



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

I am again nominating for the position of Commissioner for the Board of Baseball Queensland.

Pleasingly the Board and our sport are in a much better position now than at the time of the last election for the position of Commissioner. This has been brought about by a greater focus on our financials and great credit and thanks to Gareth Jones and Shayne Watson for shouldering the high workload placed on them until we have been able to stabilise the financial position to the point where we have recruited new and additional staff to share the workload.

Thanks to all immediate past and present Board members, the functioning of the Board has been much more pleasant and co-operative, with debate to seek deeper understanding of differing viewpoints.. Improving Board procedures and processes has been key to this change and is a key going forward to enable the Board to continue to operate efficiently and meet our sport and Member's needs.

Our sport is relatively small and as such, has and will continue to struggle to attract the appropriately skilled people onto our Board. That being the case, the board will need to more and more contract out for these skills to allow the Board to make the best-informed decisions.

Volunteer hours will become more and more valuable and less and less available across our sport. So, the Board will need to continue to seek alternative technology and expertise to allow our Members to operate given these restrictions. That is, try and remove as much bureaucracy as possible from Clubs and Regions so that our limited volunteer hours can be put to best use in running our Regions and Clubs and our sport.

I believe I am in a very good position to facilitate all of the above to occur.

We need continuity and 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 back in 2015/2016 and working very hard to bring about a valued competition governed by a sensible set of Competition Rules which are managed by the GBL 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.

The only Agenda I bring to the Board and the role of Commissioner is what is best for the sport and its members; collectively and individually. I believe my record since I have been involved with baseball here in Queensland bears this out. I am a very procedural person and I believe in a fair, firm and friendly approach to all that I do. The key to getting things right is listening first and acting subsequently.



For those who do not know me, I am a Life Member of my former Melbourne based club – Malvern BC; Life member of Western Districts BC and a Life Member of Baseball Victoria, I have been playing baseball for nearly 50 years and recently retired from playing after the Pan Pacific Games held on the Gold Coast November 2022. 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, employment practices and how to properly treat staff.

I am a grassroots baseball person with regular association with Club baseball and that will not ever change. I think this direct contact at the Club level provides vital insights as to what is and not working at the grassroots level.

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 Activity Reports 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.

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

- Review the BQ Constitution and revise with OUR members understanding and consent – this process is under way right now.
- Review the BQ Governance procedures and ensure these are underpinned by the new BQ Constitution document
- Implement and publicise appropriate BQ policies and procedures and ensure these are followed

We need to continue to work with Baseball Australia and the Brisbane Bandits 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 three primary objectives Baseball Queensland and its staff and Board need to focus on

- Members
- Clubs
- High Performance pathways

If BQ can continue to 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.

Of course, there needs to be significant detail underpinning the three primary objectives including the writing of a new Strategic Plan – this will need to commence through 2024 so that the 2024 – 2028 Strategic Plan is completed and in place once the current 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan expires.

I wish to look at recruiting 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.

I would like to sincerely thank our CEO – Gareth Jones for all the extraordinary work he has done over his 20 plus years with BQ. People like Gareth Jones and Shayne Watson are the rock on which a great organisation can be based.



Annual elections for Baseball Queensland

Presentation to the Members and Clubs of Baseball Queensland

by Rodney Gaunt

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 reading 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