



CAVERSHAM
HARRIER & ATHLETIC CLUB

We run
marathons!

Cavy Chat - November - 2016



First Clubrooms - Where it all Began

In 1950, the club started a bottle drive as a fundraising venture. The first drive lasted over a week, netting £100. Such drives continued for many years to raise funds towards the building of a clubroom. In 1958/59 it was decided to instigate a raffle to help pay for the clubrooms. The object was that 10 club members sell 10 tickets each at £1 per ticket with a monthly prize of £50. This was a huge success as the club had raised £600 by the end of the year. This idea was originated by **Garry Dumble**, **Trevor Aitken** and **Ron Cain**. Ron had to go to the police station every month to have the raffle drawn. (It was always difficult to find a policeman who would give him his helmet to draw a winning number out). This was one of the more legal things the club did in those days. The financial man for many years was **Charlie Heaton**, who said " *the club would go broke by trying to build clubrooms* ". The president at the time, **Martin Hair**, convinced the committee to go ahead with it. The building of the new clubrooms was organised by **Neville Madigan** with the help of **Laurie Hill** plus club voluntary labour. The clubrooms were officially opened on September 5, 1970.



Left: The opening of the Middleton Rd clubrooms in 1970 was one of the most significant developments in the club's history.

Barry Sleeman

History in the making with the completion of clubrooms redevelopment, a sterling effort by all involved. Leading the team was Project Manager **Barry Sleeman**, "Cavy Chat" caught up with Barry over a well earned beer !!.

Cavy Chat: When was serious thought given to upgrade the clubrooms ?. And what were the reasons that it needed to be done ?.

Barry : *"Actually, many years ago, in 2008 some preliminary concepts were looked at, including an extra storey, but the Club was not willing at that time to fund a major upgrade. The present development was tabled in 2012 and concept planning begun then. The reasons behind it were a general feeling that the clubrooms had passed their use-by date and we couldn't comfortably have our events there, with our growing membership".*

Cavy Chat : " The next stage would have been to gain the support of the club members ? What was their response ?

Barry : *" Generally the Club membership was in support, and many members were surprised that it wasn't progressing. But the commitment of all of our reserves was somewhat frightening to some. That was balanced by the feeling that upgrading the Clubrooms, being available to all, would be a good way to enjoy our hard work and labours over the years. All in all, we deserve it. "*

Cavy Chat : A "redevelopment committee" was formed to further investigate all aspects of the project. Who were they, and what roles did they play ?.

Barry : *" Well, I took the "chairmanship" as nobody else was keen for that role; and decided that we needed some of the non-establishment people to help out, so as not to over-burden our already hard working committee and executive, but to ensure that we had a grass-roots approach. Initially Lyndon Marfell was really helpful with his experience in the building industry, but his leaving the country was very inconvenient; but we soldiered on. Amanda and Janelle were co-opted and have been marvellous especially with the getting-things-done side, particularly with the fundraising. Both girls took that by the horns and came up with wonderful results - over a third of the cost has been raised by them. Amanda and Janelle also persuaded Philippa to join us, and she has been terrific with organising the interior design and décor. Without the ladies, everything would be battleship grey if left to me. Dave was also co-opted and has given us sage advice and has been our heating engineer. Altogether, it's been a great little team. "*

Cavy Chat : It was then a question of the clubs financial position. A number of fundraising ventures were undertaken by club members, but it would still require further support ?.

Barry : *" Yep, we've had book sales, quiz evenings, and other Club fundraising which has been a great help with funding. But without the grants from the trusts - NZ Community Trust, Otago Community Trust; Lion Foundation; Southern Victorian Charitable Trust; Air Rescue and Community Services Trust; and Bendigo Valley Trust - altogether \$115,000, we couldn't have done it, so that's been crucial. About a dozen applications were put in overall, a lot of hard work particularly by Amanda and Janelle. "*



Book sale team - March 21th 2016



Caversham Harriers clubrooms was redeveloped in 2016 with the generous support of the following sponsors



Cavy Chat : Eventually all the legal requirements were met and approved, the bulk of the finances gained. Was then a matter of a clubrooms clean out and the "tradesmen's" to move in, when did this occur ?.

Barry : " Yes, we organised a bunch of Club stalwarts to go through all the gear, equipment, records etc., got everything down from the roof, and disposed of about half of it all to the landfill. Terrible what we had accumulated over the years. By the end of June, we'd cleared it out, and the Stevenson and Williams crew moved in, and they've been tremendous, particularly Nick Sorenson the foreman. I've been very impressed with the quality of the work and I think we've got a great result."

Cavy Chat : Looking back to when the clubrooms were first built in the late 60's, today's rules, regulations and requirements would have been a far cry from those back then ?

Barry : " Yes, that's probably best illustrated by the new fire door we had to put into the eastern wall of the social area, and the disabled shower and toilet space. We also needed to upgrade seismic structural elements, lined and insulated the roof and exterior walls, and had to put in a new steel electricity mains and pole (in the storeroom). Of course, we had to provide mechanical ventilation in the shower area as well. So yes, quite a lot of difference! "

Cavy Chat : The club was blessed with a number of members who freely gave time and their skills

Barry : " As well as **Amanda, Janelle, Phillipa and Dave** on our committee, **Stu** has been wonderful in providing storage and getting stuck in with design stuff, **Malcolm** has lined out the storeroom and **Glenn** has built our new kitchen joinery, which has saved us a packet. (I've also got a list of jobs for Malc and Glenn to do over the summer !) There are a number of our Club who have also helped out with lots of jobs as well."

Cavy Chat : Looking forward to the "official opening", which will be, when ?.

Barry : " That'll be on March 18, a fortnight before Opening Day in 2017, which is a little disappointing, as I would have liked to have the opening when the project was a bit fresher in everyone's minds. But we're in the silly season leading up to Xmas now, so that's probably for the best. "

Trophy Winners



The club trophies are very hotly contested by club members through out the year, and there are those that are up for grabs no matter what your abilities are. Congratulations to all of the 2016 trophy winners, rich reward for all the training, determination and effort put into your running or walking. We don't forget those minor place getters, so congratulations to each and everyone, who were hot on the heels of the eventual winners. Thanks must go to the club trophy steward Ian Dick for keeping each and every trophy speck and span. You need to do so too.

Click ... [HERE](#) ... to view the 2016 Trophy Winners

Race Director

It doesn't seem that long ago that I got involved in the organizing of the "marathon", it goes very, very quickly, when having fun. Now at the stage that the role of Race Director has continued to become very demanding. I have for a number of year asked for assistance, has been the opposite with having to help cover other roles that have not been filled.

It is not my intentions to just "toss in the towel" but to seek assistance, spread the workload and remove some of the stress. Please take the time to read the "Race Director's Job Description" as long as it is, it's not painstaking when shared between two or more people. My next job is to compile all the details of each of the tasks that need to be carried out, it is hoped that there will be club members willing to become members of a very well oiled marathon committee.

Race Directors Job Description ... Click ... [HERE](#)

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