

AGM HMA 14 October 24 – Acceptance speech for Presidency HMA HGCC

Thank you for your support in electing me for another term as President of the Heritage Members Association.

Circumstances within our club are certainly different to those that existed during my first term as president. I think it is sometimes easy to focus on the present problems that we see at our club and don't apply the retrospectoscope to see where we have come from. We only have to look at the condition of our fabulous golf courses today to remind ourselves as to how much effort on the part of our staff and how much investment by our owner Mr Wang, has been expended over the past 4 or so years. For this we should all be appreciative.

This is not to say that we don't have areas where significant improvements can still be made. I would like to give a very brief outline as to areas where I feel the incoming committee might provide some focus.

First – Communication is always essential in my opinion- communication at all levels – with the members, with the management and with the owner. I will do my best to bridge any of the gaps that may exist at present. As well as continuing the regular meetings with management I will ask Mr Wang himself to commit to monthly meetings with our representatives. I know that Mr W shares our passion for the improvement of HGCC and its restoration to the highest echelon in Australian golf. I am very keen to work with him personally to achieve that goal as I believe it will be of benefit to all if we can achieve this.

I will produce a monthly newsletter to be distributed to all members.

Second - Whilst financial investment is crucial to make our club great again (apologies to Donald), so is the membership. No great club can prosper without both components being recognised – my motto for Heritage is “Our Members Matter”.

New member engagement in this process is essential – we are all aware of the surge in membership over the past 18 months. Sadly this is not being reflected

in the financial membership of our organisation and there may be a number of reasons for this. However I am delighted to see that we have recommenced new member induction meetings. I believe that we need to explore more ways to improve the inclusivity for new members. It is obvious that we have become a significantly multicultural club: how to engage with the number of new members and to embrace their cultural diversity provides a significant challenge in my opinion. It is a challenge I wish to address over the term of this committee.

Third I am well aware that many members are keen to see improvement in the services provided in the hospitality area. Together with the committee, I would like to explore ways in which we might have a greater say in this area. I am keen to establish a House Sub Committee – as exists in other successful golf clubs. This will give us a means to provide direct and regular input to whoever holds the contract for the provision of hospitality services. I am cognisant of the fact that we have some significant experience in this area joining the committee, and I will be keen to see that experience tapped, hopefully for the benefit of all members.

This is only a brief outline of some issues that I feel are important for the coming term of the committee.

I look forward to what I believe is an exciting time ahead for HGCC.

Again I thank you all for your support.

Michael Sargeant

President

HMA