

Hi welcome to the 2nd sandpit the only place you can hear all things Easts second hand.

Since we last spoke training is progressing, and it needs to, I notice some senior players really do have winter coasts this year. And of course major changes have been already been implemented by our new regime. For example, player of the year this season will win a trip to New Zealand, all expenses paid. Of course this prize is not confirmed as yet. We have a cappuccino machine at the oval and in a bid to lure Tucks back for another year we're negotiating with internationally famous chef Neil Perry to run the canteen.

Sandpit attended the AGM (congrats to Chook our new leader, if you don't know Chook he's the rotund but genial chap who's probably on the phone). I'm pleased to say that the policy of free beer for all people over 80, if accompanied by both parents, had the desired effect on attendance, it not only kept numbers up but the average age at the meeting was over 60. which was good for me. I was one of the youngest there. I know some of you will be surprised when I tell you I am actually 33, the same age Jesus was when he stopped walking on water. I know I look quite a bit younger. I'm also a very sensitive lover.

And that old warrior Jimmy Smith is our vice president. I was there last year at a 3rd grade match against Manly at one of the best lower grade grounds about, that is, graham park, when Jimmy ran past one his fastest deliveries. It was at that moment he knew, we all knew, this competitive, but pale warrior had reached the end of his unremarkable cricketing career. So it's good to see that Jimmy is willing to put some of that unremarkablness back into the club behind the scenes.

NB the luncheon; our major fundraiser for the club is on Nov 15. This year there will be a tribute to "Horse" for the wonderful and tireless work he did and still does for the Dolphins. Most of the money is being directed into a wine appreciation course for this years green shield team. They can drink as much as they like because they don't have to drive home. Tony Squires is running the panel and Mark Taylor is also confirmed. Other suggestions for panelists Chas Keogh, Owen Ridge, and the brand power lady, are pending. I'm sure if all these people pull through it could be a great day.

As always the bowls day planned after the annual general meeting was canceled due to lack of interest. Please note Kirk Rimmer was there ready to play. Kirk and I discussed the idea of having Kirk Rimmer t-shirts made up so East's players have fashionable gear to travel to and from their matches in. Of course these t-shirts should be removed the second east's get to their respective grounds. On the matter of taking t-shirts off whenever Bob Wilson takes off his shirt at Waverley this season it's your duty to gently escort Bob to a private place and encourage him to put his shirt back on because we're trying to attract juniors to the club not discourage them.

Sandpit is also putting out feelers for any musicians in the East's family. With the aid of Cameron 'under the grandstand' Bruce we're putting together a band to play a song at presentation night, which will be held at a time and place that makes it difficult for anyone to attend. So if you play drums, bass, keyboards, trumpet, or sing then make yourself known to me. I'm the chap with a nose so sharp that it can cut meat.

On a serious note since our club is becoming more professional. Players and supporters may find the transition difficult. If you fear rapid change, or feel alienated when you're the only player to turn up 70's style, ie drunk for a game. Sandpit now runs a counseling service. Either myself, or my counselors Steve Warner and Owen Ridge will be happy to assist you make a transition from amateur to less amateurish. Your problems will remain strictly confidential; except for when they appear in this column.

Some members have also asked the social committee about the possibility of introducing pole dancing to the back room; sadly the council said that the roof is not high enough to accommodate the poles. Sorry Bruce.

Things to look out for this season. One of the attractions at home games for mine is the running of the afternoon tea. Behold Owen Ridge when afternoon tea is served. I have never seen anyone move so fast to get a piece of watermelon. Even if you don't like cricket don't miss the running of the afternoon tea.

Who will put up the advertising signs now that Bob is no longer president?

Watch out for our new secret tactic of having three off spinners in every grade. I'm salivating at the prospect of watching this exciting innovation revolutionize grade cricket.

Who will be first Easts 5th grade player to contract hepatitis from the change rooms at Snape?

And a word of warning for those new to East's. Waverley is like Melbourne when it comes to weather. It may be 45 degrees in the morning but when the sun goes behind the grandstand the temp drops at least 15 degrees, so pack a jumper for home games.