



2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the club entered the 2025 season, there were high hopes following the strong results and foundations built in 2024. Unfortunately, the year did not unfold as hoped, with only our Premier 1 Men reaching finals. Slow starts across several teams left too much ground to make up in the second half of the season. For the third consecutive year, our Premier 1 Men exited in the first week of finals. While disappointing, the team represented the club with pride, and with a few different calls and better injury luck, the result could have gone the other way.

Individually, the club celebrated another outstanding achievement, with Scott Johnson winning the Premier 1 Men's MVP award for the fourth consecutive year a club member has received this honour. Scott was also selected in the All Star Seven, recognising his continued hard work and dedication. In addition, Scott Johnson, Adrian Fox, Hilary Hannagan, and coach Matt Berry were selected in the Vipers squads for the 2025 AVL season, a fantastic achievement for all involved.

We would like to acknowledge all our coaches across the club's seven teams. Their commitment and willingness to step into these roles is invaluable, and we thank them for the time and effort they give to support our players and ensure our teams take the court each week.

I would also like to personally acknowledge David Berry for his outstanding contribution to the club. His passion, dedication, and countless hours of work have played a significant role in shaping where the club is today. While he will not be with us in the purple & black next season, his impact will not be forgotten.

The 2025 season also marked several important milestones. Holly Eason, Kilby Galo, and Tamikah Dockrill each reached 100 games for the club in Premier 1 Women, while Ben Hassell reached 150 games milestone, becoming the fourth person in the club's history to do so.

Our social events were once again strongly supported throughout the year, including our home round gatherings, annual trivia night, reserve raffle, and presentation night. These events continue to play an important role in strengthening our club community.

I would like to thank our committee for their tireless work behind the scenes. Their dedication and volunteer efforts are essential to the club's success, and we encourage anyone interested in contributing to get involved.

Finally, we thank our major sponsor, Bendigo Stadium, for their ongoing financial and facility support at Red Energy Arena. We also thank our member associations for their continued partnership and support in providing opportunities for regional athletes to compete.

We look forward to the 2026 season with optimism. The commitment shown by our players, coaches, and volunteers puts us in a strong position to achieve the success the club deserves.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the club in 2025. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.

Ben Hassell

Phantoms Volleyball Club President