



# ST COLUMBAS CASTLE HILL SOCCER CLUB

**2015 End of Season reports**



## PRESIDENTS REPORT

As spring approaches, we can once again reflect on the passing of another winter season and the enjoyment and fellowship that our participation in soccer has brought for our players, committee, and wider family and friends through 2015. St Columbas Soccer Club can look back on a further year of some success both on and off the field. Our club remains committed to offering opportunities for all communities and individuals to participate in playing the game of soccer, and celebrating the act of doing so win, lose or draw.

Our Junior club this year has remained a steady core of 4 teams. With representation across under 6, under 7, under 9 (combined All Saints), and under 13-14 year old competitions. Unfortunately the club did lose one team, our under 9 combined team from last year, and also had significant loss of player numbers in our successful combined under 8 team from last year. As a club and organisation we continue to ask ourselves across the Management team just what is driving this disappointing tendency to lose players and struggle to replenish numbers each year in our Junior ranks. I maintain that the structure and opportunities we offer across our Junior teams continues to be very positive in intent without delivering the results we would hope. As a club we remain committed to the ongoing development and improvement of our Junior teams and players, so we look forward to 2016.

The under 6 team, were very much the "babes" of the competition this year, with pretty much every player taking part in their first season of soccer, and the majority of players being 4 years of age at the start of the season. Once again Coach Alan took it upon his experienced shoulders to guide our youngest players through the challenges of their first season. While regularly coming out on the wrong side of some lopsided score lines through the season, it was a credit to the dedication of coach, players and parents that numbers never flagged and the season fittingly culminated in a first win on the last day of the season when Wentworthville Uniting were taken to the cleaners to the tune of 6-0.

Our under 7 team under the tutelage of Brian and Nicole Corben this year, continued to develop and build on the successes of last year. Some new players were welcomed and soon became part of the fabric of the team. While perhaps struggling to stay with the very strongest of teams in their competition, the team continued to show a competitiveness across the park that will hold them in good stead going onto a bigger field with a higher number of players next year. Special note must be made of one particular game at Daniel St towards the end of the season when after being down 2-0 at half time to a team that had beaten them very comprehensively at the start of the year, the team came back to level the game 2-2 and was very much in the ascendancy the longer the game went. The noise and emotion that came from our sideline, with parents, grandparents and siblings all joining in to support our players was a real reflection of the level of enjoyment achieved for all.

As mentioned our under 9 team this year took a hit in losing a significant number of players from the team of 2014. This crisis led to the return of super coach Jordan Moeser, after a brief hiatus away from the coaching ranks, and the establishment of a new combined All Saints team. To the credit of this team, when numbers and attendance allowed, they proved to be very competitive and achieved a number of positive results. We look forward to this team continuing to develop and strengthen their base of players in 2016.

The under 13 team led by Scott Moeser continues to be the Junior club flagship for engagement and interest in playing soccer as a team and social group. This year I think Scott even had to have trials or turn away prospective players due to interest born out of the legacy of this team that has now been together for a number of years. On the field this year, with one of the most influential and capable players in the competition in their ranks in Ethan Sydenham, and a number of willing and committed lieutenants, the team achieved a very successful result of placing 5th and narrowly missing out on playing semi-finals. Given the quality of performance and results that they occasionally achieved against the teams placed above them, it will be particularly interesting to see how this team fares next year.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT ..... CONT'D

The Senior club this year consisted of a squad of 2 teams placed in a new competition known as the Sydney Cup. There was minimal attrition from the playing numbers of last year, and actually some younger players were drawn into the lure of some Saturday afternoon festivities on the soccer field. Numbers once again allowed both teams to be relatively well stocked, even though at times heavily reliant on the unlimited interchange available. Both teams managed to make their way to semi-final appearances, even though by quite different paths. The First team kicked off with 3 straight loses before winning 8 of their last 10 games and finishing comfortably on the table in 3rd only 1 point out of 2nd place. On the other hand the Reserve team got their 1st win on the board in the 2nd round but then battled through the rest of the season as a "middle" team, good enough to threaten the weakest teams but struggling to match it with the invariably fitter and younger top teams. To their credit in finishing 4th they played to a standard in the semi-final that showed an ability to match it with one of those teams and despite losing 2-0, clearly dominated the game without getting any tangible reward. The Firsts on the other hand had victory snatched from their grasp in their semi-final by one of the most dubious penalty decisions I have witnessed in 30+ years of being involved in soccer. Losing in golden goal extra time in a semi-final is not much fun, and after this has now occurred 2 years in a row, I think we may need to be seeking a little more "divine" support to prevent any such occurrence next season.

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 consistent Committee that is generous of their time, which have a real passion for soccer, and truly want the best for our players. I however call out that this group of people cannot continue with such involvement and engagement for perpetuity, and encourage anyone with the time and interest to look into becoming part of the Management Committee for 2016.

We once again wish Alan and Kim all the best in their involvement in the upcoming National Churches titles to be held at Narrabeen at the start of October. Their ongoing commitment and dedication to both our club and the wider NSW Churches Football Association is a huge responsibility that they never shirk or look to ignore. Their willingness to be involved and lead is to be applauded yet again.

This year, we again only committed to the one major fundraiser event, our running of the BBQ and canteen at the Castle Hill Model Railway Exhibition in late July. This weekend turned out to be a hugely profitable and successful commitment for our club, one that we will continue to maintain to service the club financially. Stand outs this year was the clockwork precision and organisation of the under 13 team parent group, with Drill Sergeant Moeser keeping all and sundry on time and in line! Many thanks to all those that gave their time over this weekend.

Special mention must also go to Alan, Naomi, Kim and a range of support crew for their ongoing running of our canteen each weekend at Excelsior. The income derived from their weekly efforts continues to be a huge financial benefit for the club and enables us to keep any costs passed to players to a minimum and reduces the need for excessive fundraising.

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 2015. I also raise a special thank you to all our team of coaches and managers, for their commitment and effort in shaping our teams and ensuring that St Columbas remains a competitive force in the NSW Churches competition.

I hope you all continue to enjoy and celebrate your involvement in soccer, and look forward to whatever 2016 will bring.

Matthew Smith

St Columbas President 2015

## AT A GLANCE - UNDER 6

### 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 enthusiasm to form a good competitive soccer team for next year, Players and parents forged excellent friendships and were always supporting one another.

Our 2015 recruits were a wonderful keen group of children who tried so hard to improve their soccer skills.

As Coach, I have had a wonderful year coaching the children and watching them grow their soccer prowess every week.

I have the best coaching job in the club as I experience team improvements far greater than any other age group.



### Player Round-up

**Louie "Quiet Achiever" Chen** – played the game in the quietest manner, even when he scored a goal no one, including the opposition was aware that Louie had got under their guard. Louie improved dramatically at the back end of the season.

**Finbar "Strikeforce" Duffy Brown** - a young man who developed the passion to score goals. Finbar joined the team half way through the season but caught on quickly to become our top goal scorer. Finbar's intense attitude to learn the game showed on the park at all times.

**Zac "Mr Tuff" Gillespie** – showed a lot of courage on the field and never took a backward step. Very keen to get amongst the action.

**Alice "Princess" Goldsmith** – was a real angel on and off the field. She was very gentle with her team mates and the opposition. Always volunteered to be goal keeper but late in the season Coach Alan realised Alice's long stride on the field was an asset to the team.

**James "The Mixer" Lansom** - this little man would mix and socialise with everyone, to the point where sometimes he would not worry what was happening with the football, although he was our first goal scorer in the season. James did start to show some intensity when he had the ball at his feet near the end of the season, which was pleasing to see.

**Abigail "Super Boot" Smith** – showed good ball skills with the ball at her feet. Abi earned her nickname as she scored the best goal of the season when the opposition goalie kept coming out of the goal throughout the game to try and stop any chance of us scoring. The goalie was outfoxed by Abi when she lifted the ball over the goalie's head to score a great goal.

**Miranda "Miss Socialite" Spillane** - a very friendly character and always willing to chat with her team mates. Early in the season I asked Miranda to do a drill, her response was, say PLEASE ! After this encounter we earned the respect of one another.

**Chris "Mr Courageous" Yoon** - Chris never feared being knocked down in a tackle, he took some heavy knocks throughout the season and just got back to his feet ready to go again. Chris had speed to burn and was brilliant turning defence into attack.

**Dominic "Fearless" Zunica** – showed true grit when playing goal keeper. It didn't matter how many opposition players were trying to kick a goal, Dom would always be amongst their feet trying to get the ball.

### Thank you !

To Matt & Adam for their assistance at training and on match days with the Interchange bench and refereeing our games when we did not have an official.

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 2016 season,

Coach Alan



## AT A GLANCE - UNDER 7



We have had a fantastic season. We had several new players join our team this year, and it has been great seeing the kids pick up new skills and build upon the skills they learnt last year. They have really developed and learned to work as a team this year. Once they learnt to pass the ball to each other we started to see winning results like 12 nil. Overall we finished the season with 11 victories out of 14 games, scoring an incredible 73 goals whilst conceding only 23.

The team this year was 10 strong. Issac starred in our first win, and continued to baffle the opposition with his fancy footwork throughout the season. He was often seen running the length of the field to score. Lily saved nearly as many goals as we scored, and her big boot swung us from defence to offensive.

Mark & Jade were newcomers to the team this year. Both were a little timid at first, but Mark's ability to block and Jades accurate passing both developed along with their confidence. Cooper & Arya joined us again this year. Both developed, not only their team work, but started to read the play and position themselves well.

Zachary & Jordan were also new this year. Both quickly integrated into the team. Jordan was rock solid, equally at home at the front or back of the field. Zachary always put in 100% effort, even when he played for the opposition!

Frederick and Alex were the backbone of the team. Frederick's golden boot scored us 27 goals this season, each individually celebrated. Alex, at the other end of the field, with a good ability to read play was able to outfox the opposition and feed the ball back up the field.

With a novice coach, whose only experience was warming the bench in the under 6's some decades ago, a big thank you has to go out to all of the parents and siblings who have supported us each week. Some weeks the parents were more excited than the kids.

Thank you for helping out at training, as well as helping out as linesmen. A special thank you to Matt for refereeing for us.

Hopefully we will see you all next year.

Coach Brian Corben

## AT A GLANCE - UNDER 9 ALL SAINTS

It was a building year for the under 9's with 75% of the players never playing soccer before. At this age group we required 9 players on the field and with 11 players registered we thought we would have had enough players but only on one occasion did we have a full team. It was more likely that we played short of players on the field. Even with this restriction, our boys showed great heart and tried their hardest.

Training was always interesting and they kept me on my toes. On multiple occasions I left with no voice after yelling for the whole session but with many of the guys having a cheeky personality it was hard to keep a straight face and we usually laughed as much as we trained. The excuses I heard and the amount of shoes that had to be re-tied in an attempt to get out of doing laps or sprints was amazing.

### Players

Liam Collyer - Liam was keen to make goalkeeper his own and as an added bonus, he turned out to be a great keeper and saved us on many occasions. On Liam's first occasion having a run on the field he scored a cracker of a goal.

Chris Dodd - For his first year Chris was a natural as full back and learnt skills quickly. When we were without a goalkeeper, Chris stepped up and again was a natural and we would have had a lot more goals against us without him.

Joseph Hqdchiti - A cheeky guy with a big kick who over the year took in everything I taught him and became a key to our defence. Talked plenty on the field and helped players around him hold the correct position.

Zach Hughes - Our rock in defence, from the start of the year till the end he did everything that was asked of him and grew to control the defensive line.

Lewis Antoun - Lewis grew throughout the year to become a terrier on the field. During a game, he would not back down to anyone and would even go mad at me for making him take his turn on the bench. Lewis came within centimetres of scoring his first goal on one of his rampaging runs.

Landon Emmas - Landon was solid in defence and played hard during the games. He was a key member of our midfield and controlled the centre of the field

Nick Peharda - Always tried during the games. Nick was another key to our centre field control and was unlucky not to score on a few occasions.

Callum Findlay - Larger than life and kept me on my toes but it wouldn't have been our team without him. During a game Callum was a bulldog that went hard for the ball.

Ricky Lee - Ricky was my multiple skilled player that I could play in defence, midfield or attack but his main position was the work horse of the midfield.

Caleb Robertson - Caleb was one of our experienced forwards and was starting to create a deadly attacking partnership but unfortunately due to a family move, was unable to play the second half of the season.

Liam Sydenham - Our striker and top goal scorer Liam menaced the opposition during many games by dribbling around multiple defenders before having a shot

Although I was stressed every Saturday morning for the entire game, I enjoyed my year coaching the lads and very proud of every one of them.

Jordan Moeser - Coach





## AT A GLANCE - UNDER 13/14

2015 was a highly enjoyable and rewarding season for the team with great improvement across the park by all the boys.

We welcomed a number of new boys to the team this season, with Aiden, Adrian, Andrew, Luke and Sanjou, joining Callum, Arvish, Ryan, Josh, Christian, Sam, Ethan, Yasiru, and James.

The boys all played exceptionally well over the season after a slow start, beating or drawing with all but one of the teams that went through to the finals, and without some bad luck would have beaten them all over the last 6 weeks.

The boys played up at least one age group, and in a couple of cases 2 years but they all put in 100% which is all I can ask as a coach and was very proud of the boys.

We also had a number of boys who this season represented the team, and club in the representative team for our age group, and performed very well and doing the team and clubs proud.

Thanks to all the boys and I hope you all come back to build on the great efforts, skills and teamwork built up over the season and take it to the next level 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 – 2015



## AT A GLANCE - SYDNEY CUP RESERVES



### Sydney Cup Reserves new comp, new strip , new belief

The St Columbas Reserve grade all age team joined the Sydney Cup this year in a 6 team comp with the bulk of the same squad as last year with 5 new players to bolster our team. Joining up with first grade squad 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 with a hard fought match against Castle Hill Baptists and only lost 2-1 which was the best result we had all season against the top 2 teams. After that game we hit form with a great win against St Barnabas 6-1 but as the season progressed we could see that there was a gulf in class between the top 2 and the rest of the competition and it was up to us to improve as a team and try and get into the last 2 semi spots.

In the second half of the season our passing and combinations started gelling a bit more. We made a few tactical position changes thanks to a discussion at training with the 5 players that showed up that cold Wednesday night and that gave us a new belief of making the top 4.

For the first time in a couple of years we made the semi finals finishing 4th with the 3rd best defence and the 4th best attack with 23 goals scored. Now when I say 23 goals we shared around the goals this year with 11 goal scorers and 12 if you count own goals (thanks to Aaron and Simon) but golden boot for our team was shared between Nathan Wanders and Ben Pullen on 4 and James Windeyer a close 3rd on 3.

In our semi against Wenty Blue we started well and really pressured them early and kept their strike weapons quite but just couldn't find that last pass or shot to make it count. Even after conceding 2 goals we never looked out of the match and pressured the opposition to the very end throwing ourselves at every tackle and half opportunity. Unfortunately like the rest of the season we failed to convert some of our chances and we lost 2-0 but it was a good effort to go out on. Thanks to all players for their team work and their effort this year. I'm a very proud captain.

Thanks also 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.

#### Reserve grade 3,2,1 results

1<sup>st</sup>: Daniel Treacy 122pts

2<sup>nd</sup>: Simon Miskell 71 pts

3<sup>rd</sup>: John Massingham 67pts

4<sup>th</sup>: Reece Hagan 62pts

#### Aaron Bailly

**Captain - 2015**



## AT A GLANCE - SYDNEY CUP 1ST

### Sydney Cup 1sts – Season Wrap 2015

Deep into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of extra time in a sudden death semi-final, an opposition player is undeniably fouled inside the penalty box, resulting in a goal bringing our season to an end... sound familiar? Well unfortunately for the Sydney Cup first team déjà vu struck again this year, with the winter of 2015 eerily echoing the outcome of 2014.

This season we welcomed a group of new players to our squad ranks, which gave cause for some optimism in the new Sydney Cup competition. The average age of our squad may have even decreased! However, 3 weeks into the season with 3 losses on the board, and the news that our "gun" Irish import was to be unavailable for some time due to Saturday work commitments, there was trepidation that 2015 could have been a season too far for some.

Enter Sports Apparel Australia with a new playing strip. Gone was the "Total Football" approach of the Oranje army (sorry guys circa 1970s reference), and instead Real Columbas was born, complete with a couple of overpaid superstars upfront (Poppers don't come cheap these days) and defenders on perpetual contracts with no bonus clauses! We even managed to lure back a winger of some repute who was neither Welsh nor left-footed, but Justin Hall provided some much needed graft and intent that was to be invaluable for the remainder of the season.

To the credit of the core playing group, with a bit of tinkering in our structure and attitude, we then went out and beat the competition leaders and eventual minor premiers, Castle Hill Baptist in a deserved hard fought 1-0 win. From there the "juggernaut" gained momentum, and across the remainder of the round robin season we only lost 2 further games, a tight 1-0 defeat to Castle Hill courtesy of a 90<sup>th</sup> minute penalty (ending with 9 players on the field), and a further loss to the Wentworthville Uniting side that ended up being our semi-final opponent. In true Real Columbas style this year we decided to disregard the poverty of 1 point on offer for draws, and somehow managed to be committed to either winning or losing with no real intent to do so. To win 8 out of our last 10 games was a reflection of the momentum and success that almost enabled us to climb into 2<sup>nd</sup> on the ladder, eventually settling for 3<sup>rd</sup> on the table behind Castle Hill and Sutherland.

Through this period we were pleased to find comfort in the ability to score goals across a number of players in the team, with Nathan and Blake contributing up front, but also welcome goals being produced from the likes of Goldie, Ben Hamer, Justin, and Ben Pullen. Shoring up things at the back GP (when not taking throw ins!), Cam and Toddo, with support from Michael, Pete and Nathan at various times, produced the tightest defence in the competition conceding only 16 goals compared to the 32 goals scored.

With the experience and knowledge we were able to field, it was easy to admit that no other team in the competition could match us for combined technical ability across the park, and therefore we knew we could be a threat to any team on any given day. This meant that during the majority of games we were able to dominate possession and impose our style onto the opposition. Results became dependent on whether we were effective at using this possession in the attacking third or showed the required intensity to do so, and whether we were able to manage and contain any quick counter-attacks or pace when possession was lost.

Unfortunately as the season reached its climax, suspensions and a couple of soft tissue injuries through the spine of the team structure probably cost us some confidence, intensity and belief in winning the real contests within the game, that we were unable to regain (or strap up!) at semi-final time. If anything given our success and will to dominate games through the middle of the season, our performance did prematurely peak and opposition teams did find ways to frustrate and restrict our structure and style at the back end of the season.

Without dwelling on the semi-final outcome, where we probably were not at our best but did enough to win an even game when leading 1-0 with 10-15 minutes to play, it is frustrating and disappointing to write that our most important game of the year was influenced by a refereeing performance that has the capacity to overshadow the team's success throughout the rest of the season.

## AT A GLANCE - SYDNEY CUP 1ST .... CONT'D

What cannot be faulted is the team's willingness to continue to turn up on game day and perform when not at their best or when not expecting to perform certain roles. I'm pretty sure Goldie could have covered every major muscle group in both legs on semi-final day with some form of strapping tape and yet he did turn up with an attitude of wanting to contribute. By the time that particular game came to a conclusion our squad was representing a veritable collection of "walking wounded".

So, should we be disappointed that our season finished abruptly when semi-final victory could and should have given us another crack at Castle Hill and the chance at a grand final? Naturally, my answer would be a very large YES. However, given our limited turn out and inability to commit to training as a team through the season and other factors already mentioned, we can still unreservedly consider the season a success.

The Sydney Cup competition apart from the drawbacks of a 6 team format, was a standard of soccer that suited our squad and gave us the opportunity to involve and engage new and younger players within the core of the team. Our appreciation goes out to Goldie and GP for their organisational influence, and thanks to the Reserve team players for all their support whether via on-field cameos or by running a line throughout the season. Special mention must go to Ethan Sydenham who managed to show us all that he is far more agile on the line than his father, even though some referees were determined to deny the young man the opportunity to show his competency in the art of the assistant referee.

So farewell to season 2015, thanks for the memories and let's look forward to 2016. If you remain fixated on the disappointment of the end of this season, look no further than the advice of one sage experienced player that when seeking consolation, look no further than a 6 pack of Poppers in front of the TV on Saturday night as a means to reminisce and reflect, and come back fitter and stronger next year!

Matt Smith

Captain - 2015



## SPONSORS & AGM

### Club Sponsor



St Columbas Soccer Club truly appreciates our sponsors support & assistance

### Sponsor Packages for 2016

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

### Annual General Meeting

To be held on 13th October @ 7:30 PM

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