

# CHELSEA GULLS BASKETBALL



**I am writing openly to all who call Chelsea home, to say thank you:**

Due to health reasons, I have decided to stand down as President and wish the committee, staff and volunteers the greatest success in the future.

Chelsea Basketball has given me and my family so much and it will continue to be the place where individuals come together to promote healthy outcomes for all families.

I am extremely disappointed with the polarising comments on social media regarding people at our club who have volunteered their time to help. We have all witnessed this happening at clubs all around us and we know the depths this divisive behaviour will go to at the detriment of the club they/we all love.

While few have attempted to speak on my behalf regarding serious club matters, I would like to clarify: I have not been forced to resign.

I support the committee 100%.

Firstly because I have worked with them all to maintain our viability through major challenges.

Secondly because, as volunteers, they have continued to spend many, many hours looking to manage outcomes that none of us knew would be possible through COVID.

Thirdly, they accept the responsibility and are prepared to continue to serve you and drive us into 2021.

Their sheer resilience has given me strength through an extremely trying year and I thank them for their love and support.

Our staff have had their challenges that tested their resilience as well. I thank them dearly for their love and support. Let us all work together so their roles are secure now and in the future.

I am grateful to say, unlike many other associations, we survived a global pandemic. Chelsea Basketball survived and our athletes returned in excellent form, ready to train for the upcoming season.

I will not be a stranger.

I am looking forward to being back at The Nest in 2021 offering sideline support to our coaches and players, with my grandchildren who I know will play one day. Please let us all reflect on the year that has been and not let this moment in time bring down the joy that my family and yours have been able to be part of.

Let us all respect our committee, our staff, our volunteers, our coaches, team managers and players and all the work they have done and are doing for now and the future. Finally, please respect those that have come before us, their efforts that have got us to where we are now, and those that will continue to grow the club in a positive direction.

On behalf of my wife Kerri and my children Jess, Brooke and Jack, thank you for giving us a beautiful experience at Chelsea.

**God Bless you all, have a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!**

*Neil Hancock*

**In a joint statement with Neil Hancock on his CADBA Presidency:**

*The CADBA Committee supports Neil's decision to stand down as President; the Hancock family have sacrificed much to ensure the growth and longevity of our club. Neil's passion and love for the game were the foundation of many policies and decisions leading to the elevation of our club across our various competitions. From Domestic and Rep to Big V, Chelsea Basketball has undeniably grown under the leadership and compassion of Neil Hancock over the last 7 plus years. While we wish him well as he enters a new, deserved chapter of his life, we're thankful to know that he will continue to stop by The Nest to support our Chelsea families. The CADBA Committee will honour Neil's legacy by continuing to prioritize our members and the success of our athletes.*

