

Heading in the right direction

Brandon Cohen

VICTORIA Maccabi has undergone a major turnaround in the past 12 months with its finances in a healthy state and membership at record levels.

At its annual general meeting on Wednesday last week at Beth Weizmann, president Sam Parasol said there were several significant achievements made during the year including:

- Finances in a healthy state and moving further in a positive direction;
- Membership at close to 3000 with 27 affiliate clubs;
- A new database, new office equipment and a more efficient office;
- Many outstanding sporting achievements by the clubs and individual members; and
- Insurance being settled this year.

"I feel proud of the growth and the standing of Victoria Maccabi in the community. Our values are all about openness, honesty, shrewd decision-making, commitment and drive for continuous improvement," Mr Parasol said.

The organisation's successful operations this year were a "direct result of the able, loyal and dedicated board", Mr Parasol said.

He praised executive director

Andrew Freund who "has added new vitality and drive with his initiative, enthusiasm, refreshing outlook and professionalism".

Mr Parasol said with a settled and well-organised board, Victoria Maccabi's future was "positive".

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"Our challenge is to keep the momentum long-lasting and permanent and to create a home for the community, the youth and for future generations," he said.

The AGM was chaired by Victoria Maccabi vice-president Philip



Victoria Maccabi board members (from left): Andrew Freund (executive director), Harry Procel, Sam Parasol (president) and Philip Sheezel (vice-president).

Sheezel and attended by about 50 people, most of them club delegates.

In his 12 months in office, Mr Freund has rectified a number of problem areas he identified as well as introduced some new initiatives into the organisation to enable it to become more professional.

Two of the major initiatives undertaken by the Victoria Maccabi office in the past year were the development of a new and fairer affiliation fee structure and the estab-

lishment of a database of members.

"Overall, club affiliation fee levels have been reduced and the organisation now has a concise list of its members and their details," Mr Freund announced.

He also launched a redesigned and user-friendly yearbook, which includes club histories and reports and a business directory (with 233 sponsors and advertisers).

The establishment of a Hall of Fame to recognise sportspeople,

administrators and coaches who have made an impact on Victoria Maccabi over the last 75 years is, according to Mr Parasol, "one of the biggest projects Victoria Maccabi has undertaken".

More than 400 nominations were received for the Hall of Fame. The announcement of the 75 inductees and up to 10 'Legends' will be made at a function sponsored by the *Australian Jewish News* at the Carlton Crest on Sunday September 3.