTRAR

As the Koala League did not have a representative present, it was noted that any member who required information, should contact a committee member.

Matthew Spencer next presented the Registrar's Report. Matthew noted that members could read the player registration numbers as published. One area of concern however, was that we were not replacing younger players in the lower age teams such as Under 8s and 9s and that we need to focus on attracting players in this age group in the upcoming season. Matthew told the meeting that other statistics were available on request.

Patrick Fazzone asked what strategies were in place to address this problem. Moya answered that there were several at both club and association levels. Hills were putting players into schools and running Level O coaching courses for teachers, an initiative that started last year. She noted that the club had again advertised registration via flyers distributed through the local schools and that we had also purchased two reusable banners which had been placed in various locations prior to registration day.

Andrew Borg said that we could perhaps learn from other sporting bodies and other baseball associations such as Pacific Coast who were subsidising fees for younger players in order to attract them. The Yard Ball initiative on a Friday night was also coming through. Moya noted that the club needs to be aware of the insurance implications of any initiative that may be taken up.

Matthew Spencer as Coaching Coordinator this season, had organised club subsidised school holiday coaching clinics which were run by Garry Everson from NSWBL. This had been a suggestion brought up by a survey of coaches and managers and had proven to be very popular and successful.

Motion that the Registrar's Report be accepted

Moved: Dave Aiston Seconded: Leslie Warren ... carried

In the absence of a canteen manager, Wendy Spencer delivered the Canteen Report. Wendy noted that this position had been formally unfilled for two seasons but that it was a job that required the efforts of a few people to share the load on a rotational basis, thus making it less onerous.

Mark Highfield thanked Wendy for her extra efforts in seeking out the deal with Cadburys for replacement of the club's freezer.

Wendy also thanked the McDonald family who had donated a BBQ when the old one had "died".

Moya also added her thanks and that of the committee to Wendy for her efforts in the canteen.

Motion that the Canteen Report be accepted

Moved: Kath Hutchinson Seconded: Ross O'Shannassy ... carried

Lastly, Moya read a report on the NSWJBL Volunteer Award that had been presented to Craig Cusbert. The report noted Craig's achievements in baseball and his service to the club over a long period. Moya said that many Carlingford players had been privileged to have had Craig as a coach.

The President declared all committee positions vacant for 2003 and called for a returning officer.

Motion that Brian Cashmore act as the Returning Officer

Moved: Leslie Warren Seconded: Helen Toy ... carried

Brian assumed the chair and thanked the outgoing committee for their efforts and a job well done.

Election of the new committee followed (see following page).

After the election, the new President Andrew Borg assumed the chair. Andrew thanked Brian for acting as Returning Officer. He also thanked the previous committee and the previous President of three years, Moya Muller, for her enthusiasm and passion for baseball and the club.

Motion was put forward that there be two signatories for the purposes of the Dept of Fair Trading and that those signatories should be:

1. Public Officer
2. Committee nominee as acknowledged

Moved: Moya Muller Seconded: Dave Aiston ... carried

General Business

There was none raised. The President thanked club members for their attendance.

Meeting closed 9.10

Next management committee meeting:

7.30 May 21st 2003 Carlingford Bowling Club
on Wednesday 15th May, 2002.

Treasurer's Report

To be presented in person at the Annual General Meeting.

Registrar's Report

Registrations for the 2003-2004 Season were again up slightly on the previous year. With about the same number of players, we managed to field one extra junior team, and had sufficient seniors for an additional summer team this year. We also fielded an A Grade Winter team, for the first time in several years.

Across the Hills Association the total number of teams was about equal to last year, stopping the downward trend. It is encouraging that the younger age groups grew, even though the older ones declined due to natural attrition. The numbers of teams in each junior age group in Hills, compared to the previous two seasons, were as follows:

AGE GROUP	2003-2004	2002-2003	2001-2002
Under 8	22	19	23
Under 10	26	22	27
Under 12	19	22	23
Under 14	16	18	20
Under 16	13	14	16
Total	96	95	109

Comparative numbers for this season and last are as follows:

	CURRENT SEASON	PREVIOUS SEASON
Junior registrations	126	123
Junior teams	12	11
Senior registrations (Summer)	68	59
Senior teams (Summer)	6	5
Senior registrations (Winter)	56	54
Senior teams (Winter)	5	5

Our growth this year can be attributed to an increased effort in recruiting new players, particularly by incregging our catchment area southwards. The uncertainty over affiliation with the state bodies meant that we also picked up a number of disenchanting Ryde juniors. Senior numbers were again up significantly on the previous year.

Externally, the ongoing affiliation dramas between the various peak bodies of NSW Baseball have been an unwanted and unnecessary distraction to the club and the association. Sadly, a number of our club's representative players have been caught up in this fight. Thankfully, resolution looks very near, and we expect (and hope for) a truce by the beginning of the next summer junior season.

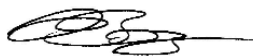
Despite these dramas, the game in the Hills District has held its own in terms of numbers and quality. This is a testament to the efforts of the Hills Baseball administration both in its current make up and over previous years. There are many people working in the background who give up many hours of their time to maintain the competitions for our Club's players, for which we are always appreciative.

The volunteers within our own club also require special mention. Clearly, it is impossible to mention everyone who volunteers and everything which is done. Most of the people would also be embarrassed to be mentioned in this way, as after all, a volunteer gives for the benefit of others, rather than their own recognition. Therefore, I would like to generally thank all of those who have volunteered time and energy for the betterment of the club and the players, be it manning the BBQ or canteen, scoring the game, umpiring, raking a diamond after a game, coaching, or helping the coach at training – it all helps and it all matters. Thank you!!

In conclusion, I was very fortunate to walk into this position with the club in a relatively strong financial position, but as always, there was still work (a lot of it) to be done, and we can't afford to accept the decline of baseball and Saturday sport generally, with the delusion that we are not as bad off as others. Be that as it may, we have tremendous opportunities ahead of us. We are after all playing a terrific game, with our mates and we are having great fun doing so. We just need to tell more people about it.

The Carlingford club has a tremendous history of success and achievement. The backbone of the club however, has always been the kids and families who turn up week in and week just to play a game with their mates. A handful will always go on to play representative baseball, but 95% don't. Yet, without this 95% there would have been no foundation for the others to have entered and excelled at the game. The game clearly needs and has room for both these groups, just as much as these groups need each other.

As President my energy has and will continue to be directed towards the provision of a facility and environment wherein kids (and even adults) can have fun with their mates. It is my belief that all of the other things, such as growth in numbers and teams, representative players, improved facilities and success of the diamond, can be built on this foundation.



ANDREW BORG, PRESIDENT

2003-2004 Committee Election

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Second	Accepted	Elected
President	Andrew Borg	Helen Toy	Dave Aiston	Accepted	Yes
Vice President	Patrick Fazzone	Garry Butler	Andrew Borg	Accepted	Yes
Secretary	Myra Gurney	Andrew Borg	Mikael Desaix	Accepted	Yes
Treasurer	John Butt	Val Hutchings	Paul Anderson-Turner	Accepted	Yes
Junior Teams Co-Ord	Helen Toy	Andrew Borg	Mikael Desaix	Accepted	Yes
Senior Teams Co-ord	Mikael Desaix	Val Hutchings	Patrick Fazzone	Accepted	Yes
Registrar	Matthew Spencer	Wendy Spencer	Garry Butler	Accepted	Yes
Grounds Manager	Garry Butler	Steve Gosper	Val Hutchings	Accepted	Yes
Equipment Officer	Moya Mueller	Kath Hutchison	Val Hutchings	Accepted	Yes
Canteen Manager	Debbie McDonald	Helen Toy	Leslie Warren	Accepted	Yes
Uniform Manager	Steve Gosper	Ed McCue	Wendy Spencer	Accepted	Yes
Social Committee	Wendy Spencer	Debbie McDonald	Val Hutchings	Accepted	Yes
Fund Raising	Debbie McDonald	Val Hutchings	Andrew Borg	Accepted	Yes
Umpire Dev Officer	Paul Anderson-Turner	Andrew Borg	Wendy Spencer	Accepted	Yes
Coaching Dev Officer	Patrick Fazzone	Wendy Spencer	Val Hutchings	Accepted	Yes
Publications Officer	Matthew Spencer	Andrew Borg	Val Hutchings	Accepted	Yes
Junior Teams Recorder	Myra Gurney	Matthew Spencer	Mikael Desaix	Accepted	Yes
Koala League Representative	Val Hutchings	Paul Anderson-Turner	Helen Toy	Accepted	Yes
Hills Delegate – Senior	None received				
Hills Delegate – Junior	Mark Highfield	Mikael Desaix	Mikael Desaix	Accepted	Yes
Hills Delegate – Reserve	Wendy Spencer	Helen Toy	Matthew Spencer	Accepted	Yes
Public Officer	Helen Toy	Steve Gosper	Wendy Spencer	Accepted	Yes
Auditor	Patrick Fazzone	Helen Toy	Dave Aiston	Accepted	Yes

President's Report

The 12 months covering my first term as President contained the usual variety of extremes both internally and externally.

This year saw the development, documentation and implementation of a deliberate strategy to firstly retain and secondly grow our junior player base. While the full success of this strategy will take some seasons of hard work fully materialise, some positive signs are already visible. The growth in the number of teams and the many new players from non traditional source suburbs, are examples of this.

The retention strategy was built around the premise that happy children and families will generally come back the following year. These returning families provide us with the future coaches, umpires and other volunteers that a club needs. The depletion of players and families in previous years has cost the club dearly in terms of volunteers and experience to the point where the club's infrastructure would struggle to cope with the addition of more than 1 or 2 junior teams in a season. We simply do not have the depth needed to support dramatic growth, as an example, we would be particularly exposed by the addition of more than one Tee Ball team per year, as most of the families would not have played the game before.

Simultaneously targeting our traditional player nurseries of Murray Farm and Carlingford West Primary Schools, along with the many schools in the Teloepa, Dundas and Ermington catchments, has successfully introduced new players and families, as has the raising of the club and sport's profile at local shopping centres.

Our grounds were the source of many mixed emotions during the year. The (re)acquisition of Muirfield High Schools diamond as a year round ground for juniors and seniors was a major coup. Many thanks to those who made this possible, and in particular to Wendy Spencer whose efforts were primary in helping us secure the ground. The ground takes tremendous pressure off Murray Farm Reserve, and off the groundsmen having to set up two grounds on Saturday mornings. They certainly won't miss the 10km dash to George Kendall Reserve at Ermington at 7.00 am. The year round tenancy also means that we will be able to make improvements to the ground and develop a long term relationship with the school.

Baulkham Hills Shire Council's release of a Draft Master Plan for Murray Farm Reserve caused considerable and largely unnecessary distress to the club and the residents living near the ground. A potent mix of misunderstanding and misinformation resulted in the local residents banding into action to fight a public and emotive battle with the Baseball Club. Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed, and a compromise was borne out of the realisation that we had more things in common than not. A joint and unified presentation was made to the Council, resulting in a number of immediate concessions such as a footpath, improved car parking and drainage, as well as provision for longer term improvements to the amenities block, player and support shade protection and an increased equipment storage area.

Most importantly the process, for all its pain, resulted in the establishment of a dialogue between the Club and local residents, whereby future baseball-related changes to Murray Farm Reserve can be discussed and managed to the satisfaction of both parties.

As co-custodians of Murray Farm Reserve, with North Rocks Soccer Club, it was also important that bridges be repaired and in some instances rebuilt. Putting the past squabbles behind us was important for both clubs, given the number of junior players we share. Both committees have worked hard to build and reestablish communication and cooperation wherever possible and it is our intention to continue to do so in an open and honest manner.

A final comment on Murray Farm Reserve relates to the improvements made by the ground staff during the past year. The fact that the ground was playable even after a week of torrential rain says volumes about the condition of the ground and the efforts of the groundsmen. Given the constraints of budget, resources and manpower compared to other clubs, the ground has simply been one of the best prepared and presented grounds in the association.

During the year, the Committee has chosen to establish a special Club Service Award to recognise those within the club who have given over and above what was expected, both in terms of time, effort and results, for the betterment of the club. The inaugural recipients of these awards were Garry Butler, David Aiston and Graham Cooper, all of whom were members of the grounds staff.

With the many new players and families joining the club this year, it was important that Carlingford provide support via player development clinics, umpiring and scoring clinics. The club has also paid for those who wished to attend coaching clinics. These are fundamental to the club's operation and will be improved on further next year.

The club also conducted an end of season survey of its members as means of giving the committee direction for the ensuing year. The stand out items, included:

- the need to improve out player and supporter facilities, including additional shading,
- the improvement of toilets and change rooms;
- the desire for cooler junior uniforms;
- access to additional player and coaching development courses;
- the inclusion of senior teams' reports in the newsletter; and,
- more "socialising" opportunities outside of the team groups.

This next season marks the club's 30th year of existence. A number of special events are planned, and as always, help is needed to bring the ideas into fruition.