



To the SMCA Committee, Member Clubs, players, volunteers, and supporters,

Earlier this year, not long after the AGM, I had to step aside from the role of President due to life changing events in my family. I took personal leave so that I could focus my resources and attention on something much more important than cricket. I had intended to come back to the role before the start of the season, but I extended that leave until the Christmas/ New Year break.

As that break is now upon us, I must make a decision. For my own sake and for the good of the Association, I hereby resign from my position as SMCA President effective immediately.

I do not do this lightly, as the Association still faces some challenging times, but the remaining members of the Committee need to be able to complete this season, and prepare for the next, without the uncertainty of my continuation hanging over their heads. Despite my family situation changing, I am still unable to fully commit in the way this key role requires. This may change in the future, and the conditions must be right, but for the moment I am needed elsewhere.

It has been an honour to serve in this position, even though it was not a role I sought out or lobbied for. When my predecessor Graham Santich stood down after the 2018/2019 season, I was approached by some members of the SMCA Committee to see if I would accept a nomination for the vacant President's role. Even though I was the Senior Vice President at the time, I did not see myself ever filling the President's role. After a couple of weeks of deep thought on the issue, I chose to accept the nomination.

The Association has had its challenges in my time, none bigger than the Covid-19 pandemic and the massive upheaval that that caused. Did we do everything perfectly? No, of course not. Did we do the best with what we had? Yes. There are also many things that I am disappointed not to have achieved, but I will pass that baton onto the crop of new additions to the Committee to run with, so that the Association can continue to improve and grow into the future. It is a fantastic organisation with fantastic people, and we all share the same passion ... cricket.

I would like to thank all those people who have helped me during my time as President. There are too many to individually list, and if I tried, I would miss someone off! But I would like to make special mention of the current and former SMCA Committee members, the Club



Presidents, and all the players I have met over the years. I have made lifelong friends, and I have felt welcome at every Club I have visited, either in my role as President, or as an ordinary cricketer who questions his life choices every Saturday afternoon.

Finally, to bring my time as SMCA President to an end, I would like to wish our SMCA Family a safe and happy Christmas and New Year break. Take some time to spare a thought for those who struggle financially, mentally, or physically during these weeks, and please do not take risks on our roads if you are travelling, as lives can change in an instant. We hope to see you all back in the new year, pumped and ready to go for the second half of the season!

Yours sincerely,

Paul Speering

SMCA President