



BOARD NEWS VOLUME ONE

Welcome to this new aspect of our website. Its purpose is to keep members up to date on what your Board has been doing in recent times. This first report will cover a number of major Board decisions taken mainly during the last few months of 2006.

Increased Payment for Referees

At its October meeting the Board accepted a recommendation from Vicki Dean for an increase in match payments for referees since they have had no increase for years. Many would earn considerably more in other casual work rather than as referees and the club needs to maintain and strengthen its referee's program.

Behaviour of Players and Spectators

At its December meeting the Board also met with representatives from the referees committee to discuss a range of issues associated with the behaviour of players and spectators at games and the need to protect referees from abuse. As part of the registration process, players sign an application form to abide by all the codes of conduct. In addition a new warning system was also discussed to assist referees in 2007.

Dealing with Hornsby Council

Give us a Sign

The most controversial issue in dealing with the Council over the past four months has been its refusal on two occasions to allow the club to place a sign on the Brickpit stadium advertising it as the home of the Hornsby Spiders. This was meant to assist our many visiting teams from all over the state finding their way to a building that is not an obvious or easy place to find. It was never meant to be exclusive or to stop any other club placing a sign on the building as well- although there is, at present, no other group likely to want to do it. The Board thought this a reasonable thing to seek since every other basketball club in the Sydney region has a sign on their main stadium.

When this was narrowly rejected by Council, the *Hornsby Advocate* took up the club's cause and had more letters to the editor on this issue than any other topic over the past two years. The club was delighted by the support from its members and the general community. A number on Council indicated they would reconsider the issue but when it went to the Council again on 20 December it was defeated. *The Advocate* has once again taken up the cause and also publicly named the one member of Council who claimed he would vote for the sign-even having his photo taken with some of our players for the paper- and then voted against it!

Needless to say the club has not given up on this issue. The irony is that the silly decisions not to allow us the sign has given the club far more publicity than any sign ever would have achieved. Well done Hornsby Council!

Extending the Brickpit

The Board became aware that Hornsby Council was in the process of developing plans for a future extension of the Brickpit Stadium as well as developing a skateboard ramp near the building. The Board asked Basketball NSW to write to the Council setting out the minimum specifications needed for the new courts. The Council responded assuring them that its new plans will meet these specifications which will add two more courts at the end of the current courts with change rooms and toilets downstairs near the existing car park. The proposed skate board ramp will be well past this area. The Board would like to see this new addition built as quickly possible and will be investigating this issue in 2007. At present we have reached the limits of court space at the Brickpit especially since courts have to be shared on some days with other sporting organizations. The Board cannot see the club growing much beyond the current 2500 members until we have access to more court space.

Extra Sundays for Representative Sides

The club has also asked for four Sundays to allow all of our rep teams to play together at the Brickpit instead of the two Sundays granted in 2007. The current situation creates various problems for the Rep program. Four Sundays would also be beneficial to the Council's canteen since more visiting teams and parents are likely to use these facilities. The Board is also pursuing this issue.

Seeking Sponsorship

In December the Board reached an agreement with Tennant Sponsorship Management who are involved with fund raising for a number of other sporting clubs in the area- although the Spiders are their first Basketball Club- to assist with fundraising. The Board held a long meeting with the company representatives to develop a profile of the club for fund raising purposes.

Representative Launch Day

The Board hopes to have a launch of the Rep season on the afternoon of Saturday 3 March. This will be a chance for players to have their team photo taken and then watch the opening round of the ABA season with our new look teams. Keep an eye on the website for more details.