



Presentation to the Members and Clubs of Baseball Queensland by Rodney Gaunt

To my fellow Queensland baseball community – members, Regions, Clubs, players, families and supporters,

I am sending you this video to let you know that I am nominating for the position of Commissioner for the Board of Baseball Queensland.

This election is a really important time for our baseball community given the disruptions that have occurred within the Baseball Queensland landscape over the past three years.

Over that time we have seen the resignation of the immediate past Commissioner, various Board members and the decision to not renew the contract for our previous CEO. Added to this, the financial position over the past three years for Baseball Queensland has been muddled and not been made transparent for our members.

Many members are aware of the outside disruptions and I would at this time like to pay particular thanks to our current BQ Board members Alan Connors, Jo Jackson, Geoff Wade and Sally West who have stayed the course and ensured that the best interests of Baseball Queensland have been protected from these outside parties. I trust that members will continue to support these Board Members into the future as their experiences and input into the running of the BQ Board is vital.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Regions for their support at the recent Special General meeting – that support will not be forgotten.

We now need some continuity and some transparency in the way in which Baseball Queensland goes about its business.

You will no doubt be aware of my role in re-establishing the GBL Competition Committee and working very hard to bring about a valued competition governed by a sensible set of Competition Rules which are managed by the Committee in a systematic and procedural manner. Transparency in the Rules and the consistent enforcement of the Rules has been paramount for all Clubs and players.

For those who do not know me, I am a Life Member of my former Melbourne based club – Malvern BC; a Life member of Baseball Victoria, I have been playing baseball for nearly 50 years and still play in the GBL masters competition. I am a past President for both Brisbane West Region and Western Districts Baseball Club. I have coached many teams over the years but my joy is coaching at the Little League level. I am married to my wife Wendy and we have two lovely adult daughters. I own my own business and employ around twelve staff members so I have a sound knowledge of business principals, cash flow and employment practices.

If I am elected as Commissioner of Baseball Queensland, I will continue to ensure a high level of transparency and consistency is provided to our members, as I did with the GBL Competition Committee.

This means providing members with Board Minutes and Monthly financial Reports as a normal monthly procedure. This also means maintaining regular communication with our Members and I would like to set up a quarterly meeting with Members in this regard.



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There is a lot of work to do to return Baseball Queensland back to the best it can be and this includes the following

- Review the BQ Constitution and revise with members understanding and consent – this process is under way right now.
- Review the BQ Governance documents and revise as required to ensure consistency between the BQ Constitution and the Governance document
- Implement and publicise appropriate BQ policies and ensure the policies are followed

We need to continue to work with Baseball Australia to achieve the best outcomes for our sport, always ensuring we understand we are a member based organisation and it is imperative we make sure we provide decisions and services appropriate for our members.

As far as I am concerned, there are two primary objectives Baseball Queensland and its staff and Board need to focus on

- Clubs
- High Performance pathways

If BQ can provide services to our Clubs to help them develop such as

- Coach the coaches
- Coach the Committee and assist with Committee
 - review of their Club Constitution,
 - Club policies,
 - Volunteer recruitment,
 - Revenue raising,
 - Social Media platforms,
 - Club websites etc.
- Provide information to Clubs for grants to improve Club infrastructure
- Assist Clubs with communication with their members
- Work with the QBUA to deliver consistent and coordinated umpire training as well as umpire recruitment
- Work with our Baseball Queensland Scorers to offer consistent and coordinated scorer training as well as scorer recruitment

Then Clubs will grow increasing their membership and growing our sport. Clubs are the currency of our sport and BQ must do all in its power to help Clubs grow.

By ensuring player pathways are well defined and supported through various High performance programs and higher level playing opportunities, players will have tremendous opportunities in our sport and again will encourage growth within their Clubs through their success. I would like to acknowledge and thank Shayne Watson for the high quality work he has done in this area over the past few years.



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Of course there needs to be significant detail underpinning the two primary objectives including the writing of a new Strategic Plan – this will be commenced as soon as the election is over.

I am also pleased to report the new BQ Board will have a support group of BQ Heroes ready to offer their wise counsel to the BQ Board whenever it is required and on a regular basis. Some of these BQ Heroes are past legends of our game and have a great deal of insight and common sense with what is needed for our sport to continue to improve.

The current BQ Board has worked very hard and will be very shortly advertising for a new CEO for our sport. This is an exciting time and I trust we will have the choice of some high class candidates. I would like to sincerely thank our interim CEO – Gareth Jones for all the extraordinary work he has done over his 20 plus years with BQ and I hope he will be a candidate for the CEO's position.

If elected to the position of Commissioner of the Board of Baseball Queensland, I will ensure that the work done will follow correct and proper procedures. We will be honest and transparent with our communication to our members. We will not ever forget grassroots baseball and we will concentrate our daily endeavours on assisting our Regions and Clubs grow and improve. We will value every dollar of our member's money and ensure it is invested wisely to provide our members with the best return on their membership and player fees. We will be accountable for our income and expenditure and we will be transparent in reporting our financial position every month to our members.

In summary, I would like to thank you for your time in listening to this presentation. We must ensure Baseball Queensland is managed by people who have the best interests of Baseball Queensland at heart so please vote accordingly.

Rodney Gaunt