



**BLACKWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

Held at Blackwood Football Club

Trevor Tce, Blackwood, on the

7th December 2023

Presidents Report – 2023

Blackwood Football Club is one of the great places for so many of us to come together to share in a common bond of community, friendship, fellowship and most importantly the game of Aussie rules footy.

It also gives us many opportunities to strive for a goal of achievement and success, whether it be giving time to playing, coaching, supporting or volunteering. We can all find a space to feel like we belong.

My second year at the helm has certainly come with its challenges, but I still get the rewards and fulfilment of being involved in my club and how I wish to strive to always make the BFC better for everyone.

Without the team of the most amazing committee and staff that represent our club we would not have the ability to function the way it does and because of that I am so eternally grateful. We are a small committee for such a big place but pull together well to make things happen. (albeit with a few hiccups along the way)

Thank you all so much for the outstanding contribution and the way you give your time for the betterment of the club is brilliant.

My biggest thanks go to our retiring members, Vice President Leonie Wilmshurst, Sponsorships Coordinator Vicki Trevena, Treasurer Wayne Kernich, Junior Footy Director Jarred Smedley and General Committee member Sophie Hodge. The time and effort you have volunteered and contributed over the last year(s) has been outstanding.

Leonie is a powerhouse and leaves no stone unturned when it comes to getting things done. I have enjoyed the partnership we endured over the last couple of years, and I know you won't be far away when needed. I've certainly learnt a lot from you, so thank you.

Vicki is also as equally incredible for holding together one of the toughest portfolios in sponsorship and she has done it alone with an incredible passion and commitment that I'm sure will be hard to emulate. Fantastic achievement for getting the sponsors we do Vick and will be great to see you with the Axemen and Women.

Wayne holds the fort together when it comes to finances and with his knowledge and skill his role is never easy but keeps the club afloat. We have been financially sound throughout the last couple of years from the good management of the books. Thank you for your service the last two years and will be great to see you in the timekeeper's box in the coming years.

Jack endured the tough role of JFD over the last couple of years, which includes the Sub-Juniors and the effort to keep everyone happy within these age groups finds its challenges. I thank you Jack for being a cool calm head within this portfolio and will be great to see you around the place supporting and assisting continually with the young people of the BFC.

Lastly Sophie who put her hand up and took on the commitment towards kitchen/canteen. Not the easiest of tasks but persisted with organising the catering to be sure the club had everything food wise from Thursday night meals through to canteen and BBQ requirements on Sundays. She continues to be part of the wonderful Thursday night crew in the kitchen prepping/cooking and serving the players/coaches and anyone else who wants a Shnitty after training. Fantastic volunteer and great person to have at the BFC. Thank you for everything.



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Football wise, Senior Footy is holding well led by Rohan and the team. Great coaches both Men and Women and particularly well-deserved club awards going to Daniel “Buckets” Lowe and fantastic all-round clubman Adam Pope winning the Watchman and Peter Roberts respectively, who as part of the footy department are all so well appreciated and the commitment with which you keep giving to the club is highly valued. We are well positioned to take the momentum into 2024.

Congratulations to Simon Manser in his first year as the Womens Senior coach (ably assisted by Senior Women White team Corey Drew, also in his first year as Senior Coach) and Popey for getting the club a couple of senior premierships and for Buckets getting to the GF, but not quite over the line. A fantastic achievement.

Senior coach Kieran Sporn is working feverishly to make sure our A grade men are challenging the finals series for 2024 and his effort requires our support and I know he won't let us down.

Junior Footy was also successful as every team played finals this year, but unfortunately no premierships. The club is well placed to have many good young players from both male and female flowing through the ranks.

I also want to thank Aneeka and her medical team for giving your all over the season, particularly early with how quickly the concussion issue came into focus after a couple of early knocks during games and then more evident after tragic death on the field of young Birdwood footballer Antonio Loiocono. It's wonderful to know we are in good hands with the team you have formed.

Club wise we are striving to implement a Five-Year plan to make sure we know exactly where we're going into the future. This is vital for the next generation and so not put the pressure on anyone who wishes to be involved as a volunteer or otherwise. Our policies and procedures are continually being tweaked along with upgrading the constitution where we see fit. This all comes with the endorsement of the members as to be sure everything is in its place correctly to move forward. We would love to hear about anything that could well be used to improve the club's operation. Feel free to send in your feedback?

To all our employed staff from Ricki and the team behind the bar, to Cindy in the canteen with such incredible enthusiasm, Lorna Cole who has taken on the role of Bookkeeper, the Saturday night kitchen crew of Con, Laurel, Sally, home game gatekeeper Summer and her back up Jon, your outstanding commitment makes our life a heck of a lot easier with you giving what you do. Thankyou.

Lastly to every volunteer that has put their hand up to assist in anyway, my biggest and sincere thanks go to you.

“Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart”.

From each serving Committee member to Canteen helpers, Michael Richardson our fantastic BBQ coordinator and all his helpers over the year, Vickie Richardson and the Social event team, the team of ladies for volunteering cooking meals on a Thursday night and everyone that helps get footy teams on the park every week. Our Axemen and women who lead the



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charge in sponsorship along with every other generous sponsor that is willing to support the BFC. THANKYOU, you are all wonderful contributors.

Looking forward to the next chapter in life of the Blackwood Football Club, enjoy the festivities of Christmas and New Year, stay safe, be kind to yourself, your family and friends, see you all in 2024.

Best regards
David Richardson
President

Senior Men's Football Directors Report 2023

Another season has come and gone, with plenty of ups and downs throughout the season with the B grade and the C Grade playing in the grand final unfortunately for the B Grade it was only the C Grade team that took out the win.

In the A Grade, we saw a return to the club of Senior Coach Kieran Sporn for another shot of unfinished business, assisted by Alex Scott, Sam Venning and Peter Lewis. With the addition of several recruits including Sam Davis and Matt Walton, hoping to take the boys to the top of the ladder.

The team had a season hit by injuries and rolled 48 players through the team throughout the season with only two players playing every game. We started the season with a wake up Loss away to Mt Lofty, followed by a couple of wins and by half way through the season we where could only manage 3 wins, the second half of the season showed some improvement with 4 wins and a draw and the team started to play as a unit. The positives where the games that we have put into our juniors, we must remember that the majority of the boys in this team have played less than 50 senior games. The youth and talent that we are seeing coming through the team and the commitment from the coaching group to play youth and develop these players.

The B Grade lead by Daniel Lowe and assisted late in the year by Damien Venning had a great year with them winning 6 games at the half way mark and the having a stronger finish to the year coming home with 8 wins prior to the finals where they beat Uraidla in a close 2 point win, to go onto play Hahndorf only to loss this by 26 points, luckily they had earned themselves the 2nd chance and defeated Nairne by 20 points in the preliminary to have another go at the Black and white Dorfs again going down after leading at ¾ time by 11 points. Next Year Boys!

The C Grade under the control of the maestro Adam Pope also had a great year on and off the field, after a lot of negotiating trying to arrange timeslots that suit everyone early, in the end they took on the mantra they will play whoever whenever and they wont to win! finishing the season with 9 wins and 2 losses moving into the finals, they meet a strong Nairne side at their home ground and taught them a lesson doubling their score and moving straight to the GF where they again faced the Nairne boys however they come to play and the boys needed to dig deep, which they did to come away with a 3 point win and the cup. Well done Boys.



We did celebrate a few milestone games across all grades, and I would like to congratulate them again.

200 Games - Mark Reynolds

150 Games - Matt Waldron

100 Games - Josh Bergin, River Moore, Jono Grimes

50 Games – Sam Zevenboom, Tyson Clark, Nathan Laity, Adam Greeves, Tyson Aiston, Callan Marks, Josh Thompson

2023 Award Winners

A Grade (Mens)

Moulden Medal (A Grade Best & Fairest) Daniel Benson

Runner Up Best & Fairest – Sam Davis

Coaches Award – Cody Padroth

Peter Winn -Team Player- River Moore

Simon Bryne Most Courageous – Jacob McCarthy



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B Grade (Mens)

Best & Fairest – Paul Brown

Runner Up Best & Fairest – Sam Stewart

Coaches Award – Harry Hamilton

Team Player- Alex Hopkins

Most Courageous – Ryder Tatarelli

Player of the Finals – Sam Stewart

C Grade (Mens)

Best & Fairest - Connor McCarl

Runner Up Best & Fairest - Tyson Aiston

Coaches Award – Zac Murar Kingston

Goal Kicker- Sam Tonkin 35 Goals

Team Player- Josh Thompson

Most Courageous – Patrick Mackay

Player of the Finals – Dylan Scarborough

Club Awards

Watchman Award – Daniel Lowe

Les Gillard Award – Brett Matthew

Peter Roberts Award – Adam Pope

Damien Venning Trophy – Simon Manser

Rohan Clark

Senior Football Director



Female Football Report 2023

In season 2023 we entered two sides in the HFL Open Women's competition for the first time. The HFL set rules around our two teams playing in the one competition stating that our best selected 16 players were ONLY allowed to be selected in our Green Team.

Preseason saw several experienced players recruited to the club in a busy transfer season which added to a young squad full of talent.

The decision was made to combine our U17.5 Girls teams and Women's teams for preseason which worked well increasing player numbers at training and improving relationships between senior and junior players.

Our Green Team coached by Simon Manser and captained by Kelsey Clare played as our first selected team and the White Team coached by Corey Drew and captained by Katilyn Hill played as our second selected side.

Our aim at the start of the year was for our Green Team to be very competitive and push towards finals, and for our White team was to be competitive in all games against the first selected sides of all opposition.

At the end of the minor round Blackwood Green had played 14 games and won 12 of those games and finished second on the ladder, a Great result!

Blackwood White had also played 14 games for the season and won 4 of those games, finishing 8th on the ladder. As stated, the Blackwood White team played against first selected teams all year and to win 4 games, including a win over Nairne, and a close result against Hahndorf, was a tremendous effort.

The Blackwood Green team's finals campaign could not have started any better with wins against Mount Lofty in the Qualifying Final by 40 points and a win against Onkaparinga in the Semi by 35 points seeing them qualify for their second Grand Final in as many years.

Grand Final Day held at Uraidla saw the Blackwood Green team come up against a tough Mount Lofty opponent. Blackwood Green, well supported by the other senior and junior teams of the club were far too strong for Mount Lofty winning the game by 43 points. Zoe Venning was named Best on Ground. Georgie Pater was another great contributor on the day, as was Beth Sigley, Megan Rich, and Bella Drew.



In

Another highlight for the club this year, recruit Ely Haylock collected the Hills Football League Association medal count in the last round to cap of a brilliant and consistent year by the midfielder. Piper Khouri was also in contention for the medal most of the count as the dangerous forward caught the eye of the umpires on many occasions. Well done to both players.

The successful running of two team this year was highlighted by the squad mentality of both teams and all players. Premierships are won by clubs, and the efforts of all squad members throughout the season to reach towards our goals of competitive football in all games and premiership success was a telling factor.

We are currently endeavouring to again fill two team in the Hills Football League in season 2024 and we are endeavouring to go back-to-back in 2024.

Damien Venning
Female Football Director





BFC 2023 Junior Football Report

2023 has been a successful, yet challenging year for our Juniors. The beginning of the year saw Sub Junior Coordinator Lulu Collins resign her role. Dustin Fisher, SANFL Boys Coordinator, stepped in to fill the role on a temporary basis due to the timing of Lulu's resignation. After a bumpy start to the Junior season for a number of teams, all teams settled into the groove of a new season playing some exceptional football across the grades.

Largely the season ran smoothly for BFC, with the club gaining high ratings for players and coaches throughout the season, with a few minor issues in coaching behaviour across a couple of teams. These were dealt with via SANFL and internal club processes. Coaching behaviour is still, and will always be a major focus for the Junior programs, as the younger players look up to and feed off the coaches energy, so it is an important aspect that always need to be monitored and attended to.

HFL Juniors Teams:

- U14 Boys
- U16 Boys
- U18 Boys

SANFL Juniors Teams:

- U7 x 2
- U8 x 2
- U9 x 2
- U9 Girls
- U10 x 2 Boys
- U11 Boys & Girls
- U12 Boys
- U13 Girls
- U15 Boys & Girls
- U 17.5 Boys & Girls

The Juniors have strong numbers across most age groups, with the U9/11 girls and U13/14 boys being the teams most struggling for players. However, the future is bright with 177 players in our Sub Junior programs from U7-U11. While early on it was looking like the U10 Boys would not be able to fill 2 teams, we successfully managed to get both teams across the line. Similarly, the U11 Boys looked like they were going to have to field a team in the 15 a side SANFL competition, but once again, we managed to field a side in the 18 a side competition. The Girls U9 and U11 teams also struggled for players throughout the season but managed to put teams on the park each week in a stellar effort.



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The premiership grade Junior teams had extremely successful seasons, with ALL premiership grade teams, Boys and Girls, making the finals in SANFL and HFL competitions. This is an amazing effort and cannot be done without the excellent coaching, team support and dedication of the coaches, team managers, other volunteers, and players. Unfortunately, none of the Girls teams made Grand Finals, nor did the U14 Boys team, who suffered some significant late season injuries. All other Boys teams made Grand Finals and while none won the Premiership for their grade, they acquitted themselves extremely well, an effort for which they should all be proud.

Three events specifically for Juniors were held throughout the season, these being the Come & Try day, which was hugely successful and will be run earlier in 2024 than it was this year, the Juniors Quiz Night and a Junior Disco. This is a conscious effort on the club's part to bring our Juniors more into the club, as our Juniors are our future Senior players. The Juniors Quiz Night was extremely well attended, and very well received by those who came to the night. Once again, we plan to run this event again next year, bigger and better than 2023! In addition, new Sub Junior Coordinator, Melissa Riseley organised a Juniors Disco that once again was very well attended and received by families. Melissa (with the help of Sophie Gust) did an excellent job of organising and running the night and we look forward to this event happening again in 2024.

Dustin Fisher

Junior Football Co-ordinator

Treasurers Report 2023

This year has been a difficult year due to increasing costs. We increased some bar prices, barbeque, canteen and player memberships (by CPI) to offset the increases.

It is a balancing act to break even on a cash basis which was roughly the case this year. We aim to keep the cost of player memberships as reasonable as we can.

The profit and loss shows a significant loss due mainly to depreciation, which is a write-off of facility upgrade costs over a number of years. The main items being tables, chairs, lighting, coaches box items, gym equipment and player guernseys. If we have upgrades to be done in future we will need to fund raise, and where applicable apply for grants to cover the cash required.

Cleaning costs appear high this year, as the previous cleaner could no longer do our cleaning with the new cleaner was more expensive, and the cost for wash room supplies also increased.

Medical expenses, which includes tapes was affected by CPI and cost increases

SANFL umpire fees increased by \$4K compared to last year and HFL umpires up by \$6K from last year

Wages for the bar staff increased mainly due to basic wage rate increases and less volunteer hours,



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We also spent an additional amount for strength training

Match expenses includes filming of games and match day sponsor vouchers for best players.

A big thankyou to our bookkeeper Lorna Cole for managing the accounting system.

Wayne Kernich

Treasurer

Membership Report 2023

2023 has been another busy one for Blackwood Football Club.

Membership numbers have remained consistent with last year with a total of 780 players, coaches, Life Members, Axemen, Social members and Volunteers registering via Play HQ.

After increasing last year, social memberships have remained steady this year. By purchasing a social membership, you are directly supporting the club whilst enjoying the benefits of free entry to Blackwood home games, special member drink prices at the bar and access to special offers from our sponsors.

Thank you to everyone that has paid player fees and Social/Axeman fees this year. These fees contribute in many ways across our Club, enabling us to field our teams each week and improve the club facilities that we all enjoy. Your support is very much appreciated and vital in keeping our club successful.

Congratulations to everyone involved with Blackwood Football Club in 2023 on another great year. Look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Kind regards

Tracy Ghee

Membership and Marketing Coordinator

Sponsorship Report 2023

Once again, the ongoing support from our fabulous Sponsors has been outstanding, we cannot thank them enough, we certainly wouldn't be here without them!

The overall contribution has held fairly steady again this season, this amount is outlined in the financial report along with the support given by way of Vouchers and Goods donated to show a true reflection of the generosity shown to our Club.

We have continued to back to our Sponsors through 'Game Day' promotion, through Social Media posts, the Club Sponsors TV, Club and Oval signage and the Axemen have also continued



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to promote sponsors at their luncheons, and I thank them for their fundraising efforts once again this season.

This season we also had our Player Partnerships, which raised more valuable funds for the Club, these Partners are shown above the Bar with their corresponding Players photo.

We welcomed new Sponsors to the Club this season and we encourage our members to support these valuable businesses.

As always, we thank Barry & Maria Caddle and family for their outstanding contribution to Blackwood Football Club.

2023 Sponsors

Caddle Crash Repairs & Edenwood Auto's, The Belair Hotel, Cellarbrations Blackwood, AIR Wholesalers, Dave Benson Caravans, Sims Refrigeration, Explorer Caravan Sales, Nelson Teamwear, Harris Real Estate, Greens Environmental Pest Control, Lowe's Meat Co, Blush Hair Society, National Pharmacies & Optical, Harvey Norman Electrical Marion, Blackwood Hire, Thompson's Pool & Spa, Bridgestone Select Blackwood, Blackwood Golf Club, Galpins, K&B Mitre 10, Intersport Blackwood, Heaps Good Spirits, LAAD Creative, Valley Landscaping, Senwill Civil, Akkerman & Dyer, MyDentist Blackwood, Blackwood Butchers, Blackwood Hair for Men, Catherine Hutchesson MP, Blackwood Pizza Bar, Sleek Tours, Lucid Consulting, Online Fire & Security, Karen Hockley Cr, Concordia College (Blackwood Campus), Brad Voigt Plumbing, Prencos Environmental, Fire & Rescue, Feather & Peck, The Coffee Club Marion, Yangtze Chinese Restaurant, Adrian's Firewood Supplies, Drakes Supermarkets and The Fishman.

It has been my absolute pleasure to represent this fabulous Club, however it is now time for me to step aside. I wish the Committee all the very best in their endeavors, it's not an easy task and sometimes their hard work is taken for granted.

Vicki Trevena

Sponsorship Coordinator

Axemens Report 2023

2023 was a good AXEMENS year, we had good attendances at all our luncheons and some very happy faces. Many thanks to Dylan Jones for his catering expertise and enthusiasm.

I would like to thank all the committee for making the workload lighter by pitching in and getting the job done, also thanks to a number of regular AXEMEN that helped on match day. All these things help make sure we walk away happy. We can always do with more hands-on board, so if anyone would like to be involved in a committee where you have a voice and are respected, then please come forward and volunteer.

This year we had two great guest speakers, the first being Daryl Harper, ex International cricket umpire and also a Coromandel Rambler, the second was Ian Borchard, ex West Adelaide



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Captain. The stories these people tell are priceless and we appreciate the time and effort they make to enlighten and entertain us.

Many people have asked how the BBQ project is going, well after some experimenting, we will shortly see things come to fruition. BBQ building is a mysterious art (that's my story anyway)

Our financial commitment to the club remains strong and we remain flexible to the requests of the Executive committee and also some proposals for improvements to club amenities.

The Club has now been provided with a new dual microphone system.

The highlight of the year was once again the ladies' lunch and I think everyone enjoyed a very successful day and as well as our guest speaker Ian Borchard we were extremely pleased to have Kiera Mueller interviewed by Damien Venning. Kiera is The Crows Rising star and gave us an insight to her rise through the AFLW system, a truly remarkable story.

We have enjoyed a good year and look forward to an equally if not better 2024.

Go the Woods.

Pete Gottsche
Axemens Convener

2023 Ladies Lunch

Following on from the Axemens report a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all the ladies that attended this year' lunch. In a first, every single lady's ticket had been pre purchased.

Not only does this make it easier for catering it also takes the pressure off the Volunteers on the day.

Lovely to see Zoe H taking charge at the lunch, absolute Super Star on the day.





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Thank you to the Axemen's committee, Dylan for his delicious food and all the BFC Sponsors that donated prizes for the raffles and Springfresh Salads who sponsored the Salad and Veg for all the lunches this year. Your support is very much appreciated.

Cheers,

Leonie

Social Fundraising Report

This year we formed a Social Committee and without these dedicated ladies our events could not be possible.

Thank you to Franca, Rachael, Jane, Sharon for all the support and time you put in over the year and we would love to see more people join (even some of the men) as the more people that can help, it makes these events possible.

Was a great year of support from members with our Social functions this year and makes all the effort that goes into organising worthwhile.

We started the year with our Ladies Day and numbers were a little down this year to previous years' but a great day was had by all ladies that supported it.

Our next event was Bogan Bingo and this was a huge hit! Everyone dressed up and had a fantastic night at this sold out event. Many asked if we can do this again in 2024 so it will certainly be an event that will be on the calendar for 2024.

The Social Committee then organised the Annual Gala Ball.

We did trial something a little different with BYO basket supper but some members mentioned that did prefer the sit down 2 course meal we usually have so we will definitely keep this in mind in organising 2024 Annual Ball. Also we would like to lock in a great band early in the year so we can make sure we have great music.

A big thank you to the Warburton's for doing the balloons for the night, they were fantastic and helped towards our expenses in a big way.



Overall just with fundraising along (not including any of the great bar takings for each event) we fundraised over \$5,000 for our club.

For 2024 please remember to support our events as it makes a big difference in what we can do for our club to make it a better place for everyone.

Vickie Richardson
Events Co-ordinator