



AGM 9th November 2021

Club President Report

Introduction

It goes without saying that 2021 was another disrupted year dominated by lockdowns. However, we did get some playing time, which was a vast improvement on 2020.

Despite the circumstances, the Club has had an incredibly successful season and achieved a lot since our last AGM in May 2021. (We have changed the timing of our AGM and so we have had two within six months.)

Junior Club

The Junior Club fielded five teams:

- U10 mixed (Sunday North 10 Joeys Yellow)
- U11 boys (Sunday North 11 Joeys Yellow)
- U12 boys (Sunday North 12 Joeys Blue)
- U13 boys (Boys North-West 13D)
- U13 girls (Girls North West 13D)

These teams had mixed success early in the season but were all on the right trajectory when lockdown interrupted the season.

We also ran two development squads for prep to grade 3, with 45 junior Bluetongues participating. As I said in our last report, these kids are the future of the Club and so it is reassuring to have such strong interest, including some new Alphington residents from the paper mill development. The other aspect of the Development Squad program that was a great success was the development of three new early-career coaches who ran the sessions – lead coach Zac and assistant coaches Ollie and George. They did a fantastic job, and really pushed themselves to learn and develop throughout the season. We had great help from two of the parents through the season – Mili and Mark – who were generous with their time and their soccer skills. Thank you to both Mili and Mark! Your help made a big difference in giving all the kids some focussed attention.

The excellent turn-out to the end-of-year post-lockdown presentation on Sunday 7th November was a reflection on the success of the Development Squad program. We're intending to run three sessions per week next year.

And once again, a massive thank you to our parent volunteer team managers for the junior teams – you did a fantastic job in organising, creating a team vibe, and organising end of season activities in amongst lockdowns. Thank you Peter, Vickie, Kerry and Lone – you are all gems.

Thanks also to CJ from CJ Trading who provided our medals and trophies, and to Nelson Alexander for sponsoring those again this year.

Senior Club

Report from Alex Mitropoulos, Senior Men's coach:

- SENIOR MEN'S TEAM PLAYED IN STATE LEAGUE 5 NORTH.
- After 12 games we finished 7th with 4 wins , 1 draw , and 7 loses.
- If the season continued, I have no doubt we would have picked up a minimum of 4 wins out of the 6 games left and pushed up the table.
- Last game before lockdown we played table toppers Bundoora away and gave them a fight to the finish just losing 2-1 with 10 men on the field and missing numerous goal scoring opportunities.

2021 Achievements :

- Highest finish for Alphington FC seniors since joining State League.
- Best points tally in a season.
- Most goals scored in a season.
- Least goals conceded in a season.
- Canteen up and running thanks to everyone that helped out especially Lisa (Chris Natsis Mum)

Report from Cliff Moss, who took over as Senior Women's coach halfway through the season:

- I got 4 training sessions and 1 match with the Senior Women
- Disappointed to not get more than that
- Even more disappointed to not be able to continue as coach
- Training was well attended and great commitment
- The one game we played was against Uni Hi, second in the table. We put in a hell of a show. A truly spirited performance. Earlier in the season we lost to the same team 10-1 I believe.. this time a much more respectable 3-0 and that was with key players missing.
- They did themselves, and me, proud.

Report from Chris Natsis, Senior Men's Reserves coach:

- Senior Reserve team are playing in State league North 5
- Season abandoned due to Covid Lockdown
- Finished the season with 5 Wins & 7 Losses but with a Goal difference 33 for to 28 against making 5 difference in our favour, finishing on 15 Points. which leads to the next point:
- We were playing an attractive style of football that focussed on moving the ball forward as quickly as possible to catch the other team off guard and cause havoc which showed in our numbers. First time ever in the State leagues that we had finished mid table with the potential to push for the title in season 2022.
- We have developed not just a team of great players but we are slowly building a family unit amongst the playing group. Which is needed for 2022 as we seek to push for that Top 4 Finish.

- As Stated in Alex's mid season comment the canteen has been a great success and moving forward we need more volunteers from the club and committee to move it in the right direction for season 2022. Having one person run it on a Saturday is hard work and I thank Lisa (My Mum) all the time when she pushes through the 7 hours she does. All the help next year would be appreciated.
- Last thing is I can't wait for the 2022 season to kick off and hopefully get a full season under our belts and get to show the rest of the league we are serious contenders, strutting around in our new Macron kits.
- Lets go Toungies

Veterans

Report from Nigel Odell:

- Season 2021 was abandoned half way through due to lockdown.
- O45s were traveling well and 2nd in the league table and O55s were also doing well and 4th in the table
- Both Veterans teams will be playing in the Italian Cup in Nov/Dec
- Both teams are finding that numbers are rising consistently and will be meeting after the Italian Cup to discuss plans for next year inc the possibility of running another team
- Veterans Socials did join the Doncaster O60s experiment but this was also abandoned due to lockdown
- Legends League may look at the introduction of an O60s League soon.

New sponsors and uniforms

The Club held a 'fitting day' on Sunday 7th November which was an all day event (9am-3pm) and was the culmination of a huge amount of work, particularly from Adi Kerr. Adi has negotiated new two-year sponsorship deals with our stellar group of partners (some continuing and some new):

Nelson Alexander

Pasta Poetry

Grange Meat Co

Little Bertha

Melbourne Farmers Market

And the following organisations are supporting our coaching program:

Bendigo Bank

Victorian Government's Change our Game program

Mountain Shade Marquees

We are excited to have this amazing suite of supporters and we look forward to delivering value to them through the partnership.

These new sponsorship deals are now reflected on our new playing kit, which have been designed and developed with our new apparel partner [Macron](#). Macron are a worldwide supplier to professional sporting teams, who are currently expanding into the community club sector in Australia. By partnering with them we get access to their quality Italian products, modern designs

and efficient ordering systems. Anyone who was at the fitting day and registered has experienced this first hand, with direct online ordering tailored to our Club. If you're intending to play next year, follow the links on the website and pre-order your uniform for next year. It helps the Club accurately order our uniforms early, which gives us access to discounted prices. And there is a \$30 early bird discount on next year's fees for development squad and junior players if you order your uniform by 22 November. Please contact us if you need more info on how to do this.

Throughout this year, we have done a major stocktake of all the old stock that has built up over the years. We have been able to give away some of our unmarked older stock to Alphington Primary, some of our old 'vintage' uniforms to local groups in need, and have also upcycled several boxes of material with a Melbourne social enterprise [Upparel](#). We have put a fair bit of effort into this exercise, rather than the textiles ending up as landfill.

New Committee structure

It has been agreed by the current Committee that the existing structure, which is based on having a representative from each team, is probably not the most appropriate model given our growth as a Club. Therefore, we are proposing to move to a skills-based model. The proposed structure is:

- 7 people (President, Secretary, Treasurer, three general members and a perpetual seat for the one Club founder still actively involved in the Club - Nigel)
- Mix of skills
- Minimum of three women

The Committee will be supported by a Coaches Sub-Committee, made up of all coaches and chaired by a Committee member. These changes will be formalised asap.

Outgoing Committee members

There are two long term Committee members for whom the AGM is their last meeting. The Club owes these two people a huge vote of thanks for the time and energy they have generously and selflessly given the Club over the years.

Ninian Lewis is our outgoing Secretary. Ninian stepped up to the plate in 2016, at a low ebb in the Club's history when it was unclear if we would survive as a Club. He partnered with the previous President Elaine and a handful of others, and pulled the Club through some really tough times. Ninian is known for his calm, logical and practical approach and is often the voice of reason. Ninian is a no fuss and genuinely nice person and we will all miss working with him. Thank you Ninian from everyone at the Club, past and present, we owe you a lot.

Julie Buchanan has been on the Committee for three eventful years and has taken on some of the most stressful and time-consuming tasks around uniforms, trophies and medals, with a global pandemic thrown in just to complicate things with issues such as supply chain delays to contend with. Thank you Julie for all that you have done, and for supporting the transition to our new uniforms. We hope that you can enjoy your games as a parent spectator next year without any jobs hanging over your head!

Coaching program

A couple of updates in relation to our coaching program:

- We are currently organising with FV to host an official Mini Roos coaching training session in March 2022. Dates tbc but it will be a Monday night and we already have a strong contingent of participants.
- We are currently recruiting for a coach for the senior women's team for 2022.
- We have several parents who have put their hands up to continue coaching or start coaching next year. Thank you so much to these dedicated people as they are such critical roles in a community Club such as the Bluetongues. Anyone else who is interested in coaching please get in touch because we would welcome your involvement – no experience necessary!

Strategic overview of finances

The details of our finances are outlined in the financial statement.

Overall, the Club is in a solid position considering we are recovering from two pandemic years in 2020 and 2021.

There are a couple of things worth calling out.

- Again, we are very grateful to those club members who donated some or all of their fees to the club for 2021. This was critical in helping keep the Club afloat. And thank you to our Treasurer Kellie Christie-Johnston for all of the extra work managing the refunds.
- We had a very successful strike rate in achieving grants that we applied for. Thanks to Mark Roby for his assistance in preparing these grant applications. We received \$6000 worth of grants as a result.
- For 2022, the Committee has set the fees as follows:

Team	Uniform	Other	Total fees
Development squad	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 250.00
Mini roos 11 and under	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 350.00
Juniors 12+	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 450.00
Senior women	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 450.00
Senior men	\$ 200.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 550.00
Vets 045	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 450.00
Vets 055	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 450.00
Vets social	\$ 70.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 200.00

This year the fees are made up of two components - uniform costs and other costs. This is because uniforms are now ordered online directly from Macron. The earlier you order your uniform the better it is for the Club as we get discounts for ordering earlier.

From February 2022, you will be able to register with Football Victoria and pay the balance of your fees. If you are in the development squad or a junior team order your uniform before 22 November 2021, you will get a \$30 early bird discount off your other fees next year.

- All of our major fundraising events were cancelled due to lockdown in 2021 – a double header weekend centred around a Senior Men's, Men's Reserves and a Senior Women's home game; and the annual Fireworks night (Friday 17th September). We did however

translate the raffle for the double header into an online activity and made \$4k. Thanks again to Adi for his work on this and the many local businesses who were so generous.

- In line with our draft strategic plan, we are aiming to have our canteen up and running to its full capacity in 2022. This year we trialled some weekends and have developed some good systems, experience and supplier relationships in readiness for 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Crosthwaite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kelly Crosthwaite
Alphington FC
President
0409 307 091