

CRARC Membership Report for the year 2023

At the last committee meeting on 14 February 2024 the club's total financial membership was 198 including five life members, a slight increase over this date last year.

This reporting date is not in strict accordance with the club's financial year which ended on 31 December 2023, however this has been the practice for some years so as to present the most up-to-date information to the AGM.

In the 2017 report I first mentioned that a search for an online membership management system for CRARC had begun and after many false starts we migrated to HamClubOnline in September 2022. Unfortunately this turned out to be a another false start as the problems we identified early, and had some confidence would be fixed, never managed to attract the attention of HamClubOnline's support person. We persisted for a year in attempts to do so with nil success so the search for an online system began again.

The Club's IT support person Carl Makin, VK1KCM, found an online system named TidyHQ. It's structure and processes reflect its target market in sporting clubs but he has adapted it for CRARC use and so far there have been few wrinkles in the data migration to TidyHQ in mid 2023 or in its operation since. TidyHQ has several other advantages in that it is based in Australia, the data is stored in Australia, and the support people can be contacted by email and even phone if required. We are also fortunate in that the basic features of TidyHQ meet our needs at nil direct cost except for the fees charged on membership payments through the website.

To almost echo my closing words a year ago, the #1 task for the membership secretary in 2024 is to become more familiar with TidyHQ and ensure that it's properly set up for the future.

Finally the credit for all the IT work behind the scenes must go to Carl as without his skills I would still be trying to manage club membership with a spreadsheet.

Graham Carter

VK1GVC

CRARC Membership Secretary

20 February 2024