

Membership push begins for Rovers

By LEAH TINDILL

BOOSTING attendance at local sport is one of the key drivers behind Wangaratta Rovers Football Netball Club's bid for more members.

"We just want to increase our supporter base and try to get more people involved on game day," Rovers club presi-

dent Andrew Smith said.

"We believe we've got a role to play in the community and we're trying to create a culture and a place where everyone can enjoy the game in a great family friendly environment."

The club is hosting its intra-club match tonight from 6pm at North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve which coach Paul Ma-

her said would give the team a chance to show off new recruits in a local setting.

Maher said he was looking forward to seeing the individual assets of new players as well as improvements of younger players.

"I think we've got about 48 of the boys to have a run which is good," he said.

"They're all coming up and

all participating at this stage, unless any of them fall over tomorrow and break a wrist."

While the game is being played at North Wangaratta, the Rovers clubrooms will be open tonight for membership sign up with the season opening AFL clash between Collingwood and Fremantle on the big screen and bar facilities and food provided.



HORSE TALK: Trainer Chris Ledger with star mare The Bounty Queen following her maiden win in Melbourne. PHOTO: Luke Plummer

Winning run for The Bounty Queen

■ From back page

"That put the other horses off the bit, and from there the pressure dropped off behind her.

"Of course when you put on that sort of pace you're going to tank out, but she was gutsy and brave at the finish when Girl Guide flew at her.

"In the end the margin was half a nose, but a win's a win - the margin doesn't make any difference to the result."

The Bounty Queen's time of

58.46 seconds over the kilometre gave her an average speed of over 60kph, and she was very close to setting a class record at the track.

"I looked up the class record and she was only a few hundredths of a second off it - a bee's whisker really - which is incredible," Ledger said.

"That's everything outside your open category of Black Caviar and the like, so basically out of all the 1000m races at Moonee Valley with

any restrictions.

"If you think about how many of those there has been over the years it is a terrific performance, and it was even more so because she had to give 2kg to the favorite, so she was carrying a lot more weight."

Ledger is now eyeing the Albury Gold Cup's famous 'Flat Knacker' - a 900m sprint with a prize purse of \$50,000.

"I'd love to take her to the Albury Cup," he said.

"Every trainer who has a horse in the Flat Knacker thinks their horse is the fastest in the world, but I'm very confident Bounty Queen could win it.

"It's just going to be a matter of whether or not we feel she is physically ready.

"Sometimes she needs 3-4 weeks off after a race - this would give her 18 days, which should be just about right, but if we feel that she needs more time we won't run her."

Book details Hawks' journey to 2013 premiership

Sporting book review:
Playing to Win

PLAYING to Win is an insider's view of how the Hawthorn Football Club won its 11th premiership in 2013 and, in the process, established itself as Australia's most successful football club over the past 60 years.

From an unexpected flag in 2008 to redemption in 2013, Playing to Win captures the memorable moments that enrich this club's already colorful history - a history that began as the perennial easy-beats of the competition.

Award winning author Michael Gordon takes the reader inside

the private meetings at the key moments during the highs and lows of a five-year journey, offering extraordinary insights into the pressures and realities of elite professional sport.

Based on unparalleled access and frank interviews with all the key figures, including Alastair Clarkson, Luke Hodge and Sam Mitchell, Playing to Win reveals how the 'Kennett Curse' was overcome; how Jeff Kennett considered dropping the coach to the VFL in 2010; and the coach's formula for transforming his players when they crossed 'the white line' in the 2013 preliminary final against Geelong.

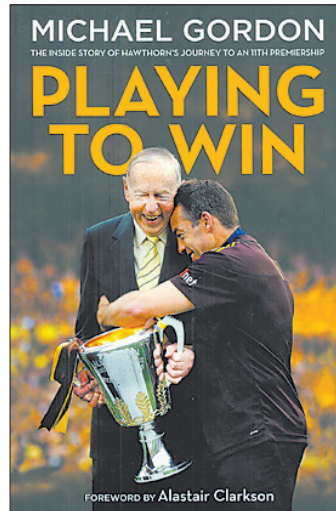
Playing to Win is compulsory reading for anyone who wants

to understand how successful organisations work together to create a winning culture.

"Michael Gordon has chronicled the progress of Hawthorn intimately over the past six years," Hawthorn coach Alastair Clarkson said.

"This account is a compelling read for all footy lovers, especially those who enjoy tracking the spirit with which a group of people band together to chase a dream."

Michael Gordon is the political editor of The Age and has written biographies of surfer Layne Beachley and former prime minister Paul Keating; a history of Bells Beach; and (with his father Harry Gordon) One for All, the story of the Hawthorn Football Club.



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