



AGM 28th November 2022

Club President Report

Introduction

This year saw the return to a full season of football after the disruptions of 2020 and 2021. Our aim was to get our players back on the field, having fun and to build a sense of community as we emerge out of COVID. By those measures, we consider that we have had a successful year.

Junior Club

Mini Roos (u8-u11)

The Junior Club fielded five teams:

- U8 mixed
- U10 girls
- U11 mixed
- U12 boys
- U13 boys

All of these teams did themselves, their families and the Club proud.

The u8 team was coached by Mark di Iorio and Mili Muratbegovic and managed by Nikki Kopfler and Sasha Gradnig. Charlie Lewis was the Assistant Coach. This was the team's first year playing competition. They had excellent attendance at training, built their understanding of the game, and won most weekends. We look forward to seeing how this cohort of players moves through the ranks in the years to come.

The u10 girls team was coached by Juan Taddei and Adi Kerr, and managed by Gaby Guanela. Esme Keen was the Assistant Coach. This team bonded on and off the field, and had great success in their games playing a collaborative style of football that is a pleasure to watch. This team are full of enthusiasm and have perfected the Club song. Like the u8s, we can't wait to see how they progress as we see this girls team as one that could stick together for many years.

The u11 team was coached by Kelly Crosthwaite and Rob Dalton, and managed by Peter Vouthas. Jaida Sacco was the Assistant Coach. This team were a fantastic group of kids and an absolute pleasure to coach. We had limited success on the field in terms of wins, but made great strides in confidence, never gave up and were always positive at the end of the game. This mixed team will move in to boys and girls teams next year but we hope that the friendships formed this season will endure.

Four of our mini roos made representative programs this year – Vaiva, Amelia and Pheonix were selected into the Melbourne Victory training squad and Rani was selected into Football Victoria’s SAP program. Well done!

Juniors (u12 and above)

The u12 boys team was coached by Mark Roby and Dugald Christie-Johnston and managed by Kelly Christie-Johnston and Vickie Cluse. Zac Wornest-Knowles was the Assistant Coach. This team had an incredible year, winning their competition. Their talent, enthusiasm and work paid off, with a thrilling round robin competition for the semi finals being the highlight of the season. A great achievement for the boys, their families and the Club.

The u13 boys team was coached by Steve Picken and Frank Buchanan, and managed by Sandi Nicholson and Marcus McKay. The Assistant Coach was Charlie Lewis. This team had an outstanding year, making great strides in their skills and the sophistication of their game-play through the season. They only just missed out on finals after a strong finish in the second half of the season.

A huge thanks to the coaches, team managers and other volunteer parents from these teams. All of these teams were run in a way that reflect the values of our Club (“community” and “developing our people”) and it showed in the fun that the kids obviously had and how much they grew in confidence. Thank you very much.

Development Squad

In 2022 we ran two development squads for prep to grade 3, with 52 “baby Bluetongues” participating on Wednesday afternoons. These groups were great fun, with the best measure of success the consistent levels of attendance and enthusiasm, including on the numerous cold and wet days. Other highlights for the team were the end of year celebrations, and the voting to name the Club Mascot (a resounding majority in favour of Blaze).

The coaching aspect of the Development Squad program was also successful, particularly the growth in our early-career coaches who ran the sessions – our lead coach Zac returned, along with assistant coaches Ollie and George. This year they were also joined by first-year coaches Lucy, Beau, Pheonix and Rani. They did a fantastic job running the sessions and guiding the kids.

Senior Club

Senior Women

The Senior Women were coached by Chris Natsis. This team had a brilliant year, coming a very close runner up in their competition. This team is built on a core group who started out playing together as juniors at the Club, and who have now been joined by some experienced women from other Clubs as well as some teenagers who have stepped up. The style of football that this team play is skilful and entertaining. The team prioritise playing for fun and it has translated into success on the field. Our Captain Gemma Tucci had a particularly good year, appearing on Football Victoria’s top 10 best and fairest list. The team are great role models for our juniors.

Senior Men

The Senior Men were coached by Alex Mitropolos and the Reserves were coached by Chris Natsis. The two teams had mixed success this year, with a balance of wins and losses but, happily, were showing momentum at the end of the season. Alan Toriama was a standout player, making the Football Victoria top ten best and fairest list for the league.

A huge thanks to Alex who has now left the Club, who guided us through some very tough COVID years and helped the Club keep going. We look forward to following Alex's future successes in his coaching career. Chris has now stepped up into the Senior Men's coaching role and is already bringing his own brand of football to the role, with focus and energy. The Committee is really pleased to see Chris progress into this role and look forward to his positive style of leadership being a major influence at the Club. Chris always has an eye on up-and-coming juniors and is particularly interested in ensuring we have a pipeline from junior to senior teams.

Veterans

The Club fielded three veterans teams this year – one o45 team and 2 o55 teams. Adi Kerr and Nigel Odell continued to play key organising roles with these teams. The Veterans part of the Club continues to build in strength with increasing numbers of enquiries to join the ranks of these teams, who are known for their emphasis on having fun, staying healthy and being a part of a community.

Coaching program

In 2022, we brought more focus onto our coaching program.

We had a total of 22 coaches including five female coaches and nine volunteer parent coaches.

We benefited from being a part of Football Victoria's Community Club Coaching (CCC) program, which included some workshops and entry-level qualifications for some of our coaches. We are also a part of Melbourne Victory's community program, and enjoyed some sessions taken by Melbourne Victory coaches.

Next year we have some new parents lined up to become coaches as well as some of our junior players who are keen to get started in their coaching career. If you have any interest in becoming a coach, please reach out. No experience is necessary, and we provide access to training opportunities as well as support within the Club. We would especially like to see some more women and girls coaching.

Sponsors and uniforms

This has been the first full year of our current sponsorship deals. We're proud to partner with the following local companies:

- Nelson Alexander
- Pasta Poetry
- Grange Meat Co
- Little Bertha
- Melbourne Farmers Market

We're also grateful for the support of the following organisations are supporting our coaching program:

- Bendigo Bank
- Victorian Government's Change our Game program
- Mountain Shade Marquees

This year our players looked tip top in our new Macron uniforms. We got lots of comments about the quality of our playing strip, and from the feedback we received, everyone felt good running out in it.

Thanks to all those who returned their kits for the end of season stocktake. The stocktake has been undertaken and our top-up order for next year has been placed with Macron. This is the first year that we have run the kit return system, which is standard practice in many community sporting Clubs, and is important in getting the most out of the uniforms and minimising registration fees over the two or (hopefully) three-year life of the current strip with the current sponsors. We've learnt some things this year about the process and will be able to implement it earlier and more efficiently next year.

Committee

This year the Committee had six members, with three assigned specific roles:

- Kelly Crosthwaite (President)
- Jon Minter (Secretary)
- Kellie Christie-Johnston (Treasurer)
- Adi Kerr
- Mark Knowles
- Nigel Odell

A huge vote of thanks for this group who supported me as President for putting in their time, with everyone on the Committee also having other roles within the Club.

There are four Committee members for whom the AGM is their last meeting. We acknowledge the contribution of these members.

Kellie Christie-Johnston – Kellie was asked by the previous President Elaine to “fill in for a little while” and now six years later is still on the Committee! Thank you Kellie and your family for your contribution to the Club, which will continue next year but in different ways. And thank you for being our Treasurer, running the books and bank accounts and being a part of setting the direction of the Club (as well as all the other jobs along the way!).

Jon Minter – Jon is the vice-captain of the Men's Reserves team and stepped up this year to represent the senior club on the Committee, despite also having a new and busy day job. Thanks Jon for your lovely calm energy and balanced way of working through issues. And good luck with the next moves for you. We hope to see you back at the Club when you're back in Melbourne.

Adi Kerr – Adi has been the powerhouse of the Club over the last couple of years. He has brought ideas, positivity, inclusiveness and an incredible energy, all in the name of building a community that benefits all of us. Adi is stepping back from the Committee but will still be busy captaining the o45 team, coaching the u11 girls, and managing our digital communications. We're also hoping that Adi can help oversee another fireworks night in 2023 after the amazing event that he orchestrated this year so that he can impart his know-how to others for future years. Thanks Adi from all of us at the Club – it is hard not to notice the effort you've put in but as President I've seen the full extent of it and I'm personally very grateful.

Nigel Odell – Nigel is one of the Club founders who established the Alphington Bluetongues in 2003, and also plays in the o55s. He is stepping away from the Committee next year due to work commitments, but always has a seat at the Committee table. We value your wise counsel Nigel and

will miss it next year, but we know that you won't be far away. On a personal note, its been invaluable to me to be able to test ideas with you and I will no doubt still do that. Thank you very much and I hope we've been able to grow the Club in line with your original vision 20 years ago.

Strategic overview of finances

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

Overall, the Club is in a solid position, finishing the year with just enough cash to cover our major cost in between seasons being the uniform order. This leaves us in an overall positive position based on our projected registrations next year and the budget we have prepared.

There are a couple of things worth calling out.

- This year the Club made a major purchase of two new sets of aluminium goals, to replace the PVC goals that were many years old and falling apart. These two sets cost over \$10,000 and have been well utilised both junior and senior training, as well as junior games. Thank you for the generous contributions of many of our members who donated to the Australian Sports Foundation campaign that we ran to contribute to the new goals. \$3,100 of donations were made. This was short of our objective of \$8,000 but nonetheless enabled the Club to make the purchase. If you want to make a tax-deductible donation to a local cause, the [page](#) is still open!
- The Roj Peine Memorial Fireworks night was a huge success as a community event (which was our primary reason for running it) as well as a successful fundraiser. The event cost approximately \$9,000 to put on, and we made an additional \$3,500 in profit. We were blessed with good weather on the day and so we're mindful that we may not make that much every year! But what a great reflection on our community that so many turned out to support us, particularly with pre-paid tickets, as well as the amazing contribution of the Alphington and Fairfield Civic Association who provided the outdoor cinema experience.
- This year we got the canteen up and running again after two lost years to COVID. Adi did a great job setting us up with a professional coffee machine via Gridlock coffee and a range of suppliers including Little Bertha and Wonder Pies. Thanks to a great effort of several people, particularly Sam Price and Sophie Nilsson, we have some good processes in place and have had a steady stream of volunteers running the canteen most weekends. The bulk of the work though has fallen to a couple of people that we've relied on a lot and so next year we're looking at some changes to make the workload more sustainable. But overall we have made great progress this year and can now count on some income each weekend.
- Next year we hope to have our liquor licence, which will put us in a position to serve drinks at seniors and veterans matches and add to our income streams.

The year ahead – 2023

Next year we're hoping to register the following teams based on 2022 registrations:

- Development squad
- U8 boys
- U9 boys
- U10 boys
- U8/9/10 girls (combined multi-age girls team)
- U11 girls
- U12 boys
- U13 boys
- U14 boys
- U14 girls
- Senior Men
- Senior Men's Reserves
- Senior Women
- Veterans o45
- Veterans o55 x 2

An expression of interest form will be distributed prior to Christmas to help us firm up our teams for 2023.

The new Committee elected at the AGM will also set the 2023 fees at the next meeting (prior to Christmas) as well as the 2023 calendar of events.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Alphington Football Club during 2022. Its been a fantastic year and we're looking forward to 2023, our 20th anniversary year. The Club only exists because of the community that we have, and the Committee are always welcoming of new ideas and new people so please if you have thoughts about the Club and how it is run, we would love to hear from you.

Kelly Crosthwaite
Alphington FC
President

28 November 2022