

Supporting Gungahlin and North Canberra areas

President's Report – AGM 25 February 2018

Dear Members,

It has been another busy year for the Norths Basketball Club, with significant achievements both on and off the court.

We continued our strong participation in competition, with 40 teams participating across the junior and senior levels each season, a total of over 350 players. Solid representation in juniors and providing pathways for players to continue into senior grades with the Club remains a priority.

Performance of junior and senior teams are outlined in the respective coordinator reports, with the Club having significant representation in finals and grand final games. This is a fantastic result and is a reflection of the hard work all our coaches and managers, and the commitment of our players and parents. Also pleasing and a good barometer of club health was the number of Norths players selected in state and national representative teams.

A special mention goes to the new coaching panel that was established this year. Clare Gallon, Tony Simovski, Shane Wallace, Tony Cotton and Mark McKenzie have been responsible for implementing arrangements that are developing our existing coaches, and attracting and mentoring new ones. Strong development of our coaches is a pivotal part of the pathway that ensures our junior players enjoy and improve their basketball, and continue with the Club into senior grades.

Another highlight for the year was the coaching clinic run by Illawarra Hawks NBL coach Rob Beveridge which was extremely well received. A big thank you to Ellen Robinson for organising this wonderful opportunity for our aspiring players and coaches, and for her mammoth effort in organising uniforms for the Club each season in such an efficient manner.

The senior coaching ranks were driven by Tony Cotton, Geoff Young and Mark McKenzie and it was particularly encouraging to see our men's program gathering momentum and the senior women again making finals.

Special mentions also go to our Junior Coordinator Jodie Kerec and Senior Coordinator Donna Wallace who like all our tireless Committee members volunteer many hours of their time to organise team and player registrations, and look after the numerous issues associated with getting players on the courts. Jodie is finishing up at this AGM and on behalf of the Committee and members we thank her for doing such a tremendous job.

It was another year of sound financial management for the Club. Our policy requiring fees to be paid in advance continues to reduce the burden of unpaid debt and allows the Club to operate much more efficiently. Thank you to all members who have embraced these arrangements and in particular to Vicky Maplesden for continuing to manage the Club's accounting so diligently to ensure all our statutory reporting obligations are met.

Off court, the Club's partnership with the Ainslie Group (AG) continues to build. New signage promoting the relationship has been erected at the Belconnen stadium, and the AG has greatly assisted the Club through its sponsorship of trophies and the provision of venues for our social events. The Club's Christmas and Easter parties have been very popular with members and provide a rare moment for us all to get together in a relaxed, social environment. A big thank you to Sandra Elliott for her work in bringing these events together and to all our other sponsors that are acknowledged in Sandra's fund raising report.

During the year I have represented Norths at many Basketball ACT (BACT) meetings where significant strategic issues and reforms for basketball in the ACT are being addressed. It is critical that the Club is engaged in this work to ensure that the changes have been well thought through and are in the best interest of clubs. I would like to acknowledge the direction of the work being undertaken by BACT and in particular the willingness of CEO Michael Haynes to consult and attend our Committee meetings to provide background and context of proposed changes.

Underpinning any Club is the robustness of its constitution. I am very pleased that at the 2018 AGM support for a new constitution will be sought. The new constitution represents a major piece of work that updates the 2002 document to contemporary instrument that will serve future governance of the Club well and better reflect current legislative obligations. The Club is indebted to David Maplesden for driving this process, and to the support from the Club's outgoing Public Officer John Solomon and Moray and Agnew Lawyers. John will be continuing his good sense of community on the Board of BACT and I would like to thank him for his work on the Committee and wish him well in his new role.

Good communication with members remains a priority and to this end the establishment of a Facebook presence for the Club has been working well in helping to disseminate timely information and highlight achievements. I am also pleased to announce that a new Norths website will be launched shortly after the AGM which will also help with communications and hopefully over time assist with other tasks such as fee payments and uniform orders. I would like to acknowledge Moray and Agnew Lawyers for the financial support to engage the web developer and David Maplesden and Mark McKenzie who have contributed to the site's development.

To the Committee and everyone in the Club who volunteered over the past year to help get our teams onto the courts a very big thank you. Our Committee operations would not be possible without the efforts of Secretariat Anita Wallace and I would like to personally thank her for her support and willingness to cover other roles during absences, and generally help out during periods of heavy workload for events such as trials. I would also like to thank Vice President Mark McKenzie who has assisted me greatly and brought some fresh thinking to the Committee.

This brings me to the need for more involvement from members. For a club of over 350 players, too much work is falling on too few, many of who have been serving on the Committee for a very long time. Testament to this is the recent BACT *Outstanding Service to Basketball* awards received by Vicky Maplesden and Ellen Robinson which recognised their long-term contribution to not only Norths, but other areas of ACT basketball - congratulations Vicky and Ellen, well deserved.

Now is the time to put your hand up for a rewarding role with your Club, whether it be on the Committee or volunteering to help out in any number of ways. I encourage those who have an association with the Club or expect their children to be playing basketball for some time to step up and support in any way you can.

Due to personal and work commitments I will not be renominating for President. It has been an absolute pleasure to have led Norths and I am truly grateful to have been supported by such a hardworking and professional Committee. I wish my successor all the best and hope the Club continues to prosper.

Trent Bourne
President

