



President's Annual Report 2009

Blue Mountains enjoyed a season with growth in Small Sided Football (SSF), success for some junior teams and sustained numbers in our senior teams also with some successes.

Skills based SSF continued to be popular with 4 U5, 8 U6 and 6 U7 teams giving us our highest ever number of players in these age groups. Saturday mornings were extremely busy each week with the new Hub format being trialled. The feedback we have received from parents since the end of season will enable us to take this information to the Nepean Association and improve the experience for the kids (and parents) each week.

Our junior teams had a more successful year with 4 out of 8 teams being competition runners up, 5 being involved in finals day matches and 3 being finals day winners. We celebrate their success at our Presentation Day.

The 7 senior teams had mixed results. Our ladies team struggled for numbers, but played with great spirit. The Prems and Prem Reserves showed great resilience in a year where rebuilding was the main feature. Some of our most experienced players moved to O35s opening the door for our skilful U16/1 players from last year to move up to the higher level. It has been a great learning year for them, one of blending youth with experience under the guidance of coaches Dave Gordon and Matt Witjes.

Our Over 35 Division 1 team was comp runners up and won their Grand Final while our AA7s played well all year only to play their worst game of the year in the semi final and bow out.

Our other senior teams (AA5, AA8, O35.5) showed great camaraderie and spirit, a strength of which the club can be proud.

Coaching remains a prime consideration in the skills based climate that the Football Federation of Australia is driving for football in Australia. We offer all coaches the opportunity to undertake appropriate training at minimal or no cost. This year we held grassroots courses and were pleased that so many availed themselves of the opportunity.

We thank our sponsors, Glenbrook Panthers, Zest Kitchens, EDT Global, Barges Australia, Bodyfit Gymnasium Blaxland for their support and I request you to support them. It is their sponsorships that help to reduce the cost of our member's participation. I ask members of all teams to actively seek club and team sponsorships to help defray the costs of the game.

We also thank Blue Mountains City Council for their maintenance of the fields during the season and ongoing development of a Master Plan for improvements to Knapsack Park. The end product that will eventuate from the Master Plan process will be a ground that we can all enjoy and we look forward to a substantial portion being completed by our 50th Anniversary as a club in 2015. There will be regular updates on how everyone can assist over the next few years.

Our vision as a community club is also to be involved with the community as well as football.

I was very pleased to host our second Ladies Day this year, superbly arranged by Ali Bell and Sue Watson. Our support this year was for a local family. 3 y.o. Daughter Emilia has substantial medical issues. We were pleased to be able to raise \$2200 towards the out of pocket medical expenses the family is incurring. Thanks to the 75 ladies who attended, the many sponsors and contributors including The Lapstone Hotel and Josh's Bistro. We look forward to another great day next year.



Our inaugural Men's Day was a BBQ and raffle led by Brad Cole and Matt Bell of the AA8s. The day raised \$540 towards the Nepean-Blue Mountains Prostate Cancer Support Group. We also look forward to Men's Day returning next year.

Our peak body, the Nepean District Soccer Football Association has developed greatly over the last 5 years under the leadership of President, Gary Davies. It has moved to be a more responsive organization seeking the input of clubs to make sure that the administration of the local competition and its 35 affiliated clubs is professional and reflects the needs of our area. Our club believes that the association will grow in its acumen over the next few years to deliver substantial improvements for local football.

Refereeing remains an under-resourced part of our competition's overall football structure. There is a large gap between both the younger (14-20yo) and older referees (45+), not only in age but in numbers participating. With a growing interest in football occurring and a resultant increase in player numbers, growth in referee's ranks must also occur. Our club has a receptive and supportive attitude to the referees. We have received very good coverage for our games.

Finally, our committee has strived to give all our club members the opportunity to participate in the game at their appropriate level. The organization of a club and its relationships with members, teams, parents, Council, sponsors, the wider football community is generally handled by parents of our children and interested community members. It has encouraged me greatly to have capable people like Sandy Duetoft (Sec) and Sue Watson (Canteen & Ladies Day) and Brad Cole and Barry Summers (seniors) step forward to undertake the roles they accepted.

Thanks to all our committee for their work in managing match day at Knapsack Park and for their preparation of all that is necessary to run the season smoothly. This year our committee says goodbye to Life Member Neil and wife Lorraine Creagh. They have been registrar and assistant registrar for the last 5 years, helping to establish and bed down the new electronic registration processes that have occurred in that time. Neil and Lorraine have had 4 children play for the club over the last 20 years. They have done a great job and we wish them well in the future. Martin Trigg is also stepping down from the committee after 7 years due to work commitments. Martin played a large part in building our website capability. Martin will still be around playing in the O35s and watching his kids in their respective teams.

It is time for new people to come forward and help their club help their families and teams enjoy football. There are many skills required that people can offer. Please contact me through the website for further information. We will be giving regular information bulletins between now and next season to ensure our preparation is adequate.

I have enjoyed this year greatly and look forward to next season.

Our new constitution being put forward is a reflection of the changes being driven by the FFA and the State Dept of Fair Trading. It will enable us to revise our structure and streamline many of the opportunities that we wish to give our members. I urge you all to support it at the Annual General Meeting and give further support while the new structure is implemented.

Ian Monaghan

President
