

# St Columbas Castle Hill Soccer Club

2017 End of Season reports



## President's Report



Well the 2017 Winter season has well and truly come and gone for another year. 2017 has seen St Columbas retain its core nucleus of teams, but with a couple of distinct events this season highlighting the hopes for greater success both on and off the field as we already look forward to 2018. Personally I have seen a real mix of results and outcomes this season within St Columbas that could very easily see the 2017 season labelled the Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

The Good, is very simply the ongoing success of our under 15 team. From a core of players that have now played together at St Columbas for a number of years, the team made it to the Grand Final of their grade within the Granville Districts competition. While unfortunately the team went down in the Grand Final to a late extra time goal, this team continues to represent our club and our brand with a great deal of credibility and positivity, a reflection of both players, parents and team management. In conjunction with this success, our Senior ranks were replenished and refreshed this year, by a major influx of youth from within. The sterling efforts and encouragement from existing club members saw a number of new players come into our Senior team to breath some fresh air and enthusiasm into our Rahaague Cup squads. Given that the average age of these players would be somewhere close to 20 (about ½ the age of returning players) gives us a real sense of hope and development in the immediate future.

The Bad, well unfortunately that probably comes back to the Senior teams. While bolstered by the youthful injection of new players, the Senior squad still had a very tough season in struggling to score goals and achieve any level of success in both Reserves and First teams. On the other hand both teams were undeniably competitive during periods of the majority of games, and as manager, mentor, trainer, goalkeeper and part-time player Grant "Nathan Brown" Pullen would say, this was very much our "Newcastle" year.

The Ugly, for me is probably a reflection of the fact that this club continues to rely very heavily on the same management structure and support year on year across both our Junior and Senior teams. While no one on the Management Committee or our Managers/Coaches positions shirk their responsibilities this entails or the commitment required to make our club a positive environment for all to enjoy, another year has passed, we're all a year older and not a great deal has changed. However, we possibly look forward to a 2018 season and opportunities that may see some more "beauty" flourish within this club.

In other notables this year, our returning under 6 players from last year, came back with more than a few more friends and siblings in tow that saw us eventually field 2 under 7 teams for the majority of the season. With input from Ben Zunica and Rob Lansom, the under 7 "Black" team were highly successful throughout the season, and the under 7 "Orange" team developed into a competitive team unit by the end of the season.

## President's Report ..... Cont'd

The under 9 team under Alan also generated an influx of new players this year, that actually gave us some depth in numbers for games. This was a welcome occurrence given the lack of numbers the previous year. When all players were fit and able the under 9s were also a very competitive team with a capacity to trouble any team in the competition on their given day. But unfortunately a few too many "downs" outnumbered the "ups" and the team narrowly missed out on playing semi-finals this year.

I can confirm that our club is fortunate to remain financially stable. The ongoing income from our canteen and our one major fundraiser event, the Castle Hill Model Railway Exhibition support in late July, continues to provide the platform to enable us to support all our teams in whatever financial means are required. Once again I would like to thank all those that gave up their time and efforts over the Model Railway Exhibition weekend.

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

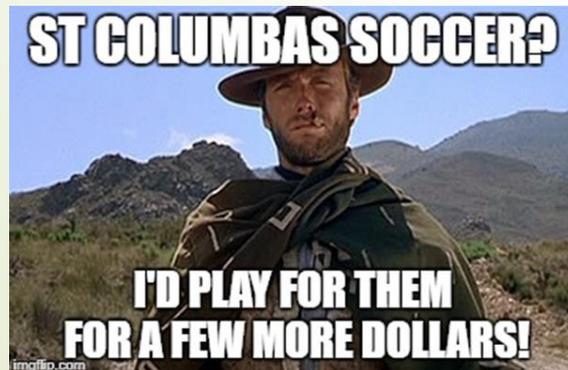
Once again I wish to thank my colleagues across the Management Committee for their ongoing engagement and involvement across our club this year.

I think I can look back and definitely maintain the positives of 2017 definitely outweigh any negatives encountered, and so it is with this in mind that I and the rest of this club can definitely look forward to what next year will bring with a real sense of optimism.

Wishing you all a safe and happy end of 2017, let's have a great summer break, and hope to see you back with plenty of smiles, energy and enthusiasm for 2018

Matthew Smith

St Columbas President 2017



## AT A GLANCE - Junior Development

- 2017 brought 11 additional players to the club numbers which is a very positive state. In past seasons we have endured more losses than gains.
- The club sponsored Lily Smith (Under 9) and Christopher Ho (Under 15) for Goal Keeper Coaching in the later half of this season. I could see major improvements in the players the way they protected their goal with a lot more commitment and confidence. It was great to see and well done Lily and Chris for taking it on
- I believe 2018 will be an exciting year for our minis and juniors as St Columbas is looking at opportunities with a local skills Academy. This Academy coaches juniors but don't provide the opportunity to play competitive matches each week, St Columbas can provide this – A lot more planning will be undertaken in the off season to ensure we do it right for all our juniors – **EXCITING times ahead.**
- Sponsorship dollars still need to be sourced for the club to continue with the development of our young players to improve their skills, to become better footballers as well as enjoy what they are doing every Saturday.

Hope to see you all next season.

Alan Spaul

Junior Development

## AT A GLANCE - Under 7 – The “Black” version

After starting the season as a combined team, we broke off to become the black team, ready to take on the competition on our own. It was a pleasure to coach such a lovely bunch of youngsters, who came to each game keen to have fun and improve their soccer skills. It was also fantastic to have so many supportive parents, who gave their Saturday mornings all season to bring their children to games and help out where needed.

Each member of our team are better soccer players today than they were 5 months ago, which is fantastic! A special mention must go to our underage players - Isaac and Maggie - who played against some kids who were almost double their age! They were both brave and helped our team each and every week. It was amazing to see the improvement of Zac, who scored multiple goals each week for the team. Rohan was also able to get on the scoresheet and continued to become a more skillful player each and every week. James continued his improvement, once putting his face on the line to help defend our goals! Josh and Pratham were able to get more and more touches of the ball and put in some fine performances when goalkeeping. Dominic continued to be focused on the job each week, developing his defensive skills and making some wonderful tackles in all of his games.

The most important thing is that we enjoyed playing each week, enjoyed the company of each other and are better players now than they were before. A special mention to Matt, who continued to train the team on Tuesday nights. The team really gained from his input throughout the season!

Ben Zunica – Under 7 Coach

## AT A GLANCE - Under 7 – The 'Orange' Version

The 2017 season saw the return of a number of players from our under 6 squad of last year, with a few new players arriving on the pitch via siblings or friends. We started with a core group of 8 and it just kept growing till we actually had to split into 2 teams Orange & Black due to having 16 players.

Matt was the coach of the Orange Team and Ben took on the role for the Black Team.

We split into the two teams in May, however we still trained together on a Tuesday night.

The Orange Team was a mix of returning veterans in the shape of Abi, Jacob, and Charlie, and some new faces with Jensen, Matthew, Alana, Clara and Darius joining the fray. While we can't lay claim to any phenomenal record-breaking success this season, with at last count possibly only 1 game won, it is hoped that the players now have the foundation to understand the game of soccer and press forward to continue to enjoy and improve themselves in their soccer.

The most heartening development of this year for me was the growth of players within the team, and the challenges set by coach Matt to see the team actually playing as a team – thinking of passing the ball, rather than just kicking it and understanding that it can take more than one player to tackle or stop the other team scoring goals. While not necessarily winning, the team showed impressive commitment and resilience, and did score a number of very impressive goals that showed some real promise of untapped potential still to be uncovered as a team next year.

It was a credit to the parents, grandparents, family and friends of our players that every week we had a great turn out to a) get our kids to games on time and b) provide some quality support and encouragement for our kids. Special mentions must go to Bo, Pete and Andy for their "coaching" expertise on Saturdays, particular reference to Pete and his mastery of the SSG goalposts and nets, and last but not least Penny for never saying "No" to helping out in the canteen when available.

Matt would also like to acknowledge the strength and positivity of the parents of our under 7 players, with never a shortage of smiles and ball-retrievers at Tuesday night training. We are very fortunate across the under 7 playing group to have a great bunch of families and support people that just want to see their kids enjoy themselves and learn, play and test themselves in soccer. For that Matt and I would like to thank you all and look forward to the challenges of a bigger field, more players on the field, and hopefully plenty more smiles and goals for everyone in 2018.

Naomi Smith – Under 7 Manager

# AT A GLANCE - Under 9

## Coach's Reflection

It was great to be reunited with 8 of the 9 players from 2016 plus the addition of 5 new players to the club, creating a squad of 13 players.

Some team members had not played competitive soccer prior to this year, yet were all part of the team by the end of the year.

My moments of enjoyment:

- Ethan (Liam's older brother) assisted with training every week. Ethan not only brought good practice principles to the team, he built a wonderful rapport with the players (they listened to what Ethan said ... LOL)
- Promoting Issac from Centre Back to Centre mid to Centre forward, watching him develop into a very good team player
- Young Nicholas displayed fantastic attacking skills in the team whereas he had never played competitive soccer prior
- Observing Mark's improvement with his running & stamina throughout the season
- Observing a great defensive wall when Cooper, Liam and Jason were available for matches. As a threesome, they were awesome.
- Observing Sean and Wayne really improve their skills by the end of the season
- Having a great 'GIRL POWER' compliment (Galia, Robyn & Jade) in the team
- Watching Lily excel with her Goal Keeping in conjunction with her communication, leadership and organisation of the defensive backline

All in all, a year of building for our Under 9 team, just missing out on the competition semi-final with a 2-1 loss in the last round.

The team's parents were fantastic with their support each week at training as well as game day. Parents were needed at every home match to setup or pull down the goals – much appreciated parents.

All players should be very proud of their efforts throughout the season, I am, a job WELL DONE Team !!

Hope to see you all next year, as it should be very exciting

**Coach Alan**



## AT A GLANCE - Under 15

2017 was a great season that was a most enjoyable and rewarding season for the team with exceptional results across the park by all the boys.

After finishing 3rd last season, in our first season in the Granville Districts competition, the boys were looking to go further this season.

The boys all played exceptionally well throughout the season, earning a spot in the finals with 5 games in 2 weeks as make-up games due to the wet weather and regular comps all coming in a rush in the last 2 weeks, leading to the team finishing the regular season in third place and with all the momentum.

The team won the first elimination semi-final 4 – 1 against Toongabbie that had finished 4th coming into the game with a dominant performance.

This led to a show down in the major semi-final with our bogey team from Dundas that had beaten us in corresponding game last year. This time things were different and the team got up 2 – 1 in extra time that included a great save by our goalkeeper Chris off a corner with the last kick of the game. The team had won its way into the Grand Final against the minor premiers, Greystanes.

The Grand Final was a nail biting game for all that were there, with an epic performance by the team. The game went into extra time, but in the last minute of the extra time we conceded a goal to lose 0 – 1 and finish 2nd.

The performance on the day was an indication as to how far the boys have come with some coming in only a couple of seasons ago with no experience, and to see how they played not just in the finals, but all season gave me great joy and I was so proud with how they conducted themselves.

I was approached by officials, coaches and parents from teams we had played to say how enjoyable it was to be involved in games with our team, not just with how they played, but also how they conducted themselves as young men, and how they played the game in the right spirit. This was one of the major things this season that I was most impressed with and was what made me so most proud to be involved with the team.

Each boy has contributed to the strong results each week and to the great season we have had, right from the keeper that has made the position his own, a defence that has been tough all season, the skilled midfield that have worked so hard on creating opportunities going forward, but also got back to help out in defence when needed, and finally a forward line that worked hard all game, and scored or created goals throughout the year.

This season we had 11 different scorers which showed how the team played, sharing opportunities around and playing as a great team, and not just a team of great players.

One of the boys, Ethan, will this season represent the team, and club in the CFFA Nationals for the under 16 team, and we wish him good luck and most importantly to have fun.

Thanks to all the boys for a great season and I hope to see you all back next year and to go one better and win it all.

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

Scott Moeser  
Coach – 2017



## AT A GLANCE

# Raahauge Cup

The Seniors are in a building phase, with 10 new young players joining the squad this season.

Both grades missed out on the finals but showed substantial improvement over the season.

We had some fantastic games, in fact we beat or drew with both of the grand finalists in first grade.

In Reserve grade we beat the eventual champions 4-0. There is much to be excited about for our future years.

Cameron Child had a particularly strong season claiming our MVP award for first grade.

Cameron was also able to pry the golden boot off Nathan Kingston, who has won it for the past 3 years.

Other notable performances were Simon Miskell and Ben Pullen receiving the MVP and players Player award for Reserve Grade.

In First grade the players player award was a tie between Grant Pullen and Cameron Woodward, both deserved recipients.

Ben Hurwood and Sam Hutchinson were given the coaches award for their effort and great improvement over the season.

The youth have invigorated the team spirit culminating in a great presentation weekend away at Del Rio Resort.

I can't comment on much that happened there as what happens at Del Rio stays at Del Rio....But just let me say Taylor Swift's song Love Story will never be the same for any of us again....

Huge thank yous go out to our club committee for their tireless work from administration to canteen and fund raising. Alan Spaul and Kim Sydenham deserve special mentions with their involvement in so many areas for the association and our club. Thanks also to Grant Pullen for doing most of the coaching this year. I have it on good authority he is also reinvigorated to work harder next year. Everyone, look out for a call to preseason as early as January....

See you next year.

Adam Goldsmith (Manager)

**Unfortunately the Club was not able to secure a Team or Club sponsor this year.**

If you can assist with this important aspect to successfully operate the Club;

Please contact **Alan Spaul** for further information on **0404 242 001**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**To be held on 10<sup>th</sup> October @ 7:30 PM**

Please contact our Secretary – **Kim Sydenham** for further information on 0410 444 863