

ST COLUMBAS CASTLE HILL SOCCER CLUB

2014 End of Season report

Sep 2014

Presidents Report

Well, the 2014 Winter season has drawn to a close. St Columbas Soccer Club can look back on a further year of success both on and off the field. Overall, I remain satisfied that our club continues to foster and encourage the behaviours that only increases the enjoyment that our club members experience through fellowship in playing soccer.

Our Junior club continues to show strength in the numbers that participated in the under 6 team this year and we look forward to this team to provide an ongoing presence throughout the grades in the coming years. The under 6 team regularly outnumbered the opposition almost by the strength of our bench alone, managed to go through the season with only 2 losses, and the noteworthy success of winning the Gala Day 6-a-side tournament.

Our under 8 and under 9 teams continued a strengthening bond with our St Bernadette's counterparts with the creation of further "All Saints" teams. The under 8 team have had a magnificent season remaining undefeated throughout, winning the minor premier's crown, and then ultimately the under 8 Grand Final at Marconi Stadium. The under 9 team, despite a few changes in personnel, remained a constantly competitive presence in a highly contested grade. If they had been able to achieve a couple of more favourable results, they would have had the opportunity to play finals soccer.

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The under 12 team had another challenging season. Clearly, this team while possibly not containing the level of talent and ability that some other teams in their grade displayed, continues to set the standard for our Junior club in teamwork and commitment. The positive support that the parents and their coach, Scott Moeser, constantly provide for this team can only help in the ongoing development and progression of our players.

The Senior club this year, saw the remnants of our Premier League and Raahague Cup North teams of 2013, combine into one squad in the new Raahague Cup competition. While disappointing to lose a number of players between seasons for a variety of reasons, it was pleasing to see a number of new players introduced to the club and a number of players with a previous relationship with the Junior club return to St Columbas to play in the Senior ranks. This meant that player numbers on a weekly basis were very strong and almost a "luxury" in comparison to previous years. In terms of results, the First team that included the core of the successful, if aging, Premier League Reserve team of 2013 was always going to be competitive. However, with the introduction of the Donovan brothers, Nick and Sean for the 2nd half of the year, they became a real threat in the competition, and eventually finished the season in 4th place. In their sudden death semi-final against Miranda they were unlucky to bow out in extra time after leading the game for some time in the initial 90 minutes of play. The Reserve team, in comparison went the other way with early season results indicating that they would be a real force in the competition, however a number of disappointing performances in the mid to latter part of the season curtailed their season without the opportunity to play in finals. Frustratingly, towards the end of their season they held the eventual Grand Final champions to a 0-0 draw in a game they dominated, which probably reflected the standard and performance they would have loved to have seen on a more consistent basis.

Overall, both at a Junior and Senior level our teams were consistently competitive and displayed the right behaviours that will continue to hold our teams in good stead moving forward. The challenge as always is for us to look to maintain our current membership base and look to grow by providing opportunities for others to experience soccer the St Columbas way.

Off the field, the Management Committee continued to support our players, and teams in a variety of roles and capacities. We are a very fortunate club to have a Committee that is generous of their time, proactive in making decisions and truly wants the best for our players. This year our profile continues to be heightened by the role of Alan Spaul in taking the lead in organisation and management of the National Churches Soccer tournament being held at Narrabeen in late September, and the position of Kim Sydenham as NSW Churches Football Association secretary. Their ongoing commitment and dedication to both St Columbas and the wider NSW Churches soccer community is exemplary and to be applauded.

This year, St Columbas only committed to one major fundraiser, our running of the BBQ and canteen at the Castle Hill Model Railway Exhibition in late July. This weekend continued to be another profitable and very worthwhile endeavour for the club, but this year I wish to pass on my particular thanks to the under 6, under 12 and Senior teams support of this event. The numbers from these teams both in terms of parents and players assisting really illustrated that many hands does make light work.

Once again, I pass on my personal thanks to the rest of the Management Committee for their time and passion in driving our club throughout season 2014. I also raise a special thank you to all our coaches and managers for their commitment and effort in shaping our teams and making sure that St Columbas remains a proud and successful club within the NSW Churches competition. So thank you to everyone for the season that has been in 2014, and look forward to bigger and better things in 2015.

Matthew Smith

St Columbas President 2014

Raising our Under 6's

Nothing is more enjoyable than to see children grow in their first year of Team Sports

The children grew their motor skills and their Social skills to form some wonderful long lasting relationships and friendships.

Our 2014 recruits were truly a wonderful keen group of kids—The Magnificent Thirteen.

As Coach, I have had a wonderful year and hope the Team enjoyed their soccer as much as I did.



The Magnificent Thirteen

A wonderful year for our young stars

I remember our first training session in March where I told all parents to be patient as it would take the whole season for the children to learn and understand the game. This statement was the biggest understatement I could have made. The team scored 89 goals for the season, they were unstoppable. The team won 15 matches from a total of 17 matches played. The teamwork shown in the latter part of the season was nothing less than exciting. The team won their first title mid way through the season in the Under 6 Six-a-Side Championship.

Player Round-up

Colin "Sniper" Aiken—earned his nickname with the best defensive steal of a ball from another player albeit his own teammate, it was a fantastic tackle. Colin improved dramatically at the back end of the season. Well Done Col !

Frederick "Goal Machine" Anderson - a young man who developed the passion to score goals. Frederick scored 60+ goals during the season. Frederick also learnt the skill of good ball distribution to other players.

Alex "Mr Defence" Corben—learnt the skills of a centre back very early in the season. Alex's ball control at his feet is a wonderful exhibition

Cameron "Mr Tuff" Johnston—Cam showed his metal in tough situations and never gave up. Cam showed his skill as an attacking player with good pace to beat the opposition.

Issac "Wizard" Lee—this little man has pace to burn with wonderful ball skills. Always tricked the opposition to get around them.

Ben "Mr Tenacious" Robertson—a very determined player, good ball skills with the ball at his feet

Joshua "The Mixer" Simmons—a very friendly unassuming character. A wonderful team member always wanting to do his best.

Lily "Golden Boots" Smith - turned out to be a wonder goalie come sweeper, according to her dad.. Lily has amazing skill to take the ball from an opposing player in a "One on One" situation. Lily saved as many goals as the team scored.

Oliver "Quiet Achiever " Somi—a true little gentleman. His skills improved dramatically by the end of the season and was always keen to do his best.

Arya "Lone Ranger" Sugiana—absolutely got the hang of getting up behind the opposition team and their goalie in readiness to receive the ball and attempt to score a goal.

Cooper "The Voice" Thorne—always ready to communicate to Coach Alan and let me know what he thought of the game. Coop always showed passion for the game

Ella "Sparkles" Wanders—a wonderful "Smiley face" as her eyes sparkled when she got her chance to start the game . Ella learnt a lot during the season.

Jodi "Dancer" Wanders—showed good skills with her feet and kicked the ball with gusto. Jodi was also an excellent team member.

Thank you !

To Nathan for his assistance at training and on match days with the Interchange bench.

To Matt for his efforts on Match day with the team and filling in as Referee when needed.

Lastly, a big thank you to every parent for the effort you put in during the season to ensure the children got to training and the matches together with your support to me as Coach.

I look forward to seeing everyone come back for the 2015 season,

Coach Alan

Under 8 — All Saints

This year St Columbas combined with St Bernadettes, and became the under 8'S All Saints. Not knowing what to expect from the team that never played together before, became a force to be reckon with.

Along came the first night of training and both coach Chris and manager Kevin soon worked out they had their hands full with 13 budding super stars!!! All children gelled and got along with each other as if they had been playing as a team for years. Having to step up a field size this year, it is always interesting to see how the children adapt to the game, but these children took it in they stride.

Week 1 the boys were up against Lidcombe and came away with a convincing 4-0 win. 3-0 win in week 2 against Wenty, and 3-0 win against Hill Sprit Reds in week 3. From that time on it became obvious that we had something special emerging.

Week 4 was the test, as the team was to meet Kings, who had been undefeated over the past 2 seasons. Playing at the All Saints home ground, and the crowd behind them, it was a long drive home for the Kings Old Boys, who suffered their first defeat 1-0.

It wasn't until round 6 that the boys had their first goal scored against them when playing Hill Sprit Blue, but still went on to win the match 4-2.

Once again in round 13, All Saints went up against KOB's and after 40 minutes of play, All Saints had their first draw for the year, 0-0.

It was a pleasure to see the children grow in team spirit and skill, while never getting ahead of themselves or each other. Most training nights had up to 6 parents to assist Chris and/or Kevin, and not to mention Kylie with her emails and text messages keeping us all informed.

Semi-final was played in slippery conditions again Hill Sprit Red, which we won 2-0.

Grand-final day....

Not many boys slept the night before... playing at Marconi Stadium in the biggest game in the boys lives, again Kings Old Boys. KOB's were determined and out for revenge. The boys didn't have to wait long before Harry received the ball from a corner and slotted home the first goal, in the first 8 mins. 1-0 at half time, and a quick talk from Kevin and Chris the boys were keen to get back out and finish the job. Great defence held out KOB's until AS's scored their second goal of the match through Blake. With one minute to go, Kings came back with a goal, but time was out, and the ALL SAINTS STARS completed how they had started the season. The boys were ecstatic with the outcome, and more than a few parents were relieved.

We must mentioned that a number of the team were selected for the Zone North Rep team, and played the South Rep team over 3 nights.

The comrade and mate ship between the children and parents within this team cannot be understated.

Thank you to Chris, Kevin for looking after the boys, and Kylie for looking after the parents.

Katrina Sydenham



All Saints Grand Final winners



Under 9 — All Saints

What a year! 5 St Columbas players joined forces with 10 St Bernadette's players to form All Saints with a new coach, assistant coach and manager. From the first game the All Saints team showed tons of talent. With a full bench, everybody was eager to showcase their skills on the pitch.

Each game showed a steady improvement on the last. Every team became familiar to the All Saints as we dominated the games in defence, attack and even the psychological edge over our opponents. Our designated goalie Jack Miller, was an example of discipline as he worked tirelessly improving his skill in each training session.

The cousins Marcus Scotti and Zac Barone were the Dynamic Duo on the field. While Zac carved up the defence, Marcus was always rock solid in his game.

James Aiken overwhelmed our opponents with his bursts of energy on the ball. Jesse Martin often teamed up with James to bring new energy onto the field.

Our wingers Devlyn Winston, Alexandra Stennet and Luke Debelak were always hungry for the ball and played their position with strength and confidence.. They were ever reliable on getting quality front foot ball to our super star strikers Alec West and Declan de Wet. Their work ethic and absolute focus were nothing short of astounding.

Our defenders, Kaden Govender and Shayan Pala were often instrumental in changing the direction of the game. They provided the momentum that was needed to save and even score goals.

Jaiden Milenkovic was a powerful defender who used every skill he had to dominate that area of the field. Always focused, always communicating.

Without a doubt Patrick Stennet and Lachlan Taylor were the foundation of our game. Our attack and our defense moved from their positions. They took this responsibility with leadership, focus and a work ethic that All Saints are now infamous for.

Well done All Saints on a great season. You should be very proud of what you have achieved this year. Thank you to Marisa Stennet for all her help throughout the season. A big thank you to our assistant coach Pej Milenkovic for your valued football knowledge and dedication.

To all the parents, a big thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

Eric de Wet— Coach



Under 13—All Saints

2014 was a tough but enjoyable and rewarding season for the team. The boys had learnt new skills, learnt to play as a team while further understanding the importance of positional play as they built on these skills through the year.

The team was made of fourteen players that came together from St. Columbus and St Bernadettes with new players coming into the team and developed friendships that provided the backbone for the teamwork that kept them coming back each weekend.

We welcomed Callum, and the returning Arvish to the team to join, Ewan, Ryan, Raathan, Josh, Lucio, Christian, Sam, Ethan, Isaac, Yasiru, Chris and James.

The boys all played exceptional in some trying condition during the season, playing up an age group, along with illness and injury meaning we played short a number of times, and with the bare 11 for a lot of the season but they all put in 100% and played till the final whistle which is all I can ask and was very proud of the boys.

We also had 6 boys who this season represented the team, and clubs in the representative team for our age group going down in the series, but performing very well and doing the team and clubs proud.

Thanks to the boys and let's keep it going next season.

Finally a big thank you to Peter the team manager, and the parents who without your help getting the nets up and down etc, the season would not have been as enjoyable.

Scott Moeser

Coach – 2014



Seniors—RC Reserves

Raahauge Reserves new team, new belief

The St Columbas Raahauge Cup Reserve all age team this year was a very new team with only 8 players from last year's squad. This was bolstered by some new and old arrivals that made a very well rounded squad. Joining up with the previous year's premiers from Premier League's reserve grade gave us a squad of 2 teams which meant each week we were able to have 2 full teams each week.

Thanks to all the new players that joined our team this year. They brought into our squad some more pace and enthusiasm which lifted the entire team to a good year. We started the season well with a couple of good results sitting within the top 4 for most of the season until we hit a bit of a baron run where we just couldn't put teams away. We ended up finishing a close 6th place only 4 points out of the top four. We had the 4th best defence in the league but had issues in front of goal with the 8th best attack.

We had close to half of our regular reserve grade player's score a goal this year for a total of 20 goals that was exactly the same amount as last year's team. We will be out to beat that record next year and I have no doubt if we can keep the majority of the squad for next year we can achieve this.

Thanks to all the first grade players that helped us out on the bench this season and a big thank you to the reserve grade players who helped out first grade. We hope to see you all back next year for another great season.

Memorable games:

2-0 Win Vs St Barnabas – a brand new team with new names to learn and the team just worked immediately, providing great passing football. A great first game to build confidence.

0-0 Draw Vs St Matthews – second last game where we knew we had to win both our remaining games and hoped results would go away to make the semis. We showed a lot of fight against the eventual minor premiers and looked the better team in attack and in defence but just couldn't find that elusive goal. It showed that we could match with the top teams.

0-0 Draw Vs Miranda – last game we knew we were out of finals contention but we wanted to finish off the season strong. We came out of the blocks early with a few early chances and then Miranda came right back with multiple other chances. With around 10 to 15 minutes to go we go a man down with a red card and our players lifted and played tactically very well to not only hold out Miranda for the draw but easily came up with at least 2 or 3 chances late to win the game.

Players Player

1st: Reece Hagan 83pts

2nd: Aaron Bailey 82pts

3rd: Simon Miskell 77pts

4th: Richard Austin 74pts

Seniors—RC Firsts

Raahauge Cup – First Grade

First grade this year had a pretty successful season, culminating in an appearance in the semi-finals. The standard of teams and competition was high, and it was an extremely enjoyable season. Unlike previous years, the usual drop off in player availability as the season progressed did not occur (despite a sojourn by four players to Brazil for the World Cup), and this meant that both first grade and reserve grade could remain competitive throughout the season, as we did not have a majority of players backing up for multiple games each Saturday.

The early season results were a bit of a mixed bag, with us winning the first game of the season and then proceeding to have two losses and two draws to finish the first five games. We then proceeded to have a scrappy win before having two more consecutive losses. By this stage, at the completion of the first round of matches (excluding the mid-week evening round) we had a total of two wins and two draws from our eight matches, and we were beginning to wonder how we were going to salvage our season. Despite some promising signs, and some fabulous efforts we could not seem to get a result.

As the second round commenced, suddenly, things started to turn. We started with two draws and then went on a three match winning streak to haul ourselves back into contention for the semi-finals. We then had a narrow loss to the eventual Grand Final Winners, before finishing with three wins from four games to close out the regular season. From our final ten games first grade had managed to achieve 6 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses, to finish the regular season in 4th position.

The round 17 game against St Matthews was the key game for our season, and a 3-2 victory ensured we moved into 4th position, and put our final destiny in our own hands. A final round victory was all that was required to ensure our place in the finals, and we duly delivered our biggest win of the season, a comprehensive 5-0 victory over the 3rd placed Miranda. This victory meant we would play Miranda again the following week in the elimination semi-final.

The semi-final was a hard fought battle going from end to end for the full 90 minutes, with limited opportunities for both sides. After finishing 1-1 at the completion of normal time, we moved into extra time. After playing 25 minutes of extra time with very few chances, it was starting to look like penalties, however, a break away by Miranda's key striker unfortunately resulted in a foul just inside our eighteen yard box which was duly blown up as a penalty and was summarily put away, ending our season with a 2-1 golden goal loss.

Overall, the team enjoyed a good season, and the injection of some youth into the team (which at times showed its age, particularly when coming up against teams that were regularly at least ten years younger) throughout the year, also helped freshen up the squad. We proved that we could match it with every team this year, and the only teams we did not beat (despite pushing them both throughout the season) were the teams that finished first and second in the regular season. If we can continue on with the same squad of players, and bring in further "young legs", this will bode well for the continuation of this team – and future successes, in the years to come.

Club Sponsor



**St Columbas Soccer Club truly appreciates our sponsors
support & assistance**

Annual General Meeting

To be held on 12th October @ 4PM

Please contact our Secretary—Kim Sydenham for further information Mob: 0410 444 863

Sponsor Packages for 2015

Please contact — Alan Spaul for further information Mob: 0404 242 001

