

ST COLUMBAS CASTLE HILL SOCCER CLUB

2016 End of Season reports





PRESIDENTS REPORT

The 2016 soccer season is almost done. Another Winter season where St Columbas Soccer Club has yet again had reason to reflect on a welcome level of success both on and off the field. Our club continues to hold its own without necessarily flourishing, and I continue to hope that our members enjoy and engage with others in the wider soccer community. This season was marked by a significant number of weeks and weekends disrupted by rain and ground closures that meant that it felt like the season never really gained any flow or momentum.

Our Junior club this year comprised of 3 teams across the under 6, under 8 and under 14 year old age groups. Unfortunately just as occurred in 2015 we dropped a team from within our Junior ranks. However, offsetting this disappointment was the level of success and engagement experienced by all our junior teams this season.

The under 6 team, taken under the wing of yours truly, welcomed the return of a number of players from the previous year and a number of new players that saw us carrying a solid 10-11 players through the majority of the season. While being competitive in the initial rounds of the season without necessarily coming out on the right side of scorelines, the return of the "Zac Attack" mid-way through the season was a turning point in giving us the cutting edge to turn the tables on a number of our opposition. The final match of the season against a strong Guildford McCredie team was a fitting finale, with all players and parents highly involved, and in a close contest with several highs and lows, we pushed the opposition and ourselves to the limit. We now wait for 2017 and the opportunity to develop and enjoy ourselves even more.

Coach Alan stepped up to take on our under 8 team this year. While at times we were unfortunately hamstrung by the fact we only had 9 players registered to play 9 a side, the quality of the individuals within the team shone through in remaining one of the top 2 teams in the competition throughout the year. With a real ability to score goals and an attacking penchant across the board, not many teams were able to stay the distance with our team. The season culminated in finishing 2nd in the round robin competition and a semi-final match up against a perennial foe in Guildford McCredie. In a very tight and competitive semi-final, we were disappointed to lose 1-0 (the first time in 4 games with Guildford that we had lost in the year) but hope that with a few more resources and structure next year that we can definitely go one step further.

The under 14 team stepped out into the Granville District competition this year. Led by Scott Moeser, the team has had an exceptionally successful year qualifying for the semi-finals of the competition and winning through to the Major Semi Final at the writing of this report. After having many near misses on playing finals football in the Churches competition, it is tremendous to see the long term commitment of a solid core of the team being rewarded this year. The success of the team is a real credit to Scott and the commitment of the young men that he now guides through the season.



PRESIDENTS REPORT CONT'D

The Senior club this year maintained a squad of 2 teams placed back into the Raahauge Cup Competition. While player numbers looked relatively good on paper, the absence of some players for significant periods through the season meant that we struggled to put out consistent teams with supporting numbers for the majority of the year. Throw in some standard attrition due to injuries and dare I say “age”, and it was a relatively demanding season in a very competitive 6 team competition in both grades. While never wanting in effort and intent, both Reserves and Firsts teams had the ability to be competitive without really delivering the “killer” blows when required to be successful. The First team in particular achieved some very strong results against much younger and motivated teams initially, however by the 3rd and 4th rounds, either the wheels had fallen off or “Father Time” had caught up, as results went into a downward spiral as the season closed. Disappointingly and apparently quite historically neither Senior team qualified for semi-finals this year.

The core of our club, the Management Committee and our Managers/Coaches continued to support our players, and teams in a variety of roles and capacities. I once again call out that this group never shirks responsibilities or commitments required, and for that we should be extremely thankful.

We once again wish Alan and Kim all the best in their involvement in the upcoming National Churches titles to be held at Narrabeen this year. They have continued to juggle responsibilities for both club and the NSW Churches Football Association, and provide a very positive level of engagement and direction across both platforms to enable us to succeed. We also wish Ethan Sydenham all the best in representing NSW City under 14 at the National Tournament this year.

On a positive note our club remains financially stable, with the ongoing income from our canteen and our one major fundraiser event, the Castle Hill Model Railway Exhibition support in late July, maintaining a level of additional income that provides the club with an ongoing capability to support our players and teams. Significant outlay has been incurred this year in uniform and equipment purchased with no negative impact on the overall status of our finances. All teams provided solid and capable support to the Model Railway Exhibition, which continues to be a profitable and rewarding commitment for our club. 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 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 wish to thank my colleagues across the Management Committee for their ongoing engagement and involvement across all tasks within our club this year. The 2016 Winter season is almost done, we now look forward to the warmth of Spring and the heat of Summer, and who knows possibly next year a season of no wet weather and a few 10-team competitions.....?

Matthew Smith

St Columbas President 2016

AT A GLANCE - UNDER 6

The 2016 season for the Under 6's started with a few players returning for their second season of soccer and a welcome good number of children who had never played before. We were fortunate that Matt was coerced into stepping back into the coaching role after several years away from the coaching responsibility.

Ultimately we became a very competitive team through the course of the season. While some of our returning players had a disrupted season due to travel and illness, when everyone was available and willing we were able to field a very strong team that did not step back to any other team in the competition.

Overall a fun year was had by all, with a few tears, a few cheers, but plenty of laughs throughout. We saw all our kids improve throughout the season in some way shape or form, and there can be no denying that the disruption of a number of rained out games, while we were actually on a bit of a roll winning games, left us wanting more at the end of the season.

A few highlights of the season included;

First Ever Goals scored by – Rohan, Jacob, & Ryan.

First Five Goal haul in a game - Zac reached an epic milestone that not many players ever achieve in scoring 5 goals in one game.

We also competed at the June Long weekend Six a side competition. Under sunny skies and with six players raring to go, we had a fun day all round. After losing our first game of the day – I think it was the manager's fault as she was running the team as Coach Matt was refereeing another game - the rest of the day went well, with two victories and a shot at a semi-final. Unfortunately, we walked away wearily from the semi-final losing 1-0 to the eventual competition winners.

Tuesday night training was always fun, with plenty of Mums and Dads more than willing to give Matt a hand with drills and games. The Coach's quizzes at the end of training at times gave us parents a real laugh and a few very cryptic answers from the players that left everyone a little confused and bemused.

We look forward to whatever 2017 brings, we hope to see our kids back to enjoy and learn while playing soccer. Thank you to the support team around our players - parents, siblings and extended family were a common sight at both games and trainings – that made it both an enjoyable and happy environment for all.

Naomi Smith

The Real Under 6 Team Boss

AT A GLANCE - UNDER 8

Manager's report

Despite it being a rarity to sport a complete team on the field in any given week, the kids never gave up and their endurance grew throughout the season. They participated in the 6-a-side gala day in June, and despite last minute changes in the team, played beautifully together and successfully came home smiling as champions, defending their under 6's title.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to all the wonderful parents, supporting our kids on the sidelines every week, and never hesitating to lend a hand with setting up or packing away the goals, or kindly agreeing to be linesman at short notice. Your support and assistance is highly appreciated.

The team has learned a huge amount and developed knowledge and skills to help them succeed throughout the season. It's been lovely to watch it all come together as the season progressed and see them play as they practised at training, truly coming together as a team. They are a credit to themselves and their amazing coach. Without Alan's time, patience, drive and dedication to teach these kids the game and strategies, they would not have come as far as they did and developed as a team together. I'm sure I speak for all the parents when I extend a mammoth thank you to Alan for everything he has done for the kids this season. Your hard work has made it a very successful and enjoyable season for all.

I hope to see you all next season.



AT A GLANCE - UNDER 8

U08 Division LIONS Table								
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Points
Hills Spirit White	14	11	2	1	73	5	68	35
St Columbas	14	11	1	2	81	12	69	34
Guildford McCredie Red	14	6	3	5	57	15	42	21
OLQP Red	14	5	2	7	24	76	-52	17
Wentworthville Gold	14	2	2	10	12	59	-47	8
Hills Spirit Blue	14	1	2	11	9	89	-80	5

Coach's Report

It was great to be reunited with some team members I had coached earlier when they were Under 6's. The players have truly developed some fantastic skill sets in this period of only a couple of years. This is a joy to see, knowing the club has been investing time and effort into our good young players.

2016 was a successful year being the first age group (Under 8) competing in a real competition where the players could follow their teams results and performances against other club teams each week. The teams achievements are exemplified in the competition table above.

All in all, an excellent year for our Under 8 team, just missing out on the competition final with a 1-0 loss in the semi-final. The team did manage to win the "6-a-side" title which is a marvellous effort.

Nicole, I totally agree with your sentiment that our parents were magnificent helping us each week at training and on game day.

Helpful and cooperative parents really do make the Coach and Manager's job so much easier - a **BIG THANK YOU** !

All players and parents should be very proud of their efforts throughout the season, **WELL DONE !!**

Next year we will go one better and give that title a big shake.

Coach Alan



AT A GLANCE - UNDER 14

2016 has been a great season has been an enjoyable and rewarding season for the team with great results across the park by all the boys.

We welcomed a couple of new boys to the team this season, with Jagad and Genesis, and the returning Chris and Marc joining Aiden, Adrian, Andrew, Callum, Ryan, Josh, Christian, Sam, Ethan, Luke and James.

With the limited numbers in the Churches association, the team has moved to play in the Granville Districts competition this season. The boys all played exceptionally well, winning our way through to the finals competition, finishing the regular season in third.

At the time of printing, we have won our first semi-final on penalties after a very tense extra time, including a great save by our goalkeeper Chris of a penalty late in the extra time. We play the major semi-final next week with high hopes of progressing further into the finals.

Each boy has contributed to the strong results each week and to the great season we have had, right from the great new keeper we have found, a defence that has been very tough to break down, an exciting and skilled midfield that have worked so hard on creating opportunities going forward, but also got back to help out in defence when needed, and finally a forward line that has scored a lot of goals throughout the year, but has also spread the load with all members of the front line contributing to the haul of goals. This season Luke was our top scorer.

We also had one of our boys, Ethan, who will this season represent the team, and club in the NSW CFA Nationals for his age group, and we wish him good luck and most importantly have fun.

Thanks to all the boys for a great season and I hope to see you all back next season to build on the great efforts, skills and teamwork built up and take it to the next level.

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



AT A GLANCE

RAAHAUGE CUP RESERVES

Raahaug Cup Reserves go through a difficult season

The St Columbas Reserve grade all age team went back to Raahaug Cup this year in a 6 team comp with a similar squad as last year with 4 new players to bolster our team. We started the year worried about the numbers we had for first and reserve grade but for most games of the year we were able to field full teams each week.

Thanks to all the new players that joined our team this year. They bought into our squad some more enthusiasm and they easily moulded into the team to play some good football during the year.

We started the season with a thud of a 6-0 loss to Macarthur where we ran out of legs but we could see some good passing moves in patches that made us think we could build on that team work. We came back well the next game to record a 3-1 win against St Matthews. Heading away to Tempe the next game with about 14 players for both grades we knew it was going to be a hard game. We ended up with a 0-0 draw which was both disappointing and relief given Ben Hamer scored but finding him not on the team sheet the goal didn't count but at least we got to at least keep the 1 point.

Other memorable games:

Rd 5 Away to Kings Old Boys - Team soaked up some early pressure as Kings had plenty of attacking flare but couldn't penetrate our goal. We had issues scoring this year but something clicked and via a few set pieces we found ourselves 3-1 up in the second half. Could we hang on? Unfortunately the Kings team managed to draw level with minutes to play but we continued to look for another goal to end the game. Unfortunately your wayward captain Aaron Bailey misjudged a crossed ball and mishit a clearance straight into his own net. Sorry Bruce.

Rd 6 Away to Macarthur - Team played one of our best games of the season to post a 1-1 draw against the team running second. We were 1-0 up with minutes to go when we conceded late.

So our season ended with only 2 wins and 3 draws with 14 goals scored across 9 goal scorers to finish last in our grade. Even though we finished last, I thought as a team we worked well together and showed some great moments of good ball movement, running off the ball but just lacked some final passes and clinical finishing to finish the season higher.

Thanks to all players for their team work and their effort this year.

Thanks also to all the first grade players that helped us out on the bench this season and to the reserve grade players who helped out first grade.

Also I would like to thank Goldie for his help in organising both teams as well as organising the collection for John as he battles cancer. The mateship of our team mates keeps us strong.

Reserve grade 3,2,1 results over the year

1st: Simon Miskell 83pts

2nd: Aaron Bailey 79pts

3rd: Daniel Treacy 70pts

4th: Matthew Brien 64pts

Aaron Bailey



AT A GLANCE RAAHAUGE CUP FIRSTS

It's that famous cliché, but what could have been. Whilst it took a few games to get the 1st win, by round 5 we were 3 draws, 1 win and 1 loss. All our draws were against the best teams in the comp and we were more than competitive each week. By round 8 we had knocked off Strathfield 5-1 and were sitting nicely in 3rd position. Defence was rock solid and we were actually scoring some goals. Unfortunately that's as good as it got and the usual mid-year injuries, people away, people unavailable, people missing in action and the results started to go south. Call me old fashioned but the commitment to training is generally a good indicator on how we'll perform on Saturday. By mid-year this was sounding very true. With the usual 7 -8 each week (that was a good week) it is difficult to expect to go out and be competitive for 90 mins each Saturday. We certainly showed in patches during games how good we could be, but lack of fitness was always going to be our downfall.

Wet weather certainly didn't help our cause, but at the end of the day where we finished and how we competed was a direct outcome of this attitude. A bitter pill to swallow I guess, but that's the reality. On a positive side, we did show we can be very competitive and more than capable of matching the other top teams. Let's take that positivity and build for a better 2017. Thanks again to Goldie who continues to ensure we actually get on the park each week. The efforts behind the scenes may not be openly acknowledged but we all appreciate everything you do.

Bring on 2017.

If football is not our go we will be world champions at football volley ball. (for those that trained, we became very good at this)

GP

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Please contact **Alan Spaul** for further information
Mobile: 0404242001

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