



Annual Report – Season 2016

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# President's Report – Malcolm Arnold

2016 has seen a lot happen at our club. We again had record player registration numbers and operated for the first time as Epping Football Club following the need to break away from YMCA. Fortunately, we continue to enjoy a good relationship with the Epping YMCA and still consider ourselves partners with them in the community.

Work finally also started late in the season on the long awaited redevelopment of West Epping oval after a number of false starts. It is expected to take 40 weeks or close to a year, but if we are lucky we might see some games on the new synthetic pitches in the 2017 season. The total development is costing council \$8.7m and includes not only new state of the art synthetic soccer pitches but also new parking and access, parklands and more – it will be a great asset to the club and the community once completed. We made plans for alternate training grounds this season but only partially used them and are confident we will again get the support of council to train at other local facilities during 2017 while works take place.

On the field this winter our players have enjoyed their soccer with lots of positive comments from coaches and managers throughout the season in discussions, match reports and the end of season presentation day wrap ups. Our coop training for the mini players in U6 and U7 was in its 5th year and again proved a valuable component to ensure the success and enjoyment of the game for all our coaches and players in our youngest ages.

In the GHFA boys / mixed competitions we had a high number of first division teams this season, fielding successful 9/1, 10/1, 2x13/1, 14/1, 17/1, 19/1, 45/1 and Super League. Not only did we field lots of high division teams, but in all the competitive ages we performed strongly with 13/1 Blue winning the grand final, 14/1 winning the grand final, 14/3s runners up, 16/3s runner up, 17/1 being crowned premiers, 19/1 winning the grand final, 35/2s runners up, AA16 premiers and AA17 runners up.

On the NWSWF girls side we were equally successful with 9 of our 11 competitive age teams making the semi-finals, and 5 from 5 who made the grand final winning – this being our 13/1, 15/1, 18/1 white, AA5 and AA2 teams. We now have 2 girl's and 2 boy's teams going on to represent the club at the highest level in the state champion of champions tournament – good luck to our 14/1 and 17/1 boys and our AA1 and AA2 (qualified for U21s) girls.

The success on the field this year has been demonstrated by Epping Football Club having been crowned GHFA Club Champions while we are also awaiting formal notification of similarly winning the NWSWF club championship at their AGM in the next couple of months. Winning both the boys and girls club championship is a massive achievement and something the club has never done before. We have enjoyed success as club champions in recent years on the girl's side but no one can recall when and even if we have won the GHFA boys club championship before – but certainly not in the last 20 years. This achievement reflects on the players, coaches, managers and parents who all show great commitment to the club and the wonderful game of football.

A big thank you to all our coaches and managers of our 2016 teams – your efforts sometimes go without praise but the club would not be the same without you. Regardless of the results you and your team may have achieved this season, player enjoyment, smiles on faces and seeing the players return again to play in 2017 should be your only goals.

Lastly a big thankyou to our 2016 committee who have worked tirelessly as volunteers to ensure you and your families all enjoy your football experience at Epping Football Club – their efforts have been even more pronounced this season with the transformation to Epping Football Club – and what a great first year it was – with many more hopefully to come.

Malcolm Arnold – Club President 2016



# Treasurer's Report – Kim Ross

Our first year as Epping Football Club, what a great season it's been.

We've made a net profit of \$12,673.73. This is \$8,000 down on last year due to the following:

- Registration fees increased by just over \$7,000, which is fantastic.
- We received a distribution from our West Epping Summer Soccer joint venture of \$8,000
- We outsourced the canteen. Last year our net revenue from canteen was \$6,000
- Sponsorships were down \$3,600
- Due to the re-branding of the Club, we spent \$44,000 on new shirts and equipment this year, last year our spend was only \$32,000.
- Hornsby Council increased their hire charges and as such ground hire charges were \$9,500 this year which is significantly higher than the \$3,000 we paid last year.

We currently have \$124,537.11 in the bank. We still have Presentation Day/AGM/Seniors Presentation expenses to be paid which will total approx. \$10,000.

Our bank balance is quite high at the moment as we've been conscious of needing a contingency fund for anything required after the redevelopment of the grounds, e.g. canteen fitout, club room, etc. We are also planning to purchase new Club jackets for all players in 2017.

All-in-all a great season of soccer and financial management.

Kim Ross – Treasurer 2016



*\*(club financial statements can be found in the Annexure)*

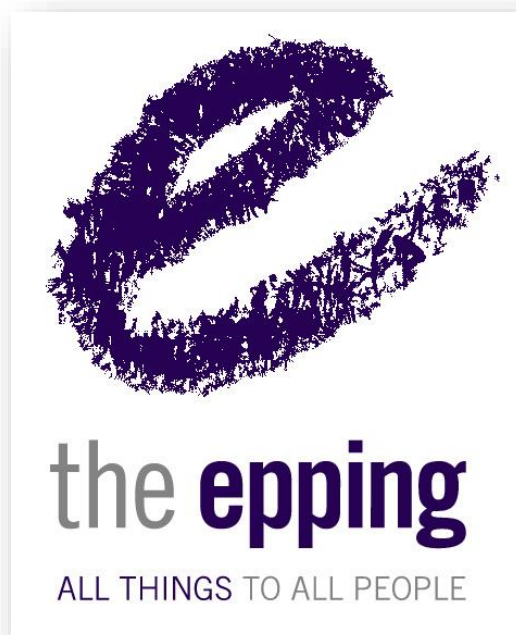
## Our Sponsors

We're hugely appreciative of the support we get from our sponsors; they help the club from a financial point of view, enabling investment into facilities for both junior and senior teams alike. It's with their support that our club can continue to grow and offer first class facilities to our members.

Their support deserves ours.

Where you have the opportunity, please choose one of our sponsors for your next purchase.

# McGrath Heath Dockary







# Season 2016 Awards

## Ron Bolton Award

**PK Kunalan** – PK has worked tirelessly this season, as well as prior seasons, as our North West Sydney Women's Football Association delegate and registrar. Roles that require a significant amount of work prior to the season starting, and ongoing throughout the season. In addition, PK is also one of the coaches for the Under 15 Division 1 Girls team who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the premiership but went to win their Grand Final.



## President's Trophy

**Under 15 Division 1 Girls** – Awarded for their efforts in consistently helping out other teams in the club throughout the season, including a number of girls helping out on grand final day and playing in the Under 18 Division 1 grand final before their own and winning both. A truly superb effort, with fantastic results.



## Heath Dockary Spirit of EFC Award

**Evan McKie Under 16 Division 3** - Over the course of the 2016 soccer season Evan has again established his reputation as a dedicated and respected member of the 16/3s squad for the Epping Football Club. Without doubt, Evan is a stand out to be nominated for this award, and is a deserved winner.

At 16 years of age and having already notched up 11 years with EFC, Evan continues to amaze with his constant high level of respect shown for not only his team mates but that of the opposition as well. He is the first to step in to diffuse heated situations and the first to encourage his team mates to lift for the each other. He leads the post-match cheer for the opposition and always offers his hand in appreciation to the opposition regardless of the result. His coaches continue to be impressed by Evan's dedication and application to improvement, not only in his own football skills but that of his overall team participation. As a football player Evan is committed to doing his best to represent himself, his team and his club at every opportunity in the best possible way.

Evan has attended training at every opportunity throughout the season and gives 110% through the 1.5 hours per week together, constantly working hard to improve, not only his individual skills but also that of the overall team. The dedication he applied in training during the season has translated to not only his individual success, but also on the field as a team, where his team was able to finish outright 2nd in a very strong division. He excels in his preferred role of centre back, having now become one of the most valued members of the team through his absolute dominance of this position, reinforced by his ability to keep the entire back line structured week in and week out. He continues to listen to instruction and apply, and ask questions about how he can improve in applying the instructions he is given.

Ultimately, these qualities are those that make an individual exceed in any area in which they apply themselves, both on and off the field. For Evan, these attributes he lives have helped him become an integral part of the team, and it would be hard pressed to find any parent in the team who would disagree with Evan's qualities as an individual both on and off the field.

## Perpetual Trophy Awards

Trophy	Recipient
Coach of the Year	Jimmy Cross
Most Improved Junior Team of the Year	Under 14 Division 1
Best Junior Girls Attacking Team	Under 18 Division 1 White
Best Junior Girls Defensive Team	Under 13 Division 1
Best Senior Ladies Attacking Team	All Age Division 2 Blue
Best Senior Ladies Defensive Team	All Age Division 1
Best Junior Male Attacking Team	Under 17 Division 1
Best Junior Male Defensive Team	Under 16 Division 3
Best Senior Men's Attacking Team	Under 19 Division 1
Best Senior Men's Defensive Team	Under 19 Division 1



## New Life Members

Life Membership is awarded to a select group of dedicated people who have given a tremendous amount to Epping YMCA Football Club. This award is given not for just years of membership, but for loyal and dedicated service, striving to improve the organisation of this Club and junior football in general. Life Membership is the highest individual accolade the Club can award any to any individual, given in recognition of many years of additional voluntary service that any individual member may provide, either in their playing or non-playing capacities. It is open to all financial members of the Club, both male and female.

**Mitch Bradshaw** - Mitch began his career with the club back in 1986, joining as an Under 8 player and playing all of his junior football with the club, including two premierships and grand final wins in Under 12s and Under 17s. Mitch then joined the Premier League Squad in 1996, playing through to 2014 (missing 5 years whilst overseas), holding roles such as reserve grade captain for many years, reserve grade coach for two, and squad manager for several.

Mitch has also been on the club committee for 6 seasons, initially as newsletter coordinator, but then as results officer, sponsorship officer, website coordinator and finally as Club Secretary in 2016.

The club is delighted to welcome Mitch to a very select group of Life Members, all who have contributed to make our club outstanding over many years. Importantly, it's not only been his deeds on the pitch, it is the commitment he has shown to the club off it over many years, that makes Mitch a worthy life member.



# All Age Division 1 Women

A tougher season then last year for the defending champs, we started the season with a strong side and were just starting to gel when we lost Ash with a bad knee injury, followed closely by Kath as we headed into the back end of the season. Our saving grace was that we had an experienced side and could call on our AA/2 sides for support. Which helped see the EFC girls claim the premiership again. Which was no mean feat, unfortunately we ran out of legs in the semi's and missed the Grand Final which was very hard to watch from the sideline, let's hope that the girls can regain their fire and give next season's comp a good shake.

Dave Smith – Coach

# Under 6 Girls

What a memorable time we have had with these girls and their families...

First season for all but one of our 8 players as well as first time coaching and managing!

At the start of the season training was let's say challenging as both girls and coach had to get used to the coop format. But as we got our head around it we started reaping the benefits.

We finish the season with a game that truly showed how much the girls have learnt and how far they have come. Everybody contributing to the very exciting game which showed such skill with the ball - girls confidently defending, tackling and turning the ball, getting into space, passing, setting up and scoring multiple goals!

It has been a pleasure coaching Adelaide M, Annalise B, Charlotte M, Eva R, Pippa S, Sanduli B, Yvette F and Zoe H.



Thanks once again to parents for their support and getting the girls to training and to those early Sunday morning games.

And to Dads - Chris B for all the refereeing and guidance to the girls during the games and to Mo R for stepping in as coach when needed (ie when coach and manager had their own game!)

Kate Rengaswamy and Cathy Huebner

# Under 6 Green

The 2016 season was a great one for the u6 Green team (aka “the Super Eagles”).

Three of the team (Neo, James and Marcus) were back from the previous year – another year older, wiser and more experienced! They were joined by their preschool friends BK, Nikayla, Florian and Hari, some of whom had experience in the summer soccer season and were raring to go for their first shot at the big time – the winter league!

Expectations were high, and the team quickly found its groove early in the season. For such youngsters there was some terrific football on display, much of which was captured on video by the Manager and stored safely away for the epic end of season video.

Most pleasingly, all of the players developed their game during the season and the team were able to start passing the ball to other team mates in space and learn the basics of positional play. In fact, there is video evidence (of course!) of a number of great team goals involving good passing movements between two or three players.

Unfortunately, many of the games were rather one-sided affairs so the team was not challenged at times. We did meet our match late in the season and this was a good reality check and an important learning experience for the Super Eagles, who I think had come to believe they were Real Madrid. These tougher games will be more important for the development of the team in the years ahead.

Well done to Nikayla, who was a very valuable member of the team and gained in confidence as the year progressed. She scored a couple of great goals (but unfortunately they were missed on video!!) and was equally happy to pass to a team mate to take the goal scoring glory.

Florian made amazing progress over the season and was a revolution for the team – his ferocious tackling was incredible to watch despite sometimes being half the size of the opposition players, and his silky smooth dribbling runs set the crowd alight each week.

James was goal-scorer extraordinaire and was often on the end of great team moves to put the ball in the onion bag. The next step for him is to know when to pass to a team mate and when to dribble himself.

Neo had another great season and his passion for the game has really grown. A real all-rounder, he was always hungry for the ball. It was very pleasing to see him being at the centre of a lot of team passing moves and he really has come a long way over the past two seasons.

BK was a great new entrant to the team and did most of his work in the defensive half, often being the last line at the back to thwart the opposition’s attack. He also scored a memorable goal with a fantastic shot from around the halfway line!

Marcus, with pace to burn was always lively and keen to get the ball. He missed the first few games of the season whilst on holidays, but didn’t miss a beat on his return. He ended the seasons as another of the team’s leading goal-scorers, but also had the energy and awareness to make runs back to support in defence.

Harry had a great time with his mates during the season, after backing up from his first soccer experience in the summer comp. Although he didn’t get as many touches on the ball, he always had a smile on his face and gave his best.

Finally, we need to acknowledge the parents who are a great bunch and all encouraged their kids and let them play without fear or favour. Participation at Friday night training was also excellent and consistent throughout the year, even though at times it was bitterly cold – no doubt the wine and picnics helped!

The parents put up an epic effort in the end of season match vs the kids, but got denied by a last second goal. Most importantly they survived the contest without any pulled hamstrings or twisted ankles! Next year we’re going to step it up a gear kids, and get the mums on from the start (not late in the game after a few glasses of red)!





Well done the Super Eagles on another fun and successful season!

Mark and Jenny Callagher

# Under 6 White

What a year for our boys! It seems like so long ago that they all met for the first time, keen to pull on the blue and white kit, keen to lace on the boots. Maybe it feels like such a long time ago due to the development of the boys throughout the season. Both Joel and I were thrilled to see how hard the boys worked on improving their skills, how they became braver throughout the season, and how they were prepared to try new elements of the game when asked.

Most pleasing of all, however, was the joy on the boys faces every Saturday. If there was one focus we wanted to instil in the boys, it was a love for the game. I think we did ok in that department, certainly, lots of goals help too!

Connor - Our goal scoring machine! Whether it was tap-ins or dribbles from our own half, Connor certainly knew how to find the net!

Nicholas - Our colossal defender! Nick loved to hang back, sweep up the through-ball before launching it forward for another EFC attack on goal. Didn't mind a long range goal too!

Tom - Our little terrier! Always hustling and bustling for the ball, and once won, would be straight back up the field after another goal.

Zach - Our All-rounder! Zach came on in leaps and bounds throughout the season, developing into one of our best tacklers, and even managed a few goals to boot.

Ben - Our Poacher! Ben loved to lurk around outside the box, waiting for the loose ball so he could slam it in with a powerful left-foot shot.

Corbin - Our Runner! Surely Corbin covered the most amount of grass over the season, despite having the least amount of kicks!



Finally, thank you to all the parents, grandparents, family and friends that came down throughout the season to support the boys on a Saturday morning. You all made for a fantastic atmosphere that genuinely contributed to the boys having such a wonderful season.

Mitch



# Under 6 Purple

Mini players of the u6 purple team had experienced a whole wonderful season. Some of them played soccer for the first time in their life and the fun, spirit and friendship built through the games are great. The players as well as parents were very committed and enthusiastic to every match. Most of the time, the team has no rotation, that's why all the little players shall be highly praised for fully participating every game.

To Daniel: you are really a great player. Your dribbling skill and strong willingness to win led the team standing out for quite a lot of games. And it is great to see you became "passing aware" at the end of the season. I truly look forward to see you become a star player in the next few years.

To Aiden: you are a fantastic quick runner, good at attacking, tackling and defending and always stay focused. Not talking too much, you soon became the favorable player in the team. And at every training session, other little ones desperately tried to be on your side.

To Justin: You are the one who made the greatest progress. From knowing nothing about soccer to the one who can dribble, pass and score. The skills you gained through the season impressed us all. Your awareness of teamwork surely helped the team and will help you to become a wonderful player.

To Ian: You are a fantastic defender. You are fearless and your block tackles greatly helped the team. You also made an impressive progress in terms of dribbling and passing skills. We all look forward to your first score in the next season.

Wang Ning



# Under 7 Purple B

What a season. Awesome players and awesome friends. Six eager kids who didn't really know each other came together to play soccer. They have walked away winning all their games bar one, having a lot of fun, learning new skills and making new friends. Congratulations to our coach Jan Louis and most importantly the team...

Emily, ever effervescent and full of positivity.

Cooper, cool as a cucumber and what a boot you have.

Kody, excellent kicker and both feet too.

Luka, top defender and future goalie.

Vincent, turbo fast, tenacious and super striker.

Aleks, awesome all-rounder and rule abider.



Wishing you all the best Under 7 Purple B!

Paula Ninkovic



## Under 8 Orange B

The Dragon team mixes with a few players from last season and 3 boys came from interstate and overseas. Some of them have less soccer experience, the skills were improved dramatically over this season. At the early stage, the team usually lost with big scores, but gradually the gap was narrowing, and we eventually won some games while approaching to the end of the season.

The team players start from struggling to control the ball, progressively some of them start to pass the ball and support other team mates. Throughout the season our boys have improved their understanding of soccer game, as well as other skill sets, team work spirit, endurance. Also the interest to play soccer has been greatly improved.



Each team member has their unique character and brings their own strengths to the team.

Austin Xu: A valuable member with a strong body, with a combination of great dribbling skills, passing and defensive work. He is tenacious and never gives up; he has fun playing and listens to the coach and feedback.

Daniel Xu: Daniel is good at defending. He always understands the important of his position. And usually successful destroy the attack. And helps our strikers with his famous long kick.

Steven Zhou – Steven reads the game well and makes him free to receive the ball then pass to the forward line. He is normally part of the combination of scoring a goal. He was always showing a willingness to win and never give up attitude; this brings the whole team forward to finish the game while in a loss.

William Li: with gifted controlling ball skills, enabling him to dribble around to go for goal, and he was particularly good at to choose the best time and place to receive the mid field ball passing, then organise the strike.

Frederic Lan: A fast player with lots of energy, could out run the opposition and dribble the ball through players, Fred had a good strong kick and a great aim and was able to kick goals from a long way out. Fred always played with excitement and passion of being out playing soccer.

Patrick YE: fast runner in the field to tackle the ball and gradually gains some confidence to control the ball. Good at left leg strike however right leg shooting needs to improve. Patrick has shown his potential in the middle / front field, he still has hesitation to push himself to be more prepared to master key skill sets such as controlling & passing & striking.

Oscar Ma: very good at middle and defensive back position. He has solid body to defend the ball with good running skill. He always tries to take the ball from the opponent before that player reaches the defenders and quickly mount a counterattack. His kicking skill needs to improve when is needed to have a big and straight kicking to pass the ball from back to the front immediately.

Brandon Liu: Brandon is very fit physically and willing to take the goalkeeper position to prevent ball from entering the goal. He is a very powerful defender to tackle the opponent. He needs to act swiftly to stop the ball or direct the ball to be away from the goal.

Jonathan Zhu: Excellent ball dribbling and aggressively running with ball to enter the front field. He has shown his potential to be the forwarder and striker. Very calm and reliable in the field. He needs to practice more playmaking skills.

Arthur Ye



# Under 9 Blue

Congratulations to the boys this year on a fantastic season.

Coming off a disappointing season last year whereby the team only came away with two wins having to adapt to the bigger field with more players, this year we witnessed a more determined and aggressive team and the results were a complete turnaround only losing two games the entire season. What impressed me the most was how the boys worked together even when the game looked lost to fight back when necessary to come away with the chocolates. Throughout the year I witnessed each and every one of the team develop their skill set and taking what they had learnt at training each week onto the paddock on game day. It didn't always work out the way we had practiced however I could see the effort that was being put in week in week out. This development was further advanced by the selection of five of the boys into the GHFA Training Squad. I am confident more of the boys would have made the squad if available.

Whilst it is difficult to keep 9-year-old boys focused during training sessions for an hour (many push-ups and burpies were performed throughout the season) it became evident to the boys that repetition of drills made them better football players on game day. Last year it was a struggle to get the boys to play various positions throughout the season. I found less resistance from the players once they realised the benefits of learning each and every position.

I must thank all the parents for getting the boys to both training and games on time each week and for the Dads who learnt the art of refereeing very quickly and a big thank you to both players and parents for putting up with me throughout the season. It has been an absolute pleasure to be involved with the team this year. All the boys have put in a tremendous effort and received quite a few bruises from some very aggressive oppositions that were getting frustrated by how the game was going. Each time the boys got up dusted themselves off and got on with playing positive attacking football. We scored 63 goals and conceded 34 over the season.



Well done on a very successful season and look forward to seeing you all back next year.

Stuart Mercier

# Under 9 Red

The year has been a perfect balance of Fun, Football and Family.

The team started with 9 boys coming together and starting training. Right from the word go, the boys demonstrated a lot of enthusiasm and energy on the field. Some had better skills than others but all had the eagerness to play.

Within a few weeks we were able to assess players who were suited as forwards and defence and were able to play the team in positions that they were comfortable in. As the season progressed the boys showed tremendous improvement in the understanding of position play.

The spirit in which each game was played by the boys and the gamesmanship demonstrated on the field was exemplary. Through the year I have had a few instances where the coaches and managers from the opposing team have commented on the fairness in which the game was played post the completion of the match irrespective of the score line.

We have definitely identified some superstars who will no doubt make it to the higher grades next year.

All through the season we had great support from the parents be it during training, helping with the game time snacks even picking up and dropping boys if any of the other team parents needed help. This was truly a team that was family oriented and worked for the common good.



All in all, it was a fantastic season which also reflected in the overall performance during the season.

And finally boys being boys while there was no official count of wins kept, the team won all the matches bar 1.

Marlon Miranda



# Under 9 Brown

I had three aims for the boys in my debut season as a football coach:

- Have fun
- Win some games
- Improve as individuals and part of the team.

After a nightmare first training session, this appeared a pipe-dream but full credit to the boys who came to training with great enthusiasm, listened intently and practised hard.

We were buoyant before the first game with Thornleigh, being rewarded with a 5-2 win including a hat-trick from Alex Mao. The good form continued, with an unlucky 2-3 loss to Ryde Panthers and much the better of a 1-1 draw at North Epping Rangers.

Next was a 1-5 defeat to a strong West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook side despite some stunning goalkeeping from the aptly named DJ Custodio. Joshua Wang scored again though we lost 1-3 to Normanhurst and then 0-4 to West Ryde Rovers before winning the return 3-0 with some help from our "Blue ring-ins."

There followed a 1-6 demolition by the impressive (and frequently offside!) Redbacks, before respite in a 4-0 win over Thornleigh where Kanishk Joshi scored on team-debut.

An abandonment was followed by a frustrating 1-1 draw with Normanhurst who broke to equalise in a game we'd bossed, Dean Xue with a goal scoring bow in midfield.

Dean's move from defence allowed the initially circumspect trio of Mitchell Clarke, Jonathan Huang and Ryan Li to really find themselves in our defensive line, becoming ever more resolute in the block and determined in the tackle and absorbed the message to "pass to the sides, never across the middle" (Even now they probably wake in a cold sweat, this mantra ringing in their ears!)

The only real disappointment came at Pennant Hills who broke the deadlock on the stroke of half-time and then added 6 more after the break after our heads dropped though Kenzo Kubota tried hard with some wonderful tackling-back.

It was thus a heartening response to an early goal by Macquarie Dragons scoring with some fine interplay, ultimately being denied at the death 3-4 through some questionable refereeing.

Shorn of players in the holidays we fought hard but lost to Ryde & West Ryde either side of another abandonment before the final crescendo:

With Kanishk, Dean, Alex & Toby Woodford attacking with great verve we gained sweet revenge over the Redbacks with a stunning 8-2 win with in my opinion our finest performance of the season against strong opponents. Kanishk followed his hat-trick with 5 goals the following week against Thornleigh where Rayan Bhat continued his hot streak against them with a brace in an outstanding 8-0 win.

Rain drew the season to a premature close denying us a crack at scoring eight 3 weeks running.

I hope we attained our first aim – I know I certainly enjoyed coaching the boys. As for the second – what Coach doesn't want to win more games!

The third aim was certainly achieved with every one of the players improving individually and definitely within the team. The late goal-glut was clearly a delight, but of greater value were the games where we really pulled together despite facing superior opposition, generally standing up to the challenge.



Thanks boys and good luck in your future footballing careers!

PS: Thanks to our Manager Kellie Clarke and Adrian Woodford & Chung Xue for all your on field help!

Yogesh Bhat

# Under 10 Green

We had some mixed results throughout the season but the overall skill level improved dramatically from the start of the year.

The boys listened carefully and developed into a well-disciplined side. This year for the U10's was the first time the boys were introduced to playing a new formation and they took to it very well. Our passing game was really impressive at times with the boys creating lots of brilliant team goals

**Harry Brown** – Started the season as the rock center of our defense but excelled when moved into the center of the midfield midway through the season. Here he showed his best qualities like his passing and his ability to keep and turn with the ball. If Harry continues to develop these skills, he can become a great football player.

**Connor Fouracre** – Connor is a fast winger who is good at getting past defenders trying to stop him. He had a good year and developed a lot over the course of the season. He is very good at making his way up the field being a pick part in the attack.

**Arpith George** – A handy player who can play almost every position on the field. Arpith was our top goal scorer this season. Playing mostly as a striker, when he wasn't he was still able to make his way to the goal. His ability to run through defenders with the ball towards goal was very good.

**Luke Gurney** – Although Luke wasn't always able to make it to the games when he played he always gave 100% effort. When on the field, Luke always did his best to win the ball back for the team when in defense.

**Geonwoo Kim** – Played most of the season on the left side of defense and was our most consistent player this season. His passing game and his ability to keep the ball was very impressive. Geonwoo's best trait is that he is very hard working, always at training early to get more work in, proving that the extra practice paid off with many man of the match performances.

**Samuel Lai** – Missed a number of games at the start of the season due to an injury in training, Samuel came back into the team and was able to get up to the level that the other players were on after more training sessions. He is a strong tackler and was good at stopping the other team in their tracks.

**Blake Rundell** – Our goalkeeper who starting the season very well and was continued to improve. Blake pulled off many brilliant saves, was very good at coming out of his box and clean up loose passes and being able to manage his defenders on corners very impressively. Blake was a big captain-like figure in the team.

**Dean Sinai** – One of our trickiest players, Dean used his skill and speed to beat defenders and create goal scoring chances in every game, as he was often the fastest player on the field. He was a big contributor to the goals we scored this year, more often than not he was setting up the goals or scoring himself.

**Danny Tan** – Another strong tackler in the team, Danny was another part of a solid defense this season. His tackling and his passing improved a lot since the start of the season and I hope can continue to improve these things.

**Jason Wang** – Another one of our tricky players, Jason was also good at making his way through the opposition defense towards goal. He was one of our best attacking players who could attack goal well whether he was in the midfield or up the top.

**Jayden Yen** – Another player who could play multiple positions well. His highlight of the year was Jayden being played as a striker for the first time and scoring **four** goals that game. Jayden is a very physical and determined player on the field which made him very good at turning defense into attack.

**Special mentions** – Special thanks to our manager this year Lesley Fouracre, who helped our team a lot to find players when we were short on multiple occasions and making sure everyone was ready come game day.

Also a special thanks to Andrew Brown, who help me out coaching as he already knew the boys from previous years when I was meeting them all for the first time. His help helped me out massively with getting to know the boys.

This season was my first as a coach and it was made much easier and enjoyable because of this young, energetic and sometimes crazy group of footballers. I hope they continue to play and learn, and also continue to enjoy they game as much as they already do.

Jake Richards



## Under 10 Yellow

This was a team made up of a handful of players who had been with the club a number of years and added to with a number of new boys.

The team had a good mix of talent with a number of individually skilled players but many hard workers, The team showed promise early on and quickly developed a style of play that was to become complimented by many of our opposition teams. The boys learnt to maintain possession and confidently controlled and moved the ball around the field for long periods at time. The composure and confidence the team showed was indicative of a team many years older.

The team went through the season undefeated except for 2 games, one being the very first game of the proper season where the boys were up 3-0 and dropped off second half to lose 4-3 in the dying moments and the second being a narrow loss to a physical and direct Glenhaven team mid-season when we had a few players away.

The results were not important, as it was more about developing the boy's individual skills and team play. There were some wonderful goals during the season with high quality lead up play and at the same time some brilliant defense and superb goal keeping from Tristan.

All the boys are to be complimented for the way they trained, played and committed themselves this season. The coaches went out of their way to ensure all the boys were rotated around and played all positions throughout the season to assist with the learning. Every single one of them had special moments, too many to mention individually. Players player went to Dilshan who had a wonderful season, playing well in multiple positions but exceeding at striker where his pace and vision lead to many goals.



Looking forward to 2017 already and hoping all the boys return!

Daniel Obando

# Under 11 Orange

The U11 Orange team was a new team of players who had various skill levels and experience. Some players had never played club soccer before whilst others had a few years of experience under their boots! And so it was up to the boys to come together, bond and grow as a team. It was also Coach Faisal's first endeavours in coaching as well as my first season of managing a team. From the beginning the boys had enthusiasm for the game and a hunger to improve their skills. The challenge was to harness this enthusiasm and to teach the boys about positioning and playing in formations rather than running everywhere and getting tired. And so, players were trialed in different positions until we had a team that was competitive.

Eric was our first choice as keeper and what an outstanding job he did. He was very effective and stopped many chances! Complementing him in defense was Hridey, Yuyang, Joseph and Tony. These four were fantastic defensively, Yuyang and Hridey were very solid and powerful whilst Tony and Joseph would win balls and feed them to the midfield with confidence anew.

Aaron, Danny, Justin and Nikolas were our thinking midfield, providing the link between our defense and attack. Justin impressed with amazing skill and a never give up attitude whilst Aaron would go for great effective runs forward after intercepting the ball. Nikolas excelled with accurate passes and Danny would attack skillfully as well as drop back to defend when necessary. The forwards comprised of Samuel, Zakariya, Shiv and Kingsley. Shiv was a late inclusion in the team but his deft touches with the ball were a pleasure to watch. Samuel and Zakariya had a natural ability to play and lead the boys both on and off the pitch whilst Kingsley had infectious enthusiasm and was the most vocal of the players, always giving them support.

A great first season together which saw many victories and a tally of 59 goals scored in the 16 games we played. Justin top scored with 14, Kingsley with 10, Samuel 9, Zakariya 8, Shiv 7, Aaron 4, Nikolas 2, Eric 1. So enthusiastic were the lads with soccer that after most games they'd be playing on the field long after the final whistle blew!

A big thank you to the parents who provided support at the games and yummy snacks at half time. Thank you to Joshua for linesman duties each week and Peter for wonderful photos of the boys in action. Thanks goes to Faisal for sticking his hand up to coach and to John for additional coaching support.

Tina Haniotis





# Under 12 Division 4

The 2016 Football season has been a building process for the Under 12/4 team. After numerous changes, some of the team were new and the increase in field size, most of the boys had never played together before. Much to the credit of the coach Jordan and the spirit of the boys, they quickly gelled into a team. I would like to congratulate all players firstly for coming to training and to the games each week to show off their skills to the opposing teams. To the parents, a special thank you, the boys appreciate your efforts.

The team started the year strongly, with up and down results during the mid-season games, the boys embraced the larger field and increased players on the field. There were a number of teams in the fourth division that may have been playing down in grades, this made some of the games lopsided in score line, but the boys never lost heart. As a spectator, the games were enjoyable to watch and always highly entertaining.

Daniel, Cooper, Rahoul and Justin showed flashes of brilliance all year, with great matches in attack. Marcus, Nathan, Jayden and Joshua all played well in the mid-field and were assets in moving the ball through to the forwards all season, some even scoring goals. Ned, Lewis, Jayden, Hero, Anthony and Inesh were our defense experts. As a new combination, the backline took time to gel. By the end of the season, they had become a well-oiled machine.

Special mention to our number one goalie, Josh who saved us most weeks with his outstanding efforts.

The later part of the season showcased the boys starting to play in formation and as a team. Team work is the main quality we worked hard to achieve all season. It seemed to be a short season due to the washed out games this winter.

No one member of the team was instrumental in our success; it came down to good team work every week, from all members of the team.

The end of the season produced some good results, even the loss to Hills Hawks was outstanding, 0-1 with 11 players, no reserves, against a team that had a 70 - 3 for and against record and reserves on the day. You should be proud of your efforts.

Special mention goes to Jordan the coach, countless hours of time and patience have gone into getting the team skill level to where it is today.

The boys have enjoyed the season and look forward to next year, the Under 13's.

Mark Sallway

# Under 13 Division 1 Girls

What an amazing season – the girls finished equal first last year and missed the minor premiership on goal difference and went on to win the grand final in dramatic circumstances. We lost our 2 best players this year to representative soccer and were unsure what 2016 would bring.

We recruited well in the off season with Jade, Michaela, Charli and Abi joining us and the girls started the season well with a 15-0 win in round one – we built from this and the girls never looked back – we ended the season with an impressive record of 13 wins and 1 loss with 58 goals for 1 against in the normal season. The one loss came with girls away and was 0-1 result against the team we would eventually face in the grand final.

The one goal conceded in the normal season was a penalty and the girls went on to keep clean sheets throughout the semi-finals and grand final. I doubt I will ever coach and that these girls will ever again play in a team that does not concede a single goal in open play for an entire season – an absolutely amazing achievement and a defensive effort the girls should be very, very proud of.

The girls improved as the season went on but our biggest challenge ended up being the huge variation in opposition we faced. One week it was 10-0 and the next it was 1-0. Despite this, the girls were consistent all year and worked hard at training at getting the basics right and developing their game. Every single one of them contributed throughout the season at different points. The girls are at an age where many of them have played for a few years and they are starting to find the positions that the most naturally fit. Most pleasing was the fact that the team relied on no one individual and we won games no matter who turned up.



Grand final winners 2 years in a row is a wonderful achievement - I am prouder of the girls this year as they had a lot more pressure on them to win after such a wonderful season. Backing up to win it a second time is always harder, especially when you are the big favourites.

Mal Arnold

# Under 13 Division 1 Red

A fantastic season this year with all the boys putting in a fantastic effort.

We finished second on the ladder just missing out on the premiership and we were so unlucky not to play in the Grand final.

We had a good pre-season and went through the first round pretty much undefeated. We struggled to put the ball in the back of the net in a few important games in the second round and then just missing out on EFC vs EFC grand final.

I was really impressed with all the boys this season giving every game a 100% and most of all never giving up especially when the opposition managed to score first.

The boys have improved throughout the season and the quality of the football is outstanding we were competitive in every game and were just unlucky not to finish on top.

With seven new players to the team this year it was great to see the boys develop friendships and all becoming such good team mates. I have been coaching the boys for a number of years now and it's great to see not just the boys becoming such good friends but the awesome parents as well supporting us each week. It was a wonderful season and the boys should be proud of the effort they put in this season.

A huge thanks to Lex for Managing this year and also for Pat who helped me throughout the season. I hope all the boys will be back next year for another great season of football.



This year's 2016 13/1's (red) team consisted of -

Ben & Luke Sweeney, Corbin Strauss, Cameron Ainsworth, Charlie Gordon, Caleb Harris, Josh Fornito, Hugo Day, Jacky Chu, Max Depalo, Trystan Speers, Lachlan Baikie, Regan Cooper-Phillis, Daniel Jung, Adam O'Connore, William Armstrong.

John Sweeney



# Under 13 Division 1 Blue

After winning the 2015 premiership and lifting the champions trophy with only 2 losses in all of the 2015 season, high expectations of a successful 2016 campaign were unavoidable for 13/1 Blue team. However, any hopes of a repeat season quickly vanished!

Injuries plagued the team from the get go, with multiple players nursing broken bones before the first round even started. For whatever reason, whether it be injury or the boys going through the early teen emotional changes, the chemistry and confidence that was in abundance last season was suddenly in short supply!!

The team struggled to find their rhythm in training and were disjointed on the field. The opposition teams on the other hand were hungry to knock off the champions, and inevitably the Blues were defeated many times in the 1st round.

Naturally frustrations started to bubble to the surface for players and coach, as the theme continued on with injuries and defeats, scraping the occasional win to keep the team in the middle of the ladder as the 2nd round progressed. The team was humbled, however Mal's belief in the team never wavered and he reminded the boys of the great soccer they were capable of playing. Most importantly the focus became to get the boys enjoying their soccer again!

Deep into the 2nd round the boys were faced with a must win game against Ryde Panthers to ever have a chance of making the finals. With only 9 players available for much of the game, the tenacious character of the team re-emerged and they held on for a 1-0 win. It was unspoken but we all knew that game was the turning point....

The boys were hungry for more wins and seemed to click now they were the underdogs. The injuries eventually went away, and smiles started to return to faces during training. Everyone was having fun again, yay! The team started to play the sort of soccer fitting of their champions label and wins kept coming, 7 straight in fact.

The winning momentum carried the boys into the grand final where again their character would be tested with a number of boys not 100% on the day. We held on in a scrappy affair to beat the premiers West Pennant Hills 1-0, and earn the title of back to back champions!



In 2015 the boy learned they could play good soccer, but in 2016 they learnt to overcome adversity as a team and to emerge victorious. What will they learn in 2017? We can't wait to find out!

George Varga



## Under 13 Division 3

Formed from scratch in 2015 it was pleasing to see so many of the boys return for the 2016 season. This year the team also welcomed Darcy, Thomas, Alex L and Marlon to the 3's along with new coach Luke Barlow.

The year started with a couple of losses, including a 5 nil defeat to eventual division champions Thornleigh SC. But round 3 saw the boys start to put things together with a win in their 1st game of the season by beating Ryde Saints 1-0. Wins came throughout the season but there were more losses than wins. When the boys got it right, they were awesome to watch. On those days I have no doubt they were capable of beating any of the teams in the comp. The season ended up with the boys having 5 wins, 1 draw and 8 losses to leave the 3's in 6th place. But the boys really started to build momentum in the second half of the season. The washouts in July did the team no favours as they had the potential to go on and win the Pennant competition. Sadly, with only one game played the Pennant did not get to completion, but all the signs were there that the boys would have given the other sides a real run for their money.

The team's results are only a part of the season story. One of the main goals this year was to ensure that the boys not only learnt new skills and were competitive but also that the team enjoyed the experience. It's clear all three of these aims were achieved in spades. Every single one of the boys improved markedly this season and I believe they all had fun doing it too. The team played with a competitive spirit, but always in a fair manner to their opposition and respecting the officials. The boys all grew their appreciation of teamwork and trust in each other. They made friends and teammates. This was the best story of the season.



To single out one or two players for distinction would not do the team justice as it's fair to say all the players played their part in a great season. So to Darcy Barlow, Denny Choi, Geordie Dooley, Girish Ganapathy, Oscar Halloran, Kobe Kubota, Aarav Kumar, Thomas Lee, Alex Li, Tarlin Lou, Jack McFadden, Marlon Morrish, Alex Moses, Timothy Otypka and Arthur Ziogas. Congratulations on a great season boys, you not only made your parents proud but you should also be very proud yourselves.

Finally, a big thank you to Luke Barlow who took on the role of coach this year and did a fantastic job of steering the young men of the 13/3s through a wonderful season.

Jon Moses

# Under 14 Division 1

We started the season with a lot of promise and after the first few weeks we were looking good, especially with our formation. Unfortunately, we dropped a couple of games mid-season and slipped down the table, regardless of where we were on the table we were able to show the other strong sides that we were a force. When we were on the boys were hard to beat, our main issue was finishing off sides as our build up play was much improved. With further structural changes implemented by Dave Paine the squad managed to pull it all together for the semi's, rolling Hills Hawks, North Ryde and then WPH's in the Grand final. This game was a highlight for the season, but for what should of been a huge moment, it lost some of its magic when Jamie was hurt badly in a tackle. Hopefully a speedy recovery will see him back on the park for 2017 as we are missing him currently in the FNSW champions of champions competition. We were asked to represent after the u14 premiers pulled out. The boys have made it to the top 8 so far and hopefully can progress further on the 9th of Oct.

Dave Smith





# Under 15 Division 1 Girls

In a tough competition we were more than competitive all season, only losing two games (one in the premiership and one in the championship).

As the season wore on the girls stayed physically strong, which was more than can be said for the coaching staff who suffered through dodgy knees, a pulled hamstring and finally coach Seddique outdid everybody with his torn ACL (basketball is a rough game, maybe he needs to give lawn bowls a try).

In the end we just failed to win the premiership by one point after drawing some games in which we were really on top throughout the match but unfortunately we were unable to put the ball in the back of the net often enough.

Starting the championship with a draw and a loss required a lucky sequence of events for us to make the Grand Final – a 2-0 win for us and WRR to beat Sharks. To quote a very wise man – “you know that that never happens” – but this time it did and we were through to the big one by the slimmest of margins.

Grand Final day saw our best performance of the season, dominating both possession and field position without the required goals being scored (the story of our season). Finally, five minutes from time, Mikayla showed us how far she has come in her first year of football by holding her composure in front of goal and scoring the winner. So, we can report a Grand Final victory and another successful year for this Champion team.

A big shout out to our defence who only conceded eight goals this season, easily the best in the competition, against some sides with very good attacking players. And well done to all our girls who helped out by playing up for both U18s teams, it was a big effort to step up three years and I’m sure you all learned a lot, you certainly didn’t look out of place.

We hope to see everyone back next year for a big effort to win the premiership so we can have another crack at Champion of Champions.

Mark Powell



# Under 16 Division 3

We found ourselves in division three this season which seemed surprising after a reasonable finish in division two last season. However, having lost 5 players from that team it gave us a chance to regroup. It seems that there were some issues with grading for this age group overall, as we saw some shifting across all divisions mid-season, which seemed to even things up a little for some of the teams that were struggling. We welcomed Richard and Kevin back into the team, and new members Christopher and Angelo. All team members continued to build on their skills and strengths throughout the season, and it is great to watch the camaraderie which has grown amongst the members of this team, as so many of them have played together for many years now. They continue to show a love for the game, along with great team spirit and sportsmanship.

Our season was strong, we won 11 of our 14 premiership games, coming second and just one win away from being premiers. We also won both round robins, giving us a berth in the grand final, which we unfortunately lost to Glenhaven (Season Premiers) 2-1.

Playing in the grand final was a highlight, as was winning the club award for best defensive team, with only 11 goals scored against us during the premiership season. We also had the best GD result for our division for the season. It was also a highlight to see our team member Evan awarded the EFC Spirit of Football award at the club Junior Presentation Day – an award that is very well deserved, not only for this season, but over the 11 years he has played for the club.

Our team members this year have been:

Christopher Chung – Centre midfield, good at pushing forward and demonstrates great distribution of the ball  
Ryan Delaney – solid in his role as one of our goal keepers, spending some more time this year up front and gaining in confidence in this role.

Tim Emamooden – has played in a number of positions, showing a particular affinity to his role in defence. Tim always gives 100% and is very supportive of his team mates.

Kevin Ge – playing mid back, Kevin is a determined defender who consistently chases down opposition attacks

Harrison Gordon – has shared goalkeeping with his pivotal role in the forwards. Strong keeping skills and has contributed much to our attacking game, scoring many goals throughout the season

Richard Jegal – midfield attack, always gives 100%. Scored several goals throughout the season including an incredible goal in the grand final

Brian Kim – as always, solid and reliable in defence, Brian continues to be a valuable member of our team

Leo Lim – plays midfield attack; solid, pacey and on the ball!

Evan McKie - our centre back. Evan continues to support the team both in his defensive role and in his consistent encouragement of the team throughout the game. Evan's reputation for sportsmanship led to his Spirit of Football award this season

Angelo Mendonca – has played in many positions throughout the season with great enthusiasm. He is persistent and a valuable team player.

Tom Russell – A consistent goal scorer, Tom is known for his trademark runs down the left wing to either score or produce great passes for others to complete the play.

Oscar Sheehan – settled into a strong defensive role this season, very dependable and worked well with Evan to provide a formidable backline

Cam Timmins Smith – Attacking midfield, Cameron is a very creative player. He is tenacious, appears everywhere on the field and never, ever gives up .

Mitch Waghorn – has had a very strong season this year. A stalwart of our forwards, he is fast and powerful resulting in a number of goals over the season

William Zhang – Also a long term team member, Will is fast and persistent in defence. A valuable part of our backline

Mark Gordon – our coach for the third year in a row, he has put in a lot of effort to support the boys once again this season, imparting his knowledge of the game and working with the boys to improve their skills and strategies.



It has been a pleasure to be a part of the team once again this year. Thank you to the boys for their co-operation and enthusiasm throughout the season, Mark for coaching them, and to all the parents who come along each week and support the boys through cheering them on – as well as the more practical support such as running the line, filling in as referees, being prepared to set up and undress fields and drive them to their games and training.

Karen Bosward



# Under 17 Division 1

This year started with great anticipation and high expectations after a brilliant 2015 which saw the team win the club's best junior defensive team award and narrowly miss out on a grand final spot.

2015 was all about changing the philosophy of the team and playing attractive possession football. 2016 was all about enhancing what was learnt in 2015 but also winning the premiership.

Unfortunately, before a ball was kicked in 2016 we lost 3 important players from our super effective defensive unit including Big Steve who required surgery that would see him miss the entire season. On a positive note we recruited Lachlan, Aman, Adam and Sam who are all quality players although all prefer attack to defence.

Using the players available at his disposal the coach focussed more on attack and like the great 70s-80s West Indian cricket teams planned to score more goals than the opposition. Many early games saw us behind by 2 or 3 goals but the continued raid after raid on the opposition defences finally wore them down and we became the victors. This was achieved by regular substitutions and interchanges of the forwards and midfielders so all the attacking players were fresh and eager to attack at every opportunity. Unlike previous years the team this year had so many attacking options that it was difficult to sometimes accommodate them all hence we had to play some players at the back who were unaccustomed to those roles. This actually made the team more well-rounded and resembled the Dutch 'Total Football' philosophy and approach of every player being able to play any position and be able to attack and defend at any time.

The game that defined our season was the third last match of the regular season against current leaders and old rivals West Ryde Rovers who totally dominated us in the first round. This was for the premiership but unfortunately out of our 15 players, 2 were out injured and out of the 13 remaining, 5 should not have played as they were injured as well. Our team was 'busted' and all looked grim before the match. The coach tried everything to inspire the team including using the legendary 'Al Pacino' motivation speech but pre game the boys looked despondent. But sometimes when faced with adversity special things happen but more than likely teams get hammered. Well on this occasion my friends the former occurred and the boys played the game of their lives. We beat WRR 2-0 in the most complete 90 minutes of football the team has ever played.

This was a magnificent premiership winning season and very well deserved and full credit to the players who listened and really bought into everything the coach was saying. Big thanks also to our manager 'Vegas Mick' who helped out warming up our keeper and the players on game days, provided the muscle when needed, was a good springboard for ideas and was a good listener to the coach's frustrations at times.



## The Team:

Daniel 'Super Dan' Lee – was an inspiration in goals and leapt to 'Michael Jordan' heights that nobody his size should be able to do and that was without wearing Nike Airs.

Matt 'Flash' Chung – he is here, he is there, he is everywhere. Bamboozled the opposition and his teammates with his extended solo runs. Never say die like the battery.

Will 'Wev' Evans – really matured as a player and person this year and may finally come to realise how good he can actually be.

Melique 'Mel B' Martin – very versatile and can play equally as good in the defence and in attack.

Nathan 'Norwich' Drobnak – captain courageous who was Mr Reliable every match. His pre match huddles and high voice motivational speeches worked a treat.

Brayden 'Dewey' Dilley – took one for the team and played most of the season at sweeper and looked like he has played there for years. Cheeky on and off the pitch but glad he is on our side.

Tommy 'Rashy' Farquhar – once he stopped copying his dad and giving away penalties became a quality and reliable defensive midfielder.

Lachlan 'Fax' Carfax – ruled the midfield and held things together when things got tough.

Adam 'Moose' Moussa – all class in the midfield and scored some crucial goals.

Peter 'The Pistol' Rubie – was our secret weapon at times and played through injury and pain.

Stephen 'The Rat' Bessis – must have had a target on his back as he was fouled more often than any player. Passing of the baton this year as he scored more goals than his dad for the first time.

Oliver 'The Man' Mills – just as effective setting up goals as he is scoring them. Nice moves on the dance floor just like on the field.

Aman 'Super A' Sandhu – remember the name. Goal scorer extraordinary. Really missed him for 4-5 weeks when out injured.

Nick 'Nick G' Glasson – on his day he can finish like the best of them. Nick scores when he wants.

Sam 'Tree Root' Lucas – pleasure to have around and goes good when he listens or when his mum watches him play.

The team now travel to Dubbo to play in Champion of Champions. Look out the season is not over and we are looking for more silverware. See at the Bathurst circuit – The Midnight Rambler.

Coach Nick Bessis

# Under 18 Division 1 Women

This season was another enjoyable year for me with the girls. The girls continued to improve as a side and have played some good football. Our best game for the season was against this season's premier's WPH's, who we played off the park with a bare squad. But were unfortunate to lose the game in the last few minutes of play after leading. Let's call that a bitter sweet moment for the season.

The girls owe their improved game play to themselves as they worked hard for their result's this season, as most training nights you could count on the majority of the squad attending. Let's hope we can keep the group together for next season, the challenge will be to see if the girls want to stay in the u18s or move into the all age ranks. We also said good bye to a few of our regulars due to this being their HSC year, let's hope we can see them back on the park for EFC in 2017.

Dave Smith



# Under 18 Division 3

The Under 18/3s season started with an exceptional pace with us coming up with several wins. Furthermore, we had the lowest goals against and one of the highest goal differences for the competition.

The team was only about 4 games in until tragedy struck our golden goal keeper George, who was struck in the kidney. That game was a turning point in the way our team played the rest of the season. We may have won that game 4 – 2 against North Epping Rangers however our keeper George had lacerated his kidney and was out for the season. We pushed on with our replacement keeper Viti who was a new addition to our team this year. His first game as keeper was played against the brutal Hills Hawks and Viti was taken out within the first half. The replacement was one of our key strikers who jumped to the opportunity – Luke who played keeper for the majority of the season. Our second keeper was out with a broken ankle this time round. Our team without any goal keepers got back up and played through the rest of the season with uproar. Luke played many games and finally got to show that a striker could play keeper as well. Our defence improved tremendously with Sean, Kevin W, Lawrence, David, Mathias and Eugene all excelling in their respective roles. Our centre mids fought well with regards to holding their position with Clement and Kevin C and Rag playing their roles exceptionally well. Our wings as well were most likely the best in the whole competition with players Hon, Alvin, Harry and Paul all gaining many assists in the competition, and finally our strikers consisting of Seth and Matt played beautifully in the front lines against brutal teams and managed to score many goals.

On a side not special mention must go to the most consist ineffective goal scorer being Rag for missing more than 15 goals from 3 metres out, well done Rag.

Props go to the many goal keepers talking George and Viti's position being Luke, Hon and especially Kevin Wong who all played brilliantly.

A beautiful season played by the boys and good luck to them for the rest of the year, hopefully we can come back again next season with most of the goys for another round of rowdiness.

Paul Forrester

# All Age Division 2 Women

As the dust settles on another great season for EFC (I still have trouble NOT saying, "Go the Y"), Congratulations to all of the winners – I think we are Club Champions in both associations (unofficially) and for the women's side of the club this is about the fourth time in five seasons. Simply amazing. Congratulations to the committee for their efforts. Also, cannot wait until we get the synthetic pitch.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of the side and in particular their grand final performance. For many this is not the first time they have been to the grand final.... and for some (like me) this is the fifth time in six years, (a major achievement in itself) and until today, they were yet to taste success.

In the last 9 seasons, this is the first grand final win for the side in 6 attempts – this is third GFs in 3 years (and 5 in 6 years) since being moved into all age at the ripe old age as 16 year olds (in hindsight it's been the best thing for you) and today all players are still young enough to play U21s – we will represent the association in U21 Champions of Champions – the 4th time in 5 possible opportunities that the side has done this (U12, 16, 18 and now 21s – only missed U14s). We have been premiers 4 times but never managed to crack the grand final. Losing two of the six on penalties – always a tough way to go out. We have had 3 undefeated seasons (2 perfect) including this one but none as good as this year, 19 straight wins. I can count no less than 8 of the squad who have never won a grand final – sorry about that. And so to the originals, Madz, Clare, Loz and Em, a big congratulations for hanging in there all that time.

The girls played with character and composure all season and on 3 occasions came from behind to record their victories when other sides may have folded. The other EFC side played some strong football but had a couple of season ending injuries that robbed them of the chance to go further. Congratulation to Rik on a job well done. We have had strong contests with the Macq Uni side since first coming up against them 3 years ago. Certainly, they bring the best out of us as a side and you have told me that you look forward to playing each time.

For the record, the side scored 86 and conceded 11. Twelve players scored, with 4 getting more than 10 and Mia bagging the "Golden Boot" with 25 in a sensational demonstration of finishing in only her second year as striker. It has always been my philosophy to play attack minded football and the side has demonstrated an ability to do this. However, it's not all about scoring and the defence was equally impressive - 11 conceded in 19 games is an equally impressive performance. Madz continues to grow as a keeper and she made many crucial saves none better than in the Grand Final. But her biggest improvement has been in her playing out. Four of the seven new players to the side have slotted into the back 6. Welcome to Kirra-Lee, Caitlin, Katheryn, Rosie, Stacey, Sophie and Kate (returning after 2 seasons away) – an excellent player recruitment drive by player agent Sami – we will need to review your commission structure for next season. It was devastating to see Sophie's season ended prematurely with a ruptured ACL in the last 30 seconds of the dead game against Ravens after such a strong season – we wish you all the best in your recovery. At the same time, we wish Stacey well as she starts her football career with a scholarship in the USA – it was a bonus to have you join the side right up until Grand Final week when you flew out.

So to the squad Chloe, Madz, Jasmine, Alice, Kirra-Lee, Katheryn, Rosie, Stacey, Sophie, Georgie, Sami, Clare, Loz, Stacey, Em, Kate and Caitlin.... CONGRATULATIONS



Finally to the things that make it all possible in this great Club; Thanks to Anthony for coaching the week I was away, Joel for all the time you have spent coaching Madz and, to the other sides who help out late in the season and during the semis (July holidays and Splendour) when we played with 8 and still won because of your help (Julia, Carmen, Katherine, Dani, Elly, Alana, Taylor, Jessica and Bella) and the coaches who give their all in true club spirit (Dave, Rik, Em, Rhys) and released their players to play with us.....Thank-you!

Bruce Hort



# All Age Division 15

The start of the season marked the first season for a few of the lads and the first season of all age football for the rest of the team, bar Nic "All Age Experience" Otter. With most of the boys coming from Epping Boys High School's class of 2015 and the others integrating quickly we started as great mates. However, initially we were unable to convert this into good footballing performances as we faced larger and more aggressive opposition than was seen before.

Our defensive structure started awfully due to injuries to players such as to the ever reliable Ngry, first time defenders such as Joel and the failure of all of us to work as a unit. The glasses mishap with Patty Ray didn't help much either. Despite the thrilling performances of players such as Guy, Anushka and Josh we were unable to win a game until round 4. However, it wasn't until we played Ravens 2 weeks later that we started to really gel as team and completely dominated the second half. This game marked the injured Pat Carfax's step up from player to self-appointed coach. This was a real boost on and off the field. We lost a player who THOUGHT he was hybrid between Andrea Pirlo and Sergio Aguero and gained a coach who thought he was Diego Simeone. The latter was far more true than the former. Gone were attempts to play a beautiful style of football, as the phrases "Park the Bus" and "Stay down" were frequently uttered by Simeone.

Results improved dramatically and we went on a 6 game unbeaten streak in which we went from second last to genuine top 4 contenders. Part of this was down to experimentation with positions. Robbo was moved from an uncomfortable position in defence to started playing in defensive midfield where he excelled with his physicality and aerial ability dominating all opponents. Garth joined him for the 3 games that he was in Sydney. Nic moved to centre back and Eu-Jan was moved to left back. Absences to our superb keeper Kiatin amongst other players saw us lose our third and second last game leaving us in a worrying predicament.

We played North Epping on the Sunday, the day after our previous game. Somehow North Epping conceded 2 late headed goals to lose to St Andrews the next day. If we won we were in the finals, if we didn't we had to play in the pennant. We were the most focussed we had been all year but we had another poor start getting torn to shreds by number 10 early on. We grabbed an equaliser and went to the break 1-1. The second half went on and we pushed and pushed for the winner spurning chance after chance it looked like it wasn't going to be our year. With a minute left on the clock we got a corner. Desperately everyone headed up except Tom who lurked outside the area. The corner was an average one and was headed away easily. As it bounced away a feeling of utter despair fell over us as the referee looked at his watch. Tom had other ideas as he fired an incredible last second rocket volley into the top corner to send us to the finals and to send North Epping out. We ended with a feeling of utter jubilation, the dramatic finish to the game had made Liverpool's 2005 Champions League triumph look rather dull.

The finals games didn't turn out quite as well due to some poor refereeing and the red card to reliable full back Eu-Jan who put on his best Luis Suarez impression forgetting that he was playing football and not volleyball.



Everyone gave it a dig this season and I could go on for another 100 pages describing the superb efforts of all of our team members.

Overall, it was an enjoyable season with a great bunch of lads! (which was the point of playing really).

Joel Hochstetter.

# Over 30 Division 2 Women

Well... what an amazing inaugural season for a whole bunch of mum's who were great at being on the soccer sidelines, but had never played before.

The first few weeks were disastrous with scores like 5-0, 7-0, but week 4 saw us turn a corner and narrow those margins, it was also the week that we scored our very first goal – you'd have thought we'd won with the cheering and celebration that went on (in the middle of the game)!!!! - that happened every time we scored a goal... you should've seen the celebrations when we actually did manage a win!!!!

From then on, we didn't concede too many goals. We ended the season with 2 wins and 4 draws under our belt and were the only undefeated team in the Pennant Comp.

We had our share of injuries along the way, severed achilles, ruptured ACL, lots of strained calves and thighs etc.

A massively huge thanks to our supporters (spouses, kids, friends and committee members) who were there week in week out.... generally yelling contradictory instructions at us from the sidelines.... we really appreciated it!

The biggest thanks of all goes to our wonderful coach, Jimmy Cross, who is amazing and who has the patience of a saint (most of the time). I'm pretty sure he's gone greyer since taking on the coaching role and is now on blood pressure medication!

Over the course of the season, all of us mum's who didn't know each other, became fabulous friends. We managed to pick up a few soccer skills – think we still play like u6s though.... lol.... But most of all we had heaps of fun, lots of laughs and just a few tears.

We are all looking forward to our end of season trip to the Hunter, which, much to the dismay of our male support crew, was organised well before the season actually started!

Kim Ross





## Over 35 Division 2

Cracking year... close, very close, but not close enough. We only lost the one regular season game, to Epping Eastwood, which combined with two draws, meant we missed out on the premiership by only a point.

Our defensive solidity was the pillar of our success, conceding on 8 throughout the season, and scoring 39 in the process.

We nearly blew our chance for making the grand final with a loss to Hunters Hill in the first finals match, struggled past Thornleigh in the second, before some fortuitous weather saved our bacon and propelled us into the Grand Final. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be however, as we conceded three, scored just the one and had another couple dubiously ruled against us...



Goal of the year probably goes to Freddy for his long range effort, and tackle of the year to Joel (or more specifically Joel's face) for his tackle on Thornleigh's goalkeeper.

All in all, another great season with these lads. We scored lots, won most, and if there's a more enjoyable way to spend a Saturday afternoon, capped with a hop-flavoured drink, I haven't found it yet!

Mitch Bradshaw

# Over 45 Division 1

After the exultation of last year's dramatic Grand Final win against vaunted opposition, we started this year as we do every season; unsure of numbers & chasing guys who never return calls.

Blame all the associated media commitments & commercial endorsements that such an unexpected result can attract, but in the cold face of reality, it was time to hook up the caravan for another season of football.

As we gathered under the trees at Darvall Park on the warm mornings of February, the previous August was a sweet but fading memory. Our legend had attracted a few trialists, which was hopefully going to cover the inevitable retirements. Unfortunately, due to a mix up, our best striker had changed emails & hadn't received any messages & by the time he did reply, we had replaced him. Such are the challenges of expecting old men to operate technology.

As we approached the season proper, we were still playing goose & gander with a couple of guys who were key to the previous campaign's success. The O/45s Comp has improved each year & this season was promising to be the best yet with the inclusion of West Ryde Rovers, who had joined from another comp; & the reduction of teams down to only six, meaning there were no weak teams. It also meant playing the Old Foe (EEW) three times in the regular comp. Not altogether a prospect to relish.

Presumably, GHFA scheduled us against them in the first round to cash in on the hoopla surrounding last year's GF, so we set up a marquee selling "Big Tone" action dolls & "Chinny" toy spades but it turned into a fizzer as both players were absent, however the Peter Raptis memoir, "Guru-Hirsute of Armour" book was a sell out as was the "Georgie Boy" range of tanning oils.

In a precursor to the season beyond, we were short of players that day but managed to hold them for most of the game until they won a contentious penalty which they converted to reverse the result & score from the GF. On hand to ref that day was returning YMCA Legend Graham "Chicka" Clinton. Your correspondent had lured him back into the fold after his very successful tilt at GHFA stewardship & Spirit coaching roles. His experience would be vital after the apparent loss of Ando, who has been the fulcrum of our defence for many a day. Chicka, despite his obvious pedigree & seemingly in good shape, was discovering that at our age, the legs need constant use & weren't appreciating the return to hostilities. He would take almost the full year to finally be in the form that he might've expected earlier.

As noted earlier, the addition of WRR to the comp had certainly changed the dynamic. There was a real sense of respect when we faced them in the first round, having seen their good results to that point. Again, we were low on cattle & some those on the pitch probably shouldn't have been. They have a very mobile midfield & capitalized on two mistakes of ours & made us pay both times. It was a warmish day but as we trudged off, it was about to hit boiling point as the Fox did his best Danny DeVito impersonation of exasperation. Needless to say, we changed our formation for the second stanza, scored the only goal of that half but still lost the game 2-1. We were all very glum in our post game analysis; & then Frankie Valli pulled out his phone. Wonderful.

Numbers were dwindling by the week as injuries, work & holidays ravaged our already busted roster. The usually very reliable Duck, having injured his knee in a game, then had it compounded by a car accident, meaning his season was done. In his absence however, a mate of his, Pasta Pete, had seen the light & decided our flock needed some divine intervention. Although his healing hands were no match for a twice busted knee, his mere presence was enough to ensure we had eleven players some weeks, & his halftime sermons were thrown in for a gold coin donation.

As we rounded the hallway point of the season, numbers had reached a new low & emergency measures were called for. Luckily, some of the 35/2s are in our age bracket & able to assist on a few occasions. Thanks v much to Handy, Paul, Andy Murray, Ange & the evergreen Baz. By way of thanks & in the spirit of clubmanship, we were available for them when required also. It was with some these guys that we faced off against EEW in round 2 & again lost to them by the single goal after again conceding a penalty despite a scoreless first half. Noticing the pattern?

Despite declaring retirement after last year's GF, we had coaxed Big Tone back on his terms which meant he could only play at netball viewing friendly times, at a ground within 3.5 kilometres from his home & if the temperature was between 19-21 degrees. All the planets aligned for us on a golden afternoon at Meadowbank where we avenged the earlier loss to WRR, with a very dominant second half in which the winning goal was fatefully scored by the aforementioned Big Tone. It was to be almost his very last touch of a football as he finished the game worse for wear, confirming his earlier fears & finally threw his boots in a nearby bin on his way home. Over & out. A fitting end for a very talented, if enigmatic sportsman. We'll miss you Tone.

As we approached another Finals assault, some of our international tourists were returning to the fold & a few more were finally getting their bodies & minds fixed. Basil had arrived back after a sell-out season of his Fawlty Towers reprisal at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Creedence had spent six weeks in his country of birth, crunching numbers for David Cameron in the ill-fated Brexit vote & was happy to be back, declaring Great Britain was a misnomer. The Crow's long absence hadn't been for reasons of leisure or other commitments but purely because he couldn't get his body to stay injury free after a few years in semi-retirement. His anticipated influence had been undermined by an Achilles injury which refused to agree to his comeback plans. Great shame because he had shown some lovely touch in the few games he played. Another man of considerable influence who was severely restricted this term was the Great Muz. Despite his persistent overuse of his family's private healthcare's physio allotment, he was still only able to play 5-6 games in total. He then forgot about the week break between the round robin & the GF & booked an o/s trip, meaning he missed it too. Another stalwart who missed some of the season was the ever tanned Georgie Boy who made a very expensive & ill-informed trip to the Old Dart in hopeful expectation of a Spurs Premier League Title, only to limp home with nothing but a Great Yarmouth tea towel & a couple of cold pork pies.

One guy I would like to pay particular thanks to, is Keith Brown from the 45/2s. There were weeks when without him backing up for us, we certainly wouldn't have won, & in some cases may not have been able to start matches with the full compliment. Thanks Keithy, have a Tennants on us.



Some of the positives for the year though was the form on the two guys at opposite ends of the pitch. Chicken Legs in the cage was in possibly (later) career best form. He is his hardest marker & no doubt would've berated himself once or twice but the rest of us thought he was our best in show this year. Whilst Billy was stopping goals, at the opposite end, new recruit Roger Wong was banging em in. Easily won Golden Boot in his first year with us & lead the line with aplomb. He was ably assisted by GAG who has had the GB mantle for many years. He sustained a knee injury in "pre-season", (which looked like carpet burn) but it was serious & persistent enough to mean his role this



year was changed to one of provider, instead of deadly finisher. Another guy who had his best year yet was the ageless AlHalal. Proving you can still learn new skills later in life, he was solid as a rock in defence, was improved in his positioning & distribution; & was no longer guilty of diving into tackles in dangerous areas. AD was again a tour de force in midfield & a constant menace to all opponents. His aerial prowess was also vital in scoring some important goals & claiming contested defensive threats. In a similar vein but on the opposite end of height, the ever reliable Fox was his usual yappy self all season as he continues his campaign to move further up the field. Like a terrier who thinks itself a Great Dane, our beloved Left Fullback fancies himself a Striker. Maybe next year.... The irony is Mrs Fox insists he's not much more than a lap dog at home.

As the season reached its apex, we had regained some players & gaining, to that point, absent momentum. We sailed through the Round Robin with confidence & approached the pinnacle date at Christie Park in the knowledge that EEW had vengeance in mind. In the fairy books, we would've hung on for a further two minutes then claimed victory in penalty shootout. That may not have been a fair reflection of the game but as we all know, sport isn't always fair. C'est la vie. We all still had a good night out.

A huge thank you to the Guru for his immaculate secretarial service during the year. It seemed to coincide with a fine season on the pitch. It'd be a shame to disrupt anything Guru. Might be time for a little bit of renovating though, some of the furniture is looking a little tired.

Well done boys, enjoy the break.

# Annexure – Club Financial Statements

## **Epping Football Club**

PO Box 414  
Epping NSW 1710

### **Balance Sheet**

**As of August 2016**

5/09/2016  
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Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand		
Bendigo - Main	\$710.38	
Bendigo - Website	\$398.76	
Bendigo - Canteen	\$1,838.15	
Bendigo - Interest	\$68,836.26	
Bendigo - Term Deposit	\$52,753.56	
Total Cash On Hand	\$124,537.11	
Trade Debtors	\$692.62	
Total Current Assets	\$125,229.73	
Other Assets		
Stock on Hand	\$5,325.00	
Equipment	\$1,700.00	
Total Other Assets	\$7,025.00	
Total Assets		\$132,254.73
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$9,894.00	
Sporting Grants	\$5,000.00	
Total Current Liabilities	\$14,894.00	
Total Liabilities		\$14,894.00
Net Assets		\$117,360.73
Equity		
Transfer from Epping YMCA FC	\$103,756.50	
Retained Earnings	\$930.50	
Current Year Earnings	\$12,673.73	
Total Equity		\$117,360.73

# Epping Football Club

PO Box 414  
Epping NSW 1710

## Profit & Loss Statement

January 2016 through August 2016

5/09/2016

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### Income

Registration Fees	
Registration Fees	\$166,250.76
Less: GHFA Fees	-\$66,977.00
Less: NWSWF Fees	-\$33,365.50
Total Registration Fees	\$65,908.26
West Epping Summer Football	\$8,000.00
Clothing Sales	\$5,495.00
Sponsorship	
McGrath	\$7,500.00
Epping Hotel	\$2,000.00
The Ranch	\$245.10
Quickbeds	\$27.50
Photo Commissions	\$439.12
Total Sponsorship	\$10,211.72
Fundraising	\$3,555.05
Total Income	\$93,170.03

### Cost of Sales

Clothing for Sale	\$8,205.50
Total Cost of Sales	\$8,205.50

### Gross Profit

\$84,964.53

### Expenses

Advertising	\$250.00
AGM/Seniors Presentation	\$2,654.00
Bank Charges	\$49.60
Canteen Expenses	\$256.00
Club Clothing	\$34,695.10
Coaching Courses	\$90.00
Coop	\$2,940.00
Couriers	\$54.99
Equipment	\$9,396.13
Filing Fees	\$174.70
Fines	\$185.00
Ground Hire & Expenses	\$9,518.67
Fundraising Expenses	\$33.00
Insurance	\$237.43
Internet & Website Hosting	\$309.14
Legal Fees	\$2,256.10
Meeting Expenses	\$386.64
Miscellaneous	\$429.15
Postage	\$186.00
Presentation Day	\$9,165.62
Referee Fees	\$28.50
Sponsor Expenses	\$260.00
Training Courses	\$540.00
Total Expenses	\$74,095.77

### Operating Profit

\$10,868.76

### Other Income

Interest Income	\$1,804.97
Total Other Income	\$1,804.97

### Other Expenses

Net Profit / (Loss)	\$12,673.73
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