



Annual Report 2012/2013

**President
Peter Eagle**

Management Committee

**Senior Vice President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Bowls Co-ordinator**

**Warren Phillips
David Wilson
Dallas Palm
Stephen Watson
Max Walters**

Committee

**Bob Cole
Mal Horner
Geoff McIntosh
Mathew Stubbs**

Chairman of Selectors

Kevin Tuckerman

Chairman of Umpires

Don Couch

Chairman of Coaches

Michael Schwarcz

Patrons

Doug Gunton, Barry Walker

Life Members

**Doug Gunton, Wilf Morschel
Keith Robinson, Barry Walker**

Permanent Committees and Panels

Match Committee
Max Walters (ch)
Mal Horner
Kevin Tuckerman
Don Couch

Greens Committee
Peter Eagle (ch)
Warren Phillips
Mathew Stubbs

Sub Committees

Communication
Dallas Palm
David Wilson
Geoff McIntosh

Membership
David Wilson
Bob Cole
Dallas Palm

Corporate
Warren Phillips
Mathew Stubbs

Sponsorship & Fund Raising
Peter Eagle (ch)
Stephen Watson
Warren Phillips

Mixed
Warren Phillips (ch)
Bob Cole
Margaret Wighton
Denise Hopkins

Welfare
David Roles

Open Day
Peter Eagle, Max Walters
Dallas Palm, Mathew Stubbs
Warren Phillips, Michael Schwarcz
Denise Hopkins, Rosemary Roles

Zone 10 Delegate
Peter Eagle
Warren Phillips (alt)

President's Report

Peter Eagle

Over the last twelve months, I am confident in saying that the Men's Bowling Section has moved forward and dealt with a number of challenges and achieved success. I will reflect on these, however before doing so it is important that mention is made of the support that has been given to me by the Management Committee. Without their support and in some respects patience, nothing would be achieved. The positions on the Committee are voluntary and I would like to express my gratitude on a job well done.

During the year we have held an Open Day, won the *Challenge Cup* from Pennant Hills, won the *Orange Blossom Festival Cup* for the second year in a row, hosted Zone events such as the Presidents Singles and Pairs, the Metropolitan Senior Fours, a round of the Combined High Schools competition and run our own major and minor championships. As a section, we have sought and gained in principle approval to alter the bottom green from couch grass to Tifdwarf. Some of the gum trees on the western side of the top green have been removed or trimmed and shades replaced on the bottom green. Additionally, we have set in place a new fee structure. The *Koala Carnival* as well as the *Turn Around Triples Carnival* have also been successfully run as well as the Pennant programs. Social bowls have also taken place. Max Walters ran a very successful Twilight Bowls season which many bowlers attended and enjoyed. A number of bowlers also played in Zone events and were successful in reaching second or third rounds. West Pennant Hills' teams also participated in carnivals at other clubs and in some cases were successful in being winners or runners up. Also, Dallas Palm has completed a lot of work on the bowling sections website and Facebook. Dallas has committed himself to these projects. Regardless of what we may think of the electronic age unless we sell ourselves in the market place we will be left behind. Thank you Dallas for your effort and I hope you are in a position to continue with them into the future.

The *Koala News* has served members well in providing information on what has taken place around the club. It is not easy collecting information; therefore it rests upon all of us to participate. Ian Corke, John Skidmore and previously Don Carpenter have spent a lot of time and effort collecting material. I would like to thank them for the effort. It is important that the *Koala News* continues.

The new fee structure was born from a motion that was passed at the 2012 AGM. There was a lot of discussion on the topic with opinions for and against the motion. As the Committee that was formed to deal with the issue considered the options, it became apparent that here was a tool that if managed successfully could be an avenue to attract new members, whilst at the same time considering the position of the current members. After the support that was shown at a General Meeting and the approval given by the Sports Club Board, the new fee structure comes into place as from 1 January 2014. Bowling clubs need to be innovative and move with the times if they are to attract new members and this applies to West Pennant Hills. If clubs sit still and wait for something to happen they will disappear into the mists of time which is now happening. Tradition is important but traditions that may be important to current members may be a turn off for prospective new members. The Open Day was successful but needs to be run every two years so contact is maintained with the community. When we held the Open Day it was interesting to note the comments by some of those who attended that they were not aware of the Sports Club and subsequently joined. In essence, the bowling sections gained new members and the Sports Club gained new members.

The selectors as well as the bowls co-ordinator have had to deal with many issues and managed them very well over the course of the year. Max Walters and Kevin Tuckerman, who were both new to the managing of the positions, have done an excellent job. Unfortunately you are never going to please everybody. They have both tried very hard to make sure that bowlers are properly catered for during the year and programs and events run successfully. I would like to thank both of them and in the case of the selectors, thank you for the work and dedication that all of you have shown during the year. I would also like to add that selection modules run by the Royal New South Wales Men's Bowling Association have been attended by some of our selectors during the year. A selector needs to have a good grounding of what is required and further progress needs to take place.

Training and coaching have continued during the year. Warren Phillips and Michael Schwarcz have put a lot of time and effort into the program. We now have a camera which can be used to film bowlers to highlight errors that they may have in their bowling action. Some have welcomed this opportunity but there are many who have not taken the opportunity. One has to wonder why this is the case? To Warren and Michael, thank you for your commitment. To our other coaches, thank you for your efforts. Dallas Palm and Keith Robinson have re-accredited so we have a good body of coaches on hand to instruct bowlers at West Pennant Hills.

David Roles has been looking after the welfare issues of the bowlers. I would like to thank David for the time that he has taken on the matter. It is important that contact be maintained with the bowlers who are ill or are unable to attend so that they are not forgotten.

To our Zone 10 representatives, Michael Schwarcz, Warren Phillips, Les Watkins and Robert Cole, thank you for the time that you are giving to support the Zone. The positions at Zone are voluntary. Having to deal with the many differing opinions from all the clubs is not an easy task.

To the umpires, thank you for your support and to Don Couch thank you for the time that you have put into managing the umpires. There have been some interesting discussions on the rules which are very healthy as it shows differences of opinion do arise and need to be debated.

On behalf of the West Pennant Hill bowlers, thank you to our sponsors for your continued support. We are most grateful to:

- Richard Hickey & Co Chartered Accountants
- Homeway First National Real Estate (Principal: Bill Austin)

We look forward to being able to continue the relationship over the years to come. It is very much appreciated.

To the Chairman, Richard Hickey and the Directors of the Sports Club your excellent assistance over the last twelve month is very much appreciated. To the bowling club Directors, Steve Brady and Keith Robinson, thank you for your guidance over the last twelve months.

To Jason Read and the Sports Club administration your support over the last twelve months is greatly appreciated. A good working relationship has been developed and needs to be maintained. Ideas and problems have been discussed and we have been guided on what action is required. To the bar staff, plus Peter and Tony and their restaurant staff, thank you for your efforts during the year as many comments have been made by visiting bowlers regarding the friendly atmosphere within the club.

To the bowlers thank you for your support during the last twelve months. Let's hope that 2013/2014 will be a successful year for West Pennant Hills. I wish all of you good bowling.

Match Committee and Bowls Co-ordinator Report

Max Walters

As with previous Bowls Co-ordinators, this season has also created a great deal of juggling to accommodate our own Championships, Carnivals, Pennants and the additional Zone Presidents Pairs and Singles events, not to mention the run of cancelled wet days. The Match Committee and I appreciate the way our members have adapted to the event changes that were necessary and hope that nobody was particularly disadvantaged.

At the time of this AGM, 8 Championship events of our 11 should have been completed with the Minor Singles already under way.

I would like to congratulate the winners of completed Championship events:

- **Ken Wighton Singles** - Paul van Tilburg
- **Major Fours** - Alex Stewart, Eric Hilton, Ross Smith, Geoff McIntosh
- **Major Pairs** - Peter Eagle, Kevin Ross
- **Major Singles** - Keith Robinson
- **Minor Triples** - Leo Saly, Ross Iredale, Paul van Tilburg
- **Mixed Pairs** - Denise Hopkins, Rod Gamble
- **Mixed Triples** - Kaye Eagle, Warren Phillips, Peter Eagle
- **Barry Walker Classic** – Bob Cole, Brian Joyce

We were delighted to have had a full complement of players for both our **Koala Carnival** in May and our **Turn-Around Triples (TAT)** in July, **which were extremely successful.**

Additionally we also have one last invitation event to occur on 7th September, the **Orange Blossom Carnival**, which is a selected event of 12 players from 4 Clubs.

However, without the support of players, markers and particularly the enormous effort put in by the Match Committee, Umpires, Selectors, the President and Senior Vice President, the Bowls Co-ordinator's job would be impossible, as well as the Club to function properly. My appreciation and thanks to all who have assisted me (especially Mal Horner).

We must also be thankful for the wonderful sponsorship we receive from our main event sponsor **Homeway Real Estate** and additionally **Richard Hickey** and the **West Pennant Hills Sports Club**, which assists our bowling sections in many ways like prizes and subsidised uniforms.

I have enjoyed the position of Bowls Co-ordinator, even with some decisions I made that may not have been popular or even correct, for which I apologise. However I will unfortunately not be standing for this position again this season (*hooray say some!*), but with at least 12 weeks of a variety of absences (holidays etc) next season, I would not be able to handle the position to my satisfaction or the Club's in general. However, I would be more than happy to assist if elected to the Committee at this AGM.

As an aside to the above I would like to highlight 4 other items on a personal level which I would like to acknowledge:

1. Members may be aware that I revamped the Koala News 2 years ago to have a broader reader appeal, and I congratulate Ian Corke and his editors who have taken this newsletter to a much higher level in frequency, design and other aspects.
2. Dallas Palm, who as our Secretary has an enormous job, with his amazing job with our website, communication and result screens for Carnivals.

3. Twilight Bowls has had its most successful season this year, due to the assistance I have received, the Sports Club for their financial support and the great mob of players who turn up for a fun evening.
4. Our President Peter Eagle (who acknowledges everyone else's efforts) but members may not be aware of his full involvement in **every** action taken.

It has been an exciting season and I thank ALL for their support. (***You know . . . it's really a great Club***).

Coaches Committee

Michael Schwarcz

- Warren Phillips
- Dallas Palm
- Keith Robinson
- Ken Wighton (retired 30/6/13)

The remaining coaches have now been accredited/re-accredited as a Club Coach. It has been the endeavour of the coaches to do all courses that are available for them: i.e. "Club Coach Course", "Selection Module", and "Competition Module" to expand their knowledge and offer broader coaching services to our members.

During the year, 6 bowlers gained accreditation through the Introductory Coaches course:

- Peter Eagle
- Denise Hopkins
- Mal Horner
- Rosemary Roles
- Mathew Stubbs
- Max Walters

After the open day in 2012 the coaches have followed up 43 potential bowlers who indicated that they would like further instruction. Ten people plus another eight bowlers subsequent to the Open Day, came to further coaching and are now enjoying the game. We would like to thank all bowlers who assisted on the Open Day, especially our introductory coaches who had them bowling in no time.

The Coach's committee was able to purchase a Video Camera and TV screen with the help of the Sports Club providing the money. With this new equipment we were able to video 25 bowlers (men and women). Bowlers were able to see for themselves some of the issues they have with their bowling actions and delivery, with the coaches explaining their faults and providing suggestions to correct problems. Out of the 25 people who were videoed and were offered help from the coaches, only one person sought help whilst the others did it on their own and have returned to their observed faults. Whilst the video is a good tool in helping people to understand the cause of their inconsistencies, it is pretty useless when appropriate follow up exercises are not used.

The club did not continue the coaching and training program that was introduced in the previous year. It is hoped that in future years that committee and players have more involvement in coaching and training as it would enhance their bowling prowess and enjoyment.

Ken Wighton has been a coach for many years at West Pennant Hills and decided to not re-accredit as a coach. On behalf of the members and coaches of West Pennant Hills we would like to thank Ken Wighton for the assistance and coaching given to so many of our members in the pa

Selection Committee

Kevin Tuckerman

Last year (2012) was my first year as a Selector, and like most Committee type roles, it was a real learning curve.

After being elected Chairman this year, I now have a much greater appreciation of the Chairman's responsibilities with players making themselves unavailable at very short notice and the need for Team changes.

I want to publicly thank Michael Schwarcz, Bob Cole, Don Couch and Geoff Seamons for their support during the year.

I believe that experience and our knowledge of WPH bowlers with a similar viewpoint, has enabled us to carry out our respective roles with the Club's best interest in mind.

Following the decision last year to focus on Grade 5, the Selectors and Management Committee agreed to revert back to selecting the best players in the top Grade.

But before I go into this, I will now provide some statistics on this year's Pennant Results.

Pennant Results

	Grade 3	Grade 5	Grade 6
Result	Played 7 Won 3	Played 7 won 2	Played 9 Won 4
Points	21.5	16	26
Shots for	398	334	426
Shots against	428	462	514
Finished	10th out 15 teams	11th out 18 teams	11th out of 18 teams
Most successful skip	T Burnett	K Tuckerman	S Watson
Points	5	3	4
Margin	17	-13	-18
Comment	A difficult year following the loss of Ross Tinmouth, offset by the gain of Kevin Ross. David Wilson and Mathew Stubbs were promoted from the Fives to cover the unavailability of two players and acquitted themselves well.	The promotion of David and Mathew meant we lost one of our Skips and a Third. Kevin Hoffman's accident also reduced our options for a Skip. Our Draw also meant we competed against Rosehill, Brush Park and Toongabbie, each of which had some very experienced bowlers.	Grade Six performed well given the number of changes during the Season. At the halfway point, they were a chance of making the playoffs

Summary

The Club purchased a Video Camera during the Season and most of the players completed their taping and review with the Coaches, but again, there were very few players who did any of the training exercises, and few have sought follow up feedback from the Coaches.

You may recall that last year we commented on the number of players that participated in a Training session run by Michael Beaumont from the Royal.

Despite agreement by a large percentage of players to train and commit to the Pennant Season, the Club incurred an average of 7 players per week who were unavailable.

Regrettably, this year also saw a number of players who after advising of their availability to play Pennants, took holidays or weekends away.

Illness and unforeseen family issues are always inevitable, but with so many absences, team unity is difficult to maintain.

I don't want to dwell on the negatives. Clearly we will have a challenge next year. Do we have 2 or 3 Sides, and what grades should they be?

Challenges

Can we convince Grade 5 and above players from other clubs to join West Pennant Hills?

The Club will be undergoing extensions this year and we hope to have a new Tifdwarf Green installed by year's end.

Already we have had a couple of bowlers from Dural Country Club join us, one of whom is Gary Tyrrell who played all games in Grade 6, continues to improve and he is enjoying his bowls.

We had several players this year participate in the State, Seniors and President's events (Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours).

Rod Gamble was Runner-Up in the Sectional Singles, and while our other players were not as successful, it was a good opportunity to promote West Pennant Hills Sports Club's Bowling Sections.

We need to implement a training program for each of the Teams.

We can't expect to turn up on Saturday and compete against stronger Clubs who not only have excess players to choose from, but their teams train on a regular basis.

RNSWBA and BA will continue to run Training Courses. Several WPH players have attended these Courses already, but they are available to anyone who is interested in improving their knowledge and understanding of the game.

- Selections (\$50.00 per person). This module is recommended for Selectors, particularly those involved in Pennant and Championship events.
- Competition (\$50.00 per person). This module is recommended for anyone participating in competition events, e.g. Pennants, Championships.

Conclusion

I believe that if we could convince several quality players to join WPH from other clubs, and commit to a regular training regime, we could be competitive against some of the bigger Clubs. A further incentive, particularly to those Pennant and regular bowlers, is the Board's approval to adopt a new Bowls Fee structure commencing next year. Several local Clubs have already

increased their Annual Fees and their Green Fees, making our Club a very viable option. Details are on the Bowls Web site.

Without these new players, and based on the current number of current WPH Pennant bowlers, it is difficult to see how we can maintain 3 Sides next Season.

So, if you know anyone looking for a change of Clubs, please speak to them or pass on their details to one of the Selectors.

Finally, I want to also thank Peter Eagle and Max Walters for their support during the year, the Selectors, Club Management and the Club's Board of Directors, and finally, you, the Bowlers.

Without your participation and commitment, both in Social and Pennant/Championship events, we would not continue to be the friendly and competitive club we are.

Umpires Panel

Don Couch

Chairman: Don Couch

Lorraine Begg

Tony Boughton

Bob Cole

Peter Eagle

Barbara Hazeltine

Dallas Palm

Warren Phillips

Rod Roberts

Michael Schwarcz

Geoff Seamons

John Skidmore

Les Watkins

David Wilson

Highlights during the year include:

- Involvement in all men's section events, zone events, and some Women's Pennant & club championships.
- John Skidmore being successful as a Level 1 Umpire.
- Warren, Michael, Les & Bob all being involved in various Zone 10 committees.

I thank all my umpiring colleagues for their time and effort required for the successful running of all events over the last 12 months.

At the Umpires Panel annual meeting held 10th August, I was the only nomination for Chairman. I accepted the nomination and look forward to working with the panel as Chairman for the coming 12 months.

Greens

Peter Eagle

Within the last twelve months further improvements to the greens has taken place. The biggest improvement is on the top green with the removal of some gum trees and the trimming of others on the western side. Hornsby Council after inspecting the trees agreed that action was required and carried out the procedure without any cost to the Sports Club. The Sports Club was also able to purchase a second hand mower which has an attachment that can skim the surface of the green so gumnuts and twigs may be collected. This has been a constant problem in the past. The sprinkler system has been improved with the laying of a new water pipe so pressure can be maintained. Now that we have more sun light in the western corners of green, it is hoped the grass will grow and spread more easily. There is little doubt that the root system of the gum trees has restricted growth. There are signs this is taking place even during winter.

I would like to mention the work that has been undertaken by our green keeper, Steve Arhipo. Steve is very enthusiastic and he carries out his tasks without any prompting. The greens as well as the surrounds are always in good shape and quite a number of visiting bowlers have commented on these aspects. A good working relationship has developed and needs to be maintained.

We have obtained from the Board of the Sports Club, in principle approval to replace the grass on the bottom green with Tifdwarf grass. Without going into the specifics, Tifdwarf is a more compact grass, which allows a bowl to hold a more accurate line. The speed of the green in most cases is also faster. A lot of bowling clubs are now moving to Tifdwarf and it has been a matter that has been discussed at West Pennant Hills for some time. At this stage it is uncertain when the work will proceed, however it will be subject to the commencement of the Sports Club renovations. The bottom green does require some heavy maintenance and this will be completed at the same time.

Seven shades on the bottom green have been replaced. The others will be replaced in due course. The cost is a capital expense of the Sports Club and is not cheap. If the shades are looked after and taken down after use they should last for fourteen years. Unfortunately this is not always the case. There is a responsibility on both Bowling Sections to play their part. Some bowlers but not all are now getting the message. To those bowlers who take down the shades when they see that they have been left up, thank you for your assistance it is very much appreciated.

Mention has been made in previous reports about the drainage problems on the bottom green, especially in the northwest corner. During winter, the corner is constantly wet. With the installation of the Tifdwarf, the problem may be able to be rectified or be reduced.

Due to the improvements of the greens, West Pennant Hills was allocated rounds of the Zone 10 President Singles and Pairs. We were also allocated a round of the Metropolitan Zone Seniors Fours. This is the first time this club has been allocated a round in this event. It is felt the events were run successfully and hopefully we will be considered again in 2014. We also hosted one game in the Combined High Schools competition. The game was between Galston High School and Homebush Boys High School. It is an area that needs to be considered and enquiries made to see if West Pennant Hills is able to secure more games in this competition.

To the other members of the Greens Committee, Warren Phillips and Mathew Stubbs, thank you for your assistance. I feel that we can be proud in what has been achieved this year.

To the bowlers, your patience is appreciated. There have been times when the greens have been taken out of play so maintenance can be completed. This action has not pleased some bowlers but it is the long term condition of the greens which is the major factor and not the short term requirements that have to be considered.

Overall, progress has been made so happy bowling to all of our bowlers.

Bereavements

Jim Collins, Norm Scott, Peter Booth-Jones

Financial Statement – Income and Expenditure

Stephen Watson

West Pennant Hills Sports Club Limited

Sports - Men's Bowls

30 June 2013

	June Actual	June Budget	Variance	%	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	%
MBC Green Fees	2,520	4,484	(1,964)	56.20	43,552	50,137	(6,585)	86.87
MBC Raffle Takings	518	825	(307)	62.79	5,980	7,020	(1,040)	85.19
MBC Sports Fees	145	80	65	181.25	8,582	10,880	(2,298)	78.88
MBC Other Income	9	10	(1)	90.00	4,346	120	4,226	3,621.67
MBC Koala Carnival Income	3,117	3,300	(183)	94.45	3,464	3,300	164	104.97
MBC Club Uniform Sales	186	40	146	465.00	1,075	480	595	223.96
MBC Sponsorship Income	0	0	0		2,406	3,000	(594)	80.20
MBC Catering Income	0	300	(300)		0	2,700	(2,700)	
MBC Mufti/T'around Triples Inc	0	3,000	(3,000)		0	3,000	(3,000)	
Total MBC Income	6,495	12,039	(5,544)	53.95	69,405	80,637	(11,232)	86.07
MBC Affiliation Fees	187	143	44	130.77	6,421	8,828	(2,407)	72.73
MBC Raffle Costs	420	850	(430)	49.41	4,150	5,800	(1,650)	71.55
MBC Greens' Maintenance	4,026	4,000	26	100.65	47,385	48,000	(615)	98.72
MBC Sports Promotions	1,300	462	838	281.39	12,560	12,436	124	101.00
MBC Club Uniform Purchases	77	0	77		1,952	200	1,752	976.00
MBC Koala Expenses	2,625	2,650	(25)	99.06	2,625	2,650	(25)	99.06
MBC Catering Expenses	273	600	(327)	45.50	5,173	8,500	(3,327)	60.86
MBC Mufti/T'around Triples	0	2,500	(2,500)		40	2,500	(2,460)	1.60
Total MBC Expenses	8,908	11,205	(2,297)	79.50	80,306	88,914	(8,608)	90.32
Men's Bowls Profit (Loss)	(2,413)	834	(3,247)	(289.33)	(10,901)	(8,277)	(2,624)	131.70

NOTES

1. Green Fees ended up below budget expectations but Fees & Expenses overall are lower
2. We had budgeted a loss of \$8,277 and when the Koala income is corrected we ended at a loss of \$9,909 which is a delta of \$1,632
3. There was 9 unplayable days due to rain and extreme heat with 3 x corporate days not being played
4. Raffles on the Saturday with 4 x trays has provided overall income of \$1,830
5. Koala Income shows \$3,464 in the June report but this figure should be \$4,455
6. TAT income. The 2012/2013 income and expenses will be allocated to the 2013/2014 budget. It was necessary to make an allocation in the 2012/2013 budget as at the time WPH was not aware of the schedule. In essence, there may be two TAT allocations for 2013/2014 if the WPH game falls within the current financial year.
7. Attached is the new Budget for 2013/2014 which includes the change to the Fee Structure. The new Fee Structure will come into force, for those that take it up, from the 1st January 2014. The Budget has taken into account an estimate to players taking on the New Structure.

Financial Statement - Budget

Stephen Watson

PROFIT & LOSS	TOTAL Budget
INCOME	
Raffle Takings	\$5,380
Green Fees	\$27,353
Sports Fees (standard)	\$400
Combined Green & Sport Fees	\$37,930
Koala Income	\$3,300
Club Shirt Sales	\$480
Sponsorship Income	\$3,000
Catering Income	\$2,700
Other Income	\$120
TAT Income	\$3,000
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$83,663</u>
EXPENSES	
Affiliation Fees	\$9,772
Raffle Costs	\$4,350
Greens Maintenance	\$48,000
Other Costs	\$7,936
State Playoffs	\$500
Open Day Costs	\$500
Club Shirts	\$200
Koala Expenses	\$2,650
Catering Costs	\$8,300
TAT Costs	\$2,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$84,708</u>
GROSS PROFIT (LOSS)	<u>-\$1,045</u>

The accounting procedures implemented late last financial year has proven beneficial as our tracking of revenue and expenses have been very accurate. This showed in the data entry error with the Koala Carnival income. This year involved more work developing the 2013/2014 Budget as there was a need to create one under the original fee structure and another with the new fee structure. At the time of creating the Budgets the Club Board had not approved the new fee structure. I'm delighted to see the new fee structure has been approved and would like to thank the whole sub-committee that worked on the proposal to the Board but especially Warren Phillips and Peter Eagle. Warren also gave me great assistance over the year to assist me with the Treasurer role, many thanks. On a closing note I would like to thank Peter Eagle for his role as Men's Bowls President for his time and effort in that role and wish him well as he stands down at the next election.