

Western Demons Presidents Report 2018

Welcome to the Western Demons Supporter Group 2018 AGM and my report of our activities during the year.

The team continued to show significant improvement during the year, after showing so much potential in 2017.

Despite a few critical and expensive losses, to Geelong by 3 points in round 1, Hawthorn by 67 points in round 4 (when we kicked our lowest score of the year 48 points), St. Kilda in round 15 which possibly ended our chances of a top 4 spot, the round 18 loss to Geelong by 2 points after leading by 23 at $\frac{3}{4}$ time and the gut wrenching loss to the Eagles in the Preliminary final.

2018 was also a year of many highlights. Finally beating North Melbourne after 17 consecutive losses, beating Carlton by 109 points the first 100 point win since round 6 2004 and kicking our biggest score for the year 159 points. Beating Adelaide by 91 points in round 10, the first time ever Melbourne have won consecutive games by 90+ points. Beating Gold Coast by 96 points, the first time they have ever won 3 games by 90+ points in a season. Beating the Eagles in our first game at Optus Stadium in round 22 was a real highlight.

On to the finals for the first time since 2006. We beat Geelong in Elimination final 1 and Hawthorn in Semi- final 1 before the shattering loss in the Preliminary final which was a disappointing end to a fantastic season.

We look forward to 2019 with confidence.

In 2018 we continued to support the MFC with donations to the Past Players' Association, the MFC women's team, \$3500.00 through the pledge per win program, a significant increase on the \$2700.00 donated last year, a reflection of the teams improved performance. We again sponsored WA local Dean Kent. Dean has decided to join St. Kilda in 2019 for the chance of furthering his career after limited opportunities at MFC over the past 2 seasons and several long term injuries.

The game day functions at the Paddo again had increased numbers especially during the first 2 televised finals against Geelong and Hawthorn with approximately 60 to 80 supporters attending both games. Many thanks to Neal and Jon Randall and their staff for their continued donations and support of the Western Demons during 2018.

The Paddo has new owners who would like to continue the association with the Western Demons during 2019 and beyond. We encourage all supporters to get along to as many televised games as possible and support the new owners in their endeavours.

This year we had 2 games in Perth against the Eagles in round 22 and the Preliminary final. Both Pre-match functions were held at Burswood on Swan, a fantastic venue next door to Optus Stadium.

The first function was attended by 100 members and former player and Brownlow Medalist Shane Woewodin was the guest speaker, followed by our first march to Optus carrying Demon flags. It was a brilliant occasion followed by a determined win.

The function for the preliminary final was organised in conjunction with MFC and what an event it was with 320 members in attendance. Guest speaker Todd Viney gave an interesting address regarding his current involvement with the Club and Dean Irving gave an insight into his days at the club. The march to Optus by over 300 flag waving members was a sight to remember.

The Footy tipping competition was again popular although with a slight drop in participants. Hopefully more members will join next year and make it a bigger success.

My thanks to Joan and the Western Demons Committee again for their continued enthusiastic support and tireless efforts during 2018

The team continued to show genuine and consistent improvement in 2018 with a long overdue and exciting finals campaign. All true blue supporters can look forward to a successful 2019 with confidence. **GO DEES**

Greg Harper

President Western Demons 2018