



**BLACKWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**

**Held at Blackwood Football Club  
Trevor Tce, Blackwood, on the  
29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

**Blackwood Football Club Inc.**





## **Presidents Report – 2024**

This being my farewell report, I am happy to say the Blackwood Football Club is in good hands.

I am eternally grateful for everyone that roles up their sleeves to make sure the footy club thrives and delivers to the members, sponsors, supporters, players, coaches, volunteers, employed staff and the community. It has certainly been a ride, that's for sure.

At the end of 2023, the incumbent committee got on the front foot to turn the Blackwood Football Club from surviving to thriving. This certainly came with its challenges, frustration, disappointment, and sadness but we always strive to overcoming these challenges.

If we were not to make changes at the committee level and knowing those decisions came with collateral damage, we were not showing due diligence towards the greater club. It came at a cost to individuals, which has been difficult to manage.

Once the season got under way, the club was running as smoothly as it could. The committee being pro-active in every way possible.

All footy teams were in place also Auskick which was run so well by our "workhorse" Zoe, and we were tracking nicely.

Our "brand" is football and that certainly challenged the fabric of where we were heading, with the unsettling situation with the senior men, but the senior women set the bar and came home with a back-to-back premierships, with Simon and Corey which everyone at the club should be so proud to achieve! Congratulations to all.

Congratulations for the signing of new A grade Club coach Michael Handby and I believe there will be major success with his coaching and the energy he brings. The club also embarked on strategic planning through Club Map to further strengthen the transition and change of a modern community football club. We are at a very important time at the club for it to be able to thrive and we must move and think with the times.

My position has come to an end, and I wish the new committee all the very best for the future. It's in your hands and you will be fully supported.

My sincere thanks firstly to outgoing committee members: -

Secretary Trevor (Supa Trev) Prentice! The most outstanding contributor to the club in my time over 35 years. It astounds me to how much work you have put in over the years and mostly unnoticed by many. I wish you and Mary all the best of wishes for you to finally get away on your long-awaited retirement trips. You are a marvel.

Memberships (and Life Member) Tracy Ghee who has probably endured the most frustrating jobs of making sure everyone pays their "correct" fees for either playing, social or Axeman membership. You have been such a wonderful part of making our club a financial success this year Trace and I certainly thank you for everything you've done. Hope you enjoy your time away from the numbers and can now sit back and be the loyal supporter in the crowd as you have done over many years.



## **Blackwood Football Club Inc.**

Senior Men's Football Director Rohan Clark. You were a bedrock for everyone this year mate and I have been truly blessed to have you on my team! I wish you well, but maybe there is more in you yet?

Sponsorships Billy Powell came back to the club after being away for 20+ years but stepped into the role with gusto. Sadly, moving back to Victoria because of work. I sincerely thank you for everything you have achieved for the club. It's been a massive job, so bravo mate.

Finally, Committee of Management member Tricia Franks, your work with Kitchen, Club Map, anything to do with Grants, volunteering at all hours with your knowledge is second to none. Your contribution to the club has been invaluable and will be missed. I also wish you well in the future. Thankyou.

To everyone who has given their own time to support and help the club in anyway. BBQ, Canteen, all the footy responsibilities and particularly the Thursday night kitchen crew. I SINCERELY THANK-YOU

"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart"

To all our staff, namely Ricki, Warby, Sarah, Tayla and all the other bar staff that chipped in over the year, Cindy and her Mum who have done amazing work in the canteen and kitchen, Chris, Aneeka, Poley, - you guys are the cream of the crop and are the most outstanding medicos in the business, and Melissa (on the gate for HFL home games) who stepped into the role this year! 1000 thank-yous! You've all been outstanding people to the club!

Our Sponsors, without you we would not be the club we are! Your commitment in the way you support the BFC is second to none. Particularly to the long serving family businesses that have always been side by side and the Axemen (and women) who are the pride and envy of many other clubs. Thank you!

To the Life Members, Members and supporters, I appreciated all the kind gestures and took it onboard as positive reinforcement as well as the sturdy feedback I also received as lessons to learn and overcome.

Last, but not least, without my wonderful, supportive wife Vickie, who has been with me at the BFC since day one, I so very much appreciate everything you have done to make sure I could be my best, I truly am blessed to have you by my side.

Have a safe, wonderful Christmas and New Year with loved ones, I will certainly see you all around the club in 2025

***Many kind regards,  
David Richardson  
President***



## **Senior Men's Football Directors Report 2024**

Another season has come and gone, with plenty of ups and downs throughout the season with C Grade playing in the grand final unfortunately not taking home the win against the strength of Hahndorf, the B grade made it into the finals but not to the big dance.

In the A Grade, we saw a second season for the Senior Coach Kieran Sporn with the help of Clyde Rigney as his senior assistant. Preseason was ran by Daniel "Buckets" Lowe and A grade Captain Matt Waldron after Kieren had some serious health issues.

The team had a season hit by injuries and rolled 40+ players through the team through out the season with only six players playing every game. We started the season confident and positive only to have our best midfielder hit by long term injuries, Sam Davis, Matt Tuck and Rhys Sporn which really put us under the pump and tested the strength and depth of the team. Kieren Sporn health then was not improving and as per doctors orders he stood down as the senior coach, luckily for us Clyde stepped up and took control, which we thank him for. The end of the season we finish 8<sup>th</sup> with only 2 wins, we played better than this looked in patches but couldn't play the 4 quarters at the intensity that was required. 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 coming home with 9 wins prior to the finals where they beat Mt Lofty at Lofty in a close 7 point win, to go onto play Uraidla only to loss this by 16 points.

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 14 wins and 0 losses moving into the finals, they meet a strong Hahndorf side at Onkas on a Friday night, going down by 18 points at the final siren.

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

300 Games – Andrew Work

200 Games – Patrick Mackay

100 Games – Jacob Mc Carthy, Jake Radford, Marc Czerwinski

50 Games - Cody Padroth, Jack Pole, Jaxin Faehrmann, Zac Venning, Troy Hocking



## **Blackwood Football Club Inc.**

### **2024 Award Winners**

#### **A Grade (Men's)**

- Moulden Medallist (A Grade Best & Fairest) – .Zac Venning
- Runner up Best & Fairest – Tyson Clark
- Leading Goal Kicker – Nick Bailey
- Coaches Award – Sam Zevenboom
- Peter Winn Team Player of the Year – Matt Walton
- Simon Byrne Most Courageous Award – Troy Hocking

#### **B Grade (Men's)**

- Best & Fairest - Nathan Laity
- Runner up Best & Fairest – Mark Reynolds
- Leading Goal Kicker – Liam McCarthy
- Coaches Award – Spencer Warrilow
- Team Player of the Year – Jules Marjanac
- Most Courageous Award – Max Kleinig
- Player of the Finals – Cody Padroth

#### **C Grade (Men's)**

- Best & Fairest – Luke Hocking
- Runner up Best & Fairest – Jackson Pole
- Leading Goal Kicker – Tyson Aiston
- Coaches Award - Brady Dewhurst
- Team Player of the Year – Zac Kingston Murar
- Most Courageous Award – Brady Dewhurst
- Player of the Finals – Sam Matters

#### **Club Awards**

Watchman Award – Trevor Prentice

Les Gillard Award – Janet Kernich

Peter Roberts Award – Jake Radford

Damien Venning Trophy – Gel, Miki & Claire Collins

***Rohan Clark***

***Senior Football Director***



## Blackwood Football Club Inc.

### Female Football Directors Report 2024

Season 2024 saw the Blackwood Green and White teams again contend the HFL Premiership with both teams playing in the same competition. The HFL put some significant restrictions yet again on the Green team with fifteen players only allowed to play in the Green team meaning movement between the teams was significantly restricted.

Thirteen players from 2023's squad would also not be returning including Mail Medallist Ely Haylock and Courtney Mesecke (pregnancies), experienced duo Megan Rich and Morgan Tucker, SANFLW players Zoe Venning, Olivia Smith and Georgie Pater and local talent Desi Petersen Liv Emes, Brie Medder, Piper Khouri, April Sowerby, Kelly Whitehead and Sienna Manser.

Simon Manser again took over the reins of the Green team and Corey Drew took the job of coaching our White team.

Blackwood Football Club is quickly becoming a destination club and with a lot of hard work we were able to recruit 15 new players to the club nine of whom were new to football. We were also able to debut local Blackwood players from our underage program six of them playing in the final series for the Green team.

The Blackwood Green team ended up undefeated in the minor round and finished as minor premiers. The Blackwood White team playing in an A Grade competition won three games for the season the best of which was wins against Nairne who finished in the final five and Mount Barker a previous powerhouse of the HFL.

The Blackwood Green team was able to win their way into the 2024 Grand Final.

The GF was held at Nairne in very windy conditions and despite a scare from Mount Lofty were able to overturn a three-quarter time deficit and run out winners by six points. Back-to-back victories for the Blackwood Green team topped off a great season yet again for the Open Women's squad and a big congratulations must go to players, coaches and support staff.





## **Blackwood Football Club Inc.**

### **Under-aged teams**

Blackwood was able to fill an U17 Girls team in the HFL which was coached by Charlize and Matt Cornish, and the girls had a great season making it into the finals and losing a tight contest in the preliminary final.

Our U14 girls (coached by Mark Bolto) and U12 girls (coached by Junior Female Football Director Lachie Ross) started the season in the SANFL Juniors Division 2 competition and were quickly promoted to the top Division of the SANFL Juniors after 3 rounds. The girls fought out a tough season against the best teams in the state and showed significant improvement.

Our U10 non-premiership team was coached by Scott Wheatland and were regular attendees at Saturday Night Presentations and enjoyed a fun season.

### **Country Champs**

Congratulations to Sarah Campbell (Player of the Championships), Maddie Fitzgerald, Naimh Davis, Tamika May, Mackenzie O'dea who represented Blackwood in the Championship winning Eastern Zone at the Country Championships.

### **SANFLW League debuts**

A special mention must also go to Blackwood's Carly Milsom who not only debuted for South Adelaide this year but played in both the Development League and League premierships for South Adelaide before returning to Blackwood to play in the HFL premiership game for the Woods.

Finally, congratulations to Summer Ross who debuted for Sturt's league team in 2024.

***Damien Venning***

***Female Football Director***





## Blackwood Football Club Inc.

### Junior Football Directors Report 2024

Coming out of coaching roles into the Junior Football Director role was going to be a big step. Throughout the season I have learnt so much, but it has been with the assistance of some great club members. I would especially like to thank Dustin Fisher (SANFL Junior Boys Coordinator), Melissa Riseley (SANFL Sub Junior Boys Coordinator) and Lachie Ross (Junior Girls Coordinator).

After the AGM in December, we got to work looking at what teams we would have for Season 2024. With age groups changing year by year, we decided to field the teams below.

#### HFL Boys

Under 14  
Under 16  
Under 18

#### HFL Girls

Under 17

#### SANFL Boys

Under 7  
Under 8 Green  
Under 8 Red  
Under 9 Green  
Under 9 Red  
Under 10 Green  
Under 10 Red  
Under 11  
Under 13  
Under 17.5

#### SANFL Girls

Under 8  
Under 10  
Under 12  
Under 14

Before the start of the season, we held a coaches night with Kym Laube from the SANFL come along to brief our coaches on coaching techniques and training techniques. In season 2025 I believe we need to use the resource of Kym Laube more to give added value to our coaches. We also must ensure that all coaches attend the coaches night to be signed off with their coaching accreditation and working with children check which is under the club's policy and procedures.

For season 2025 junior coaches will need to express their interest to coach and if required will need to go through an interview process. This will make sure the club is getting the best possible coaches available to mentor our junior players. We are lucky enough to have Steve Woods – former A Grade player coming on board as our Coach Coordinator for season 2025. Steve will be a great resource for the coaches to have a go to person.

I would really like to thank Zoe Hounslow- Wende for taking on the role of Auskick Coordinator. Auskick is very important for building future players for our club.

It was a remarkably successful season for junior teams that played for premierships with all the boy's teams playing finals football with the Under 16's and Under 17.5's taking out premierships. Congratulations to coaches Damien Connor and Scott Wheatland. The Under 18's made the Grand Final but unfortunately could not win it. Nevertheless, it was a great season



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for the Under 18's coached by Daryl Sowerby. The Under 16's and 18's both won Courier Cups. For the girls we had the Under 17's get through to the Preliminary Final but unfortunately went down by just 4 points.



I would personally like to thank all the coaches for their outstanding efforts this season. Along with thanking the coaches I would also like to thank our Team Managers for their tireless efforts this season not only for helping get teams on the field but also for organising volunteers to do roles including Timekeeper, Goal and Boundary Umpires, water runners and also BBQ and canteen volunteers. It is a hard task to get volunteers for BBQ and canteen, but we need everyone onboard to commit to their allocated time to ensure we have financial success as a club.

This season saw us form a Junior Committee. Thanks to those who have come onboard the committee. I feel the committee will gain momentum next season to create more junior events with that fundraising at the same time. One of the things the committee started this season was mini league games at half time of the A grade home games towards the end of the season. Thanks to the coaches who were involved in helping organise the 2 games.

Overall, it has been a challenging but rewarding season. I am looking forward to working with our new club coach Michael 'Handles' Handby to help create a junior pathway program for juniors transitioning into seniors. Looking forward to a bigger and better season in 2025.

**Brett Brodie**  
**Junior Football Director**



## **Blackwood Football Club Inc.**

### **Membership Report 2024**

This year has certainly been another busy one in the Membership Coordinator role.

2024 has seen more than 760 individual registrations, consisting of players, coaches, axemen, social members and volunteers. Players made up the majority of the registrations, with the club fielding a total of 22 teams playing across juniors and seniors in both the HFL and SANFL competitions.

Our social membership base has seen an increase of 13% from 2023 to 2024 and we would love to see this increase even further next year. By purchasing a social membership, you will be supporting the Blackwood Football Club whilst in turn enjoying the benefits of free entry to home games, discounted bar prices, special deals from our sponsors and voting rights after two consecutive years of membership.

Thank you to everyone that has paid player registration fees and social or axemen fees this year. These fees contribute to keeping our club running, enabling us to field our football teams each week across both juniors and seniors and helps us to maintain and improve the facilities we have for all to enjoy.

Congratulations to everyone involved with the Blackwood Football Club in 2024. Looking forward to more supporters becoming financial members and volunteers in 2025, contributing to a successful year both on and off the field.

***Tracy Ghee***

***Membership Coordinator***

### **Sponsorship Report 2024**

The ongoing support from our valuable Sponsors has been outstanding, we cannot thank them enough, we certainly wouldn't be here without them!

The overall contribution has held steady considering the economic climate 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 our Sponsors through 'Game Day' promotion, through Social Media posts, Club Sponsors TV, Club sponsors wall and oval signage, club website and the Axemen luncheons.

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

This season we continued the Player Partnership Sponsors program, which raised more valuable funds for the Club and helped with players membership costs, these Partners are shown above the Bar and on the club sponsorships TV with their corresponding Players photo.



## **Blackwood Football Club Inc.**

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

I would also like to mention Leigh from Deegan Signs for his ongoing contribution to the club.

### **2024 Sponsors**

Please refer to BFC website for details

It has been an absolute pleasure to represent the mighty Blackwood Football Club, however it is time for me to step aside as I am relocating back to Melbourne at year end. I wish the Committee, players, members and all volunteers the very best for the future.

***Billy Powell***

***Sponsorship Coordinator***

## **2024 End of Year Report by Tricia Franks, General Member of the Committee of Management**

### **Working With Children Checks**

For the first time, this year we've made good use of the SA Government Department for Human Services Screening Unit portal. We now have records of Working with Children Checks (WWCC) for 109 volunteers and paid persons stored safely on the portal. This should streamline the process for ensuring WWCCs are in place at the beginning of each playing season from now. The portal automatically alerts us when WWCCs are due to expire soon, so that we can prompt people to make sure that their checks are updated as required. We will continue to work towards achieving full WWCC coverage for the Club.

### **Mitcham Council Grant**

Thanks to the Mitcham Council Community Facilities Grant, we received \$5500 towards the total cost (\$12,028.50 incl. GST) of updating the access control system for the clubrooms. Rohan Clark worked with Security House of SA to deliver the upgrade in August.

### **Strategic Planning with CLUBMAP**

We engaged Terry Dillon and the CLUBMAP team <https://clubmap.com.au> to assist us to build strategy around the Club's operations. CLUBMAP delivered a Club Health Check and two 2-hour online workshops across August and September. They also prepared draft Strategic, Operational and Revenue Plans as well as an Implementation Plan and a draft Organisational Structure. CLUBMAP will continue to support us over the next 12 months with specific advice (at request) and general resources accessible on demand through their online Resources Hub. Our current focus is to develop the Organisational Structure by: (1) working out how all of the different jobs that need doing can be partitioned into roles, then (2) describing how the roles will interconnect with the Committee of Management through subcommittees.



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### Australian Sports Foundation Fundraising Page

To collect tax deductible donations towards the cost of the CLUBMAP work (\$5500), we have set up a fundraising page on the Australian Sports Foundation platform (<https://asf.org.au/projects/blackwood-football-club/blackwood-football-club-planning-for-the-future>). As of 7 October 2024, \$540.35 has been raised. ***Please earnestly consider a donation of any affordable amount, to assist with the planning that has been put in place, to ensure the future success and wellbeing of our club.***

### Axemens Report 2024

A record number of forty-six people committed to support the Axemen in 2024. These members combined with consistent casual diners at our lunches made 2024 a highly successful year.

We were entertained by some exceptional speakers.

Robert Day ex West Adelaide/Hawthorn player covered stories from his playing days and Clyde Rigney spoke about Indigenous Round. The final speaker was SA Premier Peter Malinauskas who was interviewed by our own Gyprock and his well-researched questions evoked some amusing responses.

Ladies Lunch was a highlight with Senior Female Football Director Damien Venning interviewing Club legend and Captain of the Back-to-Back Senior Women's Green Team and very well attended with a massive selection of raffle prizes and support for the auctions.

Projects completed this year were an update of the Honour Boards, an upgrade to the outside Bar and BBQ, additions to the crockery and cutlery. Expenditure exceeded \$1500.00 this year. We are currently looking to improve the comfort of supporters with heating on the veranda area match days.

We also acknowledge the work done by our volunteer committee with special thanks to our master chefs Dylan and Kym.

"The current balance of funds available for future projects is \$33,903.43 with \$4,511.44 available in our running account."

### Axemen Mission Statement

To support the Blackwood Football Club by raising money from events organised by a volunteer committee. Funds accumulated are to be used for improving the Club on and off the field.



### Social Fundraising Report

This year our wonderful Social Committee continued on from 2023 into 2024 and without these dedicated ladies our events could not be possible.

Thank you to Franca, Rachael, Jane, Sharon and Andrea and anyone else that helped out from time to time for all the support you put in to make these events possible.

Was a good year of well attended events from members with our social functions and makes all the effort that goes into creating these events worthwhile.

We started the year with Ladies Day and numbers were really good and it was mainly about celebrating and supporting our Ladies of the club, but a bonus that a profit was made as well.

Our next event, due to popular demand of 2023, Bogan Bingo and another fun night of dressing up and laughs with another sold out event. We have now done it two years running and been so successful and still one of the most profitable fundraising events of the year.

The Annual Ball which we called this year 'Not the Blackwood Ball' and a few were confused by this. The main idea behind this was to make it a more casual affair by not having a sit down dinner, but a stand up cocktail food event with still having a lovely dress up occasion. This was accepted positively by all members and with a fabulous band to support the event was profitable as well as enjoyable.

Good \$\$\$ were raised this year to support the club and going forward the Social Committee has been made up of long-standing members who are all officially retiring as they certainly have put the hard yards in over many years. Therefore, it is now time for the younger generation to take over.

This being said, we really need someone to take the reins and get a new committee together as without this none of these events will happen in 2025.

It is not the committee's job to do this as they have many other duties they have to deal with. This is a separate part of the club that needs to form the 'social committee'. It's a bit of organising, so there needs to be as many of you can to get involved and it's really an easy job to share around.

I'm more than happy to help out with all the information and contacts I have gathered over the time our committee have been running these events.





## **Blackwood Football Club Inc.**

Blackwood Football Club is a wonderful club and just needs the new generation to take over as us oldies have had our time over many many years but it has been a pleasure!

Thanks everyone for your ongoing support. Much gratitude to everyone.

***Vickie Richardson***  
***Social Committee Coordinator***



## **BLACKWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **Investing in Our Communities (liOC) Grant Project**

### **Committee Report to AGM, November 2024**

The Blackwood Football Club (BFC) liOC Grant Agreement was signed on 4 March 2024. A project committee of exceptionally qualified and dedicated volunteers was assembled and has been meeting regularly since 18 March 2024 to discuss the overall project scope and required actions to achieve a successful outcome.

The final project activities under the executed grant agreement include:

- Upgrade to external power supply to the site and main switchboard,
- Upgrade sports lighting to a minimum of 100 lux,
- Supply and install poles and netting to secure backstop nets behind both goal areas,
- Document a 'whole-of-site' drainage and irrigation design for the oval and area in front of the clubhouse; and
- Install drainage and water management to the lawn area in front of the clubhouse.

The overall grant fund amount is \$614,000 (ex GST) paid in milestone payments, and a separate BFC bank account has been set up to manage the financial accountability to the Commonwealth.

The grant agreement is directly between the Commonwealth and BFC, which has created some complexity with the club only being a tenant of the site. This has resulted in lengthy and



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ongoing negotiations with the City of Mitcham (CoM) as property owner, and while council have been very supportive, the extended stakeholder group and contacts within council for approval has delayed some of the original planned timelines.

A variation to the grant timelines was approved by the Commonwealth on 11 August 2024, with main change being a revision to the project completion date from 1 October 2025 to 1 April 2026. This will allow coordination with the Coromandel Cricket Club (CCC) for undertaking any oval works to minimise the impact for all parties.

To date, all required milestone dates and reporting to the Commonwealth have been achieved and the status of each project element is listed below:

- **Netting:** Exiis Group to commence site works 21 November 2024.
- **Site Drainage & Irrigation Design:** Engineers report and cost estimates expected before the end of November 2024.
- **Site Power Upgrade:** Engineer's investigations completed, currently coordinating final cost estimates and timing for the works with SA Power Networks.
- **Oval Lighting:** Engineer's investigations confirmed the condition and performance of the existing luminaires and light towers will enable them to be retained and lighting levels guaranteed through the power upgrade.

Following the engineering investigations, the power and lighting upgrade costs will be less than originally expected, and the committee is hopeful some oval drainage and irrigation works might be achieved from the existing grant funds. The Commonwealth has been advised of this through the reporting process and will monitor any scope change to a successful outcome for all parties.

Mike Angley, Simon Manser and Martin Rawley have volunteered their time and have graciously added their decades of project knowledge and skills to the club. The Blackwood Football Club thanks these men for their time and dedication.

## Treasurers Report 2024

2024 had many challenges for the Blackwood Football Club, including ensuring that the Club returned to an operating surplus. After posting losses in seasons 2022 and 2023, I'm proud to report that the Club has posted a trading surplus of **\$39,345** (including depreciation expense of \$29,011).

Posting a surplus for season 2024 was one of the key objectives of the finance sub-committee as well as the entire Committee of Management. It has been difficult in recent years for the Club to post trading surpluses in an ever-increasing cost environment as well as being sensitive to the price of club memberships, bar and canteen prices.

This year the Club took the difficult and unpopular decision to increase bar prices across all line items. Price increases were necessary to reflect the bi-annual beer excise imposition as well as the increasing wholesale cost of alcohol that the Club could no longer absorb. This was also a pre-emptive measure at the time, as with every year, it is hard to determine what income, attendances, events, sponsorship and trading will occur during a season.





## **Blackwood Football Club Inc.**

For the third year in a row, not through a lack of effort, sponsorship income fell, reflecting the difficult nature of maintaining corporate sponsorship from the community and broader Blackwood Football Club networks. The future financial success of the Club will depend on Club sponsorship returning to levels of \$100,000 to \$110,000 per annum. The Committee of Management has been looking into implementing a new system to track and monitor members' support for our sponsors, increased sponsors benefits and surety and a reward return back to our members.

Membership income in financial year 2024 includes \$15,000 of Department of Recreation and Sport – Sport Voucher Credit from financial year 2023. This income won't be replicated in financial year 2025.

However, the key reason underlying an operating surplus in financial year 2024 has been the reduction in operating costs of the club. Wage expenses have fallen dramatically, and this is almost entirely due to the super efforts of Secretary, Trevor Prentice, who has volunteered countless hours at the club this year, including behind the bar. Trevor's laser focus on cost control has seen a reduction in purchasing costs for the canteen, cleaning, and gas costs, just to name a few.

Just like focusing on increasing sponsorship revenue in financial year 2025, the Club will need to increase its volunteer pool to keep wage expenses to a minimum. Once again, your Committee will focus on the hire of a part-time Club Facilities Manager to assist in the running of the Club, control costs and focus on generating hire and external party revenue streams.

Our Balance Sheet includes \$133,513 in Cash at Bank – Business Cash Reserves and \$111,500 in Unspent Grant Fund liabilities. These funds relate to Grant funding received for the oval drainage and netting upgrade. These funds will be realised as the Grants are acquitted.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have assisted in keeping costs down and driving revenue up! Once again Cindy in the canteen with her team of volunteers, Leonie and The Axemen, Zoe in opening new merchandise lines, the Thursday night meals team and Gel for leading grass roots fundraising and Ladies Day Functions. All efforts from all our volunteers have assisted in the Club being in an improved financial position.

Finally, the finance subcommittee of, Tracy Ghee, Billy Powell, Lorna Cole (our bookkeeper) Trevor Prentice and Kym Bond (part year) – thank you for all your efforts this year and being prepared to make the tough decisions for the future financial viability of the Club.

***Sam Duluk***

***Treasurer.***