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President's Report 2022

I would like to first start off by thanking everyone for having me on as President for the first time these past 12 months. We have had a better, less interrupted year compared to The previous 2 years. I'd like to thank everyone who served on the committee this year, it has been wonderful to work with you all. I'd also like to acknowledge our volunteers, partners, sponsors, donors and members for all your support.

This year despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we still managed to run a successful, yet more condensed 10 round plus Championship Match Powerchair Football season starting in January this year, a few months after our last AGM. We were able to secure a new venue after being between 2 venues, i.e. MSAC and Ringwood.. We moved to Parkville, Which had undergone a major renovation and recently opened its doors. We were thrilled to hold our Powerchair Sports programs at Melbourne Sports Centres - Parkville for the first time and to have a new venue to call home.

We all welcomed a new Powerchair Football Club, Western United for the first time. We were all thrilled to welcome them, with four players joining up to form a team to play in our Division 2 league. Due to having low numbers in Division 2, we decided to mix up players from all 3 clubs to form 2 teams. These teams were made up on match days and because of low numbers, a few players from Division 1 helped out to assist in the development of the sport. In Division 1, Melbourne City finished on top of the table to claim the Minor Premiership. However South Melbourne finished strong claiming the Championship on penalty shootout 2-0.

It was decided that the best players in Victoria would combine together as South Melbourne to compete, after more than 2 years in the 2022 Powerchair Football Club Championships. Held at Sydney Olympic Park in May this year, our first attendance at a major event since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic. After 4-5 months of heavy training in the lead up to the event, the team put on their best performance in the short 6 year history of the Club Championships claiming 5th position, narrowly missing out on the semi finals by goal difference.



We welcomed the return of Powerchair Hockey to our program with a full season of 10 rounds plus Championship Match with the reigning champions Melbourne Ducks and Melbourne Hunters returning to battle it out. Both teams struggled with player numbers this season, and as a result the season was tightly contested for top of the table, with the Melbourne Ducks winning the minor premiership. To top their season off, The Melbourne Ducks went on to win the Championship in a thrilling, but close come from behind 5-4 victory.

The Powerchair Hockey World Cup was held in Switzerland, of which none of our players from Victoria featured in the Australian Squad. However, Jules North-Coombes, tried out for the team at a selection weekend held in February in Sydney. The Australian team were unable to win a match, but showed sportsmanship and the true Aussie spirit.

As the year rolls on, we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the first full length uninterrupted Powerchair Football consisting of an extended 15 rounds, 1 pre-season day and the Championship Match starting on the 16th October. We look forward to seeing you all then. At around the same time we are hosting a State and Club combined event, with teams from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia attending. The Powerchair Football Club Championships will be on again in May next year and the World Cup to be held in Sydney, Australia has been rescheduled to October 2023. We also look forward to hosting our next Powerchair Hockey season later next year. I look forward to what the next 12 months will bring for us as an organisation.

Jules North-Coombes

President 2021/22