

## Presidents Pen 8 May, 2014

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**8 May 2014 Newsletter** Welcome to "The Pride". The club continues to ramp up with all of us now watching and playing good quality senior games. I might add the distance from Altone Park to Halls Head is sometimes a big ask to watch back to back games in these far apart locations for even the best supporter.

A date for the calendar both our Premier 1 Men and Women have back to back games 17 May, Saturday 4:00pm Start for the women and 5:30pm start for the men. This is our first official **back to the club night** with all the bells and whistles. I look forward to seeing you there along with our Melville Athletes. They love the support.

**Premier 1 Teams Men and Women** A good start to Senior Men and Women's Hockey. Our Men are holding their own with wins, draws and losses. As the team starts to settle in and gain confidence we welcome specialist Striker **Christiaan Stroboer** to the front line. Christiaan joins us from the Netherlands and is working into the team nicely. Our Melville Boys as usual are guiding Christiaan into the culture of the club. My confidence grows with this team as the signs indicate a resolve to make it happen all over the field. A tough game against Hale this week at home. Go Melville.

Our women continue to shine with 3 wins (undefeated to date). This dynamic team is so exciting to watch. Some bad news with Sami Gayle out with both a damaged ACL and MCL. We will both miss and wish Sami all the best for her recovery. The team is also starting to gel like the men and have a tough assignment this week against Aquinas away. We have confidence in them and if they play with the same professional attitude to date we see another victory on the cards.

**Let's give some support to our Premier 1 teams by attending the games .**

**Melville Junior Hockey (from the President)** Junior Hockey is underway and Hookin2Hockey (Minkey) starts this Saturday. The grading, planning and preparing is now put into action. We welcome our juniors back and look forward to seeing them play and develop over the season. This year we are lucky to have two programs going that are as follows: **Junior development** headed up by **Russell Lee** our long time ones player (retired) and **Umpire Development** headed up by **Annette and Kurt Gerbauer**. Thanks must go to these members for Managing these specific programs to improve MCHC Junior Hockey. I think our members will see excellent improvement in their kids hockey for those involved in the programs.

**Retirement from MCHC and Turf Committees** I would like to take this opportunity to notify you and thank Steve McEntee for his service to MCHC and his retirement from these committees. Steve has given many years of service to the club and we look forward to seeing him in a more relaxed way with his team and friends at the club.

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**Facilities Manager:** With all of the events occurring around the club it has been identified that there is a need for a facilities manager for these events. This manager will coordinate and really just check that the Turf, Grounds, Kitchen, Bar, Special Game and Committee are well aware of the event and its requirements and arrangements are in place to deal with the event. I am very happy to advise that our new and first time held **Facilities Manager is Graeme Coleman 0414441490**. If you have an event on and need it coordinated please advise Graeme at the earliest so he may check that all is in place. He needs to know to help.

**What's Happening Update:** The kitchen is in full swing and open Thursday nights as well as weekend game days as normal. If you are training or want a take away meal just pay for one in advance at the counter and it will be ready for you to pick up when you get back. There is no better value and better food than in Melville Kitchen.

You might also notice that the bar has more selections of drinks and snacks. Come along and patronize our services and catch up with friends or watch a game while enjoying a cool drink. It's a great way to relax and enjoy our sport.

**Gary Bowater - Melville City Hockey Club – President.**