



Home of St Columbas



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Matt Smith
President

2013 END of SEASON REPORT

Presidents Review

2013 – A VERY POSITIVE YEAR

Welcome to the 2013 St Columba's Soccer Club Presentation. On behalf of the St Columba's Soccer Club Committee, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all players, family and friends for attending today to celebrate the 2013 season.

JUNIORS

This year has been another season of growth and development for our junior club. We continued a recent trend of adding another team to our junior ranks in 2013. St Columba's teams were entered in the under 8, under 7, and under 6 competitions, and our two All Saints teams (combined with St Bernadette's) participated in the under 11-12 division. The pleasing aspect of this season was that we saw the return of the majority of existing junior players, with numbers fortified by almost every team adding new players to the club. The increase in player numbers has not been anything astronomical or outstanding, but clearly from where the junior club was 2-3 years ago, small positive steps provide the club with stepping stones to further develop and progress the opportunities for our junior players to continue to enjoy and experience playing soccer.

In particular it is to be noted that our under 6 team this year was almost completely a new team. Once again Alan Spaul took on the task of introducing our youngest players to soccer, and moulding them into a competitive unit. Without delving into too much detail, initial results highlighted the challenges faced by a team with little or no experience of soccer. However to everyone's credit the team became very competitive through the second half of the season. A real indication of this was that we had a spread of players scoring their first ever goals, and it was evident to all those both on the sideline and the field that the majority of our new players came to thrive in the competitiveness and enjoyment of their weekly game. The involvement of all got to the stage that we had players both wanting to be a) on the field, and b) actively participating in the game! Next year we look forward to the return of all players except Liam to the under 6 ranks and hope to build on the positive experiences of this year.

The remaining teams in our junior ranks were a mix of new players and returning club members. I will let the individual teams mention the details of specific performance highlights for the season but I can make a number of general comments. Firstly, not enough can be said about the strength and commitment of our coaches and manages in assisting the club in running our teams. Peter Ferry stepped up into the coaching role for the under 7s, with able assistance from Fiona Strong (either side of having a baby), Dave O'Connor and Natalie & Eric de Wet kept the wheels turning for the under 8s,



Presidents ReviewCont'd

Scott Moeser and Peter Wepner provided an ongoing enthusiasm and consistency for our under 11s, and the old heads of Glen Russell and Steve Duke continued an obviously strong and enjoyable relationship in steering our under 12 team. Without the effort of these people our junior players would not enjoy and develop their understanding and appreciation of the game of soccer, and so the club acknowledges and appreciates the sacrifices that these individuals make to ensure the successful running of our teams. The noteworthy performances within the junior club that I wish to mention are as follows:

- The under 6 team realising that the post-game rewards of a possible Man of the Match award and lollies was a real incentive to perform
- The sustained excellence and commitment shown by Liam Sydenham in performing to a high standard for both the under 6s and under 7s throughout the season
- The continued development and progression of Thomas Thurgate in the under 8s culminating in his selection for the North Zone representative team
- The overall team commitment and participation of the entire under 11 team, who after a season of difficult challenges and results, ran into a hot streak of form in the last couple of weeks in the season, recording multiple victories, and finishing the season on a very positive note. A credit to all associated with the team.
- The return of the under 12s to the NSW Churches competition, highlighted by a strong season of exceptional results, battling in the top 2 all season for the tag of Minor Premiers. While unfortunately the team suffered a slump at the end of the season to finally take the runner up position, and then lost their semi-final to miss out on the opportunity to play in the Presidents Cup, the overall results were great. The strength of this team was reflected by multiple players being rewarded with selection in the North Zone representative team.

In wrapping up my thoughts on our juniors this year, I would like to pass on our thanks to all parents and family members for their commitment and assistance throughout the season. Our junior players can only bring enthusiasm and enjoyment to our club when they have positive support towards involvement in playing a team sport. I think we are very fortunate with the mix and attitude of our players and parents within the club, and take this opportunity to thank you all for a rewarding 2013 season.

SENIORS

The senior club this year was represented by 3 teams in the NSW Churches all age competitions. A full squad (2 teams) competed in the Premier League Division, while a single team participated in the Raahauge Cup North competition. RC North chose this year to consolidate their playing numbers into a single team after a couple of frustrating and demanding seasons where player availability was a major burden. While this decision meant that the team started with a large squad for one team, natural attrition and injuries gradually eroded these numbers throughout the season, but at least the team was able to consistently field a regular core of 11 players. While results were not always positive the team was undeniably competitive and combative in all games. Consistent performers in the team were Ian Lawson and Scott Moeser, but the stand out player was clearly Neil Wanders who returned to RC North to play alongside his brothers Daryl and Nathan. We once again thank the efforts of Aaron Bailey and Simon Miskell in providing the required organisational direction for the team, and who may have learnt some basic Korean along the way this year!

Our Premier League squad entered the season this year stuttering along with concerns over player numbers and quality. Eventually with the recruitment of an ex-Socceroo and the eventual convincing of several existing club members to return to the fold saw the PL squad enter the season with relatively high expectations.



Presidents ReviewCont'd

Unfortunately our ex-Socceroo, Gabriel Mendes, lasted a total of 60 minutes over 3 games and with ongoing injuries, business and travel commitments was not an influence on team results or the PL season. This apart, both first and Reserve teams were very capable and had the obvious ability to be a threat to any team in the competition. The reserve team in particular was a consistent achiever and played to a relatively high standard, resulting in finishing 2nd during the round robin competition. After losing their initial semi-final in a penalty shoot-out to minor premiers, Greystanes, the team then won through to the Grand Final to face Greystanes again. In a team effort in the Grand Final this time we were successful in triumphing 2-1, to halt a historical run of losing finals and going one place better than 2012. In comparison the First team's season was one of exceptional frustration. When all players were available and fit the team was hugely capable and could match it with the best teams in the competition. This was offset by a number of disappointing results against lower teams, and an incredibly disproportionate number of drawn games when we had been leading. Even with 2 games left the team still had a chance to qualify for the finals, but a difficult finish to the season meant missing out for another season. We continue to marvel with the ability of Adam Goldsmith and Grant Pullen to organise a pretty dysfunctional group of players, and once again thank Wes Vos for his coaching direction (even when interrupted mid-season by the arrival of his son). We also congratulate Wes on his selection for the NSW State team due to compete in the National Titles this October.

SPONSORSHIP & FUNDRAISING

On behalf of the club I thank the ongoing support of our sponsors. As a small, growing soccer club we continue to appreciate and welcome any financial sponsorship to assist in the day to day running of our club.

However of real significance this year was the support and reward received from our major fundraising initiatives; namely the Bunnings BBQ last December, the Trivia Night and associated Club Raffle, and the Model Railways weekend. The continued participation and involvement of our extended club throughout these events cannot be under estimated in assisting the club in striving to keep costs and membership fees to a manageable standard for all. I thank everyone who contributed through the year.

COMMITTEE

I thank my fellow Committee Members for their support and efforts throughout the past season. Their willingness to go the "extra mile" when required has only made the season more effective and enjoyable. I specially want to thank Kim Sydenham, our new secretary, who had to adjust to the nuances of all the existing committee members and deal with an abundance of new processes and obstacles within our club and the NSW CFA throughout the season.

So Overall, I see 2013 as a very positive season for St Columba's. Good results across the board for the majority of teams, with a high level of enjoyment, topped off by a Grand Final victory in our senior ranks. As a club, our thoughts and best wishes go out specifically to the Goldsmith and Ferry families in 2013. We pray that the illnesses encountered within these families this year be overcome, and wish you all the best in the coming months. We look forward to all players returning next year and encourage any interest from new players. Thank you to everyone for their efforts throughout 2013.

Matt - President

Under 6 – The magnificent 12Continued

A big "THANK YOU" to every parent for being so wonderful putting up with me and attending every training session and game and always willing to assist whenever asked to do so. I have enjoyed your friendship and support hope to see everyone back for the 2014 season.

Alan – Coach



Under 7

2013 has been another successful and rewarding season for our under 7 team. It was great to see the return of 6 players from last year. Liam, Andy, Cameron, Caleb, Asher and Nicholas. They were backed up by our new players Phillip, Tom and Callum.

We have seen a lot of improvement in all players and they have worked well as a team. They have been competitive on the field and shown great sportsmanship throughout the season.

It has been great to see the boys putting in such an amazing effort every game and watch them grow into a team who work together, and get along so well.

A huge thanks to Peter for being a fantastic coach to the boys. Your patience, enthusiasm and encouragement has been amazing. Also, thanks to Bruce for helping out. The team have had a fantastic time.

Finally, a big thanks to the parents and families who have shown endless support for the team. Without it, the season would not have been as enjoyable or successful.

Congratulations to the team on a great season! We hope you have enjoyed the season and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Fiona - Manager





Under 8

The boys played their hearts out this year, often outnumbered as we played with only a squad of 9 or 10 boys for most of the year.

St Columbas Under 8's have a reputation amongst the other teams as being one of the toughest to play. Winning or drawing just over half their games, the boys have had a great season.

The most pleasing thing to see was their passing, positioning and teamwork come together as the year has gone on. Every boy improved in their skills and confidence and have finished the year in a way they can all be proud of.

Thomas Thurgate made the representative team and led the team fantastically all year. Thomas scored most of the team's goals and had the other team at 6's & 7's right throughout the season.

Declan de Wet was consistent all year and scored more of his trademark fantastic goals. His passing was phenomenal all season and Decs continues to develop into a great soccer player.

James Aiken kept his motor legs pumping - often getting stuck in and tackling the oppositions biggest players. He has the biggest heart in the team.

Aneesh Singh was one of the most improved players in our team, growing in confidence as the year went on and playing some really great soccer right throughout the season.

Declan O'Connor played strongly across all positions again this year. His dribbling skills and speed are up there with the best players in the competition, and his runs often took the team off the back foot and onto attack.

Vrajesh Jevan was one of the newcomers to the team this year and was always reliable and strong in the midfield. He always put himself in the right position and was a valuable member of the team, winning at least two Man of the Match awards.

Jaiveer Ranawat was another newcomer and has a great boot and dribble. He never seemed to run out of energy and has amazing skills - I expect Jai to make the rep team next year!

Shayan Pala became the team's goalkeeper in the latter part of the season and always brought lots of enthusiasm. His skills grew significantly in the latter half of the season. One of the funniest moments of the season was when Shayan forgot that he wasn't goalkeeping and saved a shot on goal. Fortunately the subsequent penalty shot missed.

Mackenzie O'Connor is a great all-rounder, often playing the position where the team most needed his skills. Whether defending, working in the midfield or playing up front, he always gave 100% and had a number of goal assists throughout the year.

Drona Kapoor was a valuable contributor for the first half of the season and unfortunately he couldn't play the 2nd half of the season. We hope to see Drona back next year!

We were lucky enough to ring in a few of the Under 7's to substitute for us in a few games. Liam Sydenham, Cameron Ferry and Asher O'Connor joined the 'big boys' and brought along fresh legs for the team. Liam even scored two goals for the Under 8's! A huge Thank You to all of you!!!

The highlight for the team was being runners-up on Gala Day - a great effort, defeating some of the best teams in the competition on the way to the final.

All in all, a great year for Under 8's.

Dave – Coach Eric - Assistant Coach Natalie - Manager



Team photos in alternate
playing strip



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

Under 11 – All Saints

2013 was a tough but rewarding season for the team. The boys have learnt new skills this year, learnt to play as a team while learning the importance of positional play as they built on these skills through the year.

The team was made of seventeen individuals that came together with the joining of St. Columbus and St Bernadette's and developed friendships that provided the backbone for the teamwork that kept them coming back each weekend.

We welcomed 7 new players to the team this season, being Chris, Ali, Ewan, Ryan, Taran, Shaam, and Raathan, to go with our returning players Josh, Lucio, Christian, Peter, Marc-franco, Sam, Ethan, Isaac, Yasiru, and James.

With the changes that occurred over the season the boys have built a solid base for next season.

We also had 4 boys who this season represented the team and clubs in the representative team for our age group and were successful in winning. If this team can stay together and stay on the course they have set themselves, winning will become easier and the championships will follow.

The team spirit show has been of the highest level and they have done the club proud with performance on the field and the way they have played the game in some very trying circumstances.

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

Finally a big thank you to the Under 11 parents as without your help getting the nets up and down, etc, the season would not have been as enjoyable.

Scott – Coach



Coach Moeser leads the way





Captain Aaron

Who's this Not
the usual Goalie



RC North Division

The season that headed North.

The St Columbas North all age team started the year in good spirits hoping for a better season then how we ended 2012. We had recruited some new players making us 18 strong.

We started the season with a 3-1 loss against Penrith and it looked like it might be another hard year for the team. But as the season progressed we improved as a squad and some believe came back to the team. We ended up at the end of the season with the 4th best defence and the 5th best attack. Our comeback took us on an undefeated streak of 3 games and some results in other games went our way to mean that with a couple of rounds to go we still had a chance to make the semis. We ended up coming 5th in the competition which shows that the team improved over the year and by the end of the season were competing with every team in the competition.

Another milestone this year was the amount of goal scorers that we had this season with 9 players scoring a total of 20 goals.

Memorable games:

3-0 win against Kings Old Boys – everyone turned up early to the game and some great passing led to 3 good team goals

1-1 draw against Parramatta Salvation Army – got a lucky goal early against one of the top teams and held them off to the final minutes where a goal was allowed even though our linesman had called it offside

4-0 Win against Penrith – a tough first half to keep it to nil all and then the game opened up and we played some lovely attacking football to keep our finals dream alive.

Players Player

1st: Neil Wanders

2nd: Ian Lawson

3rd: Scott Moeser



Aaron – Captain



Premier League – First Grade

First grade this season was a little similar to last year, started with loads of potential but we simply didn't get the results.

Numbers were a problem with many guys backing up from Reserve grade, which quickly became a priority. Having said that 1st grade was complete against all teams, with only 1 goal in it for most of the games. A string of 6 draws didn't help. Many of the games we conceded in the final minutes.

Wes coached and captained with great enthusiasm and we're pleased for him to again be selected in the senior rep team.

Justin was named MVP for the season and Mark was players player. The highlight though was clearly the Reserve grade championship win.

Adam – Manager

Premier League – Reserves

We started the season with some great numbers and some whispers from some of the old boys in the club that we have the talent to take out the premiership in 2013. The problem is the same guys say that every year. A bit of a prophecy from our goal keeper Tom in round 1 said we will win the grand final by 2-1. How wrong he was!!!!

As always we dominated all around the park in most games. Finally we had some quality and were solid in the middle of the park with Nick, Matt and Craig who was my pick for MVP. It also does make a difference when you have the quality of Mark helping us throughout the year. Our defence ended up being the strongest in the league and was the back bone of the team which is why our players player was our right fullback Dave Tenant and our most valuable player was GP (aka great person) both solid in the defensive line.

The turning point was when I bought some new black jerseys. We played in them twice and lost both times. GP decided that black was not a winning colour and we went back to the Orange jerseys and we didn't lose another game. The season came down to the last round. We needed to win or draw to get top 2. We came up against Wasps who had made 1st grade finals position 6 weeks earlier and they appeared to be progressing to Grand Final day with their reserve grade team as they had come from 2nd last to play us in the final round for a top 2 position. The week earlier they had beat the minor premiers 9-2, we drew 2-2 to get two bites of the cherry.

In the major semi-final it was 1 v 2 and we went down in a penalty shoot-out. We then had to play Wasps the following week, we won the game 3-1. So again we found ourselves in a grand final at Marconi stadium against the minor premiers in Greystanes which only lost 1 game all year. All players stepped up and the standouts were the whole team.

We finally did it!!!! We conquered 2-1 in the grand final and a Tom was very close with his round 1 prediction. Mark and myself scoring 1 each, giving Mark the golden boot by 1 goal, with 17 goals for the season.

This win was a club win as everyone contributed in reserves grade all year. Special thanks must go to our faithful coach Wes and Goldy who puts it all together. I can't forget the 58 year old ROCK (GP) who never gave up believing in us. The question is who will be back next year and can we do the double ?

It's been a pleasure leading the side and thank you to the club for the opportunity. After 20 years of no grand final win this feels sooooo good.
Yours in football

Nathan Kingston - Captain



Nathan with his biggest fan



Thank You Club Sponsors

We could not have done it without you

