

Woden Valley Soccer Club 2017 Newsletter – President’s Report

With just three weeks of the season left I’m a little late getting this newsletter out, but it has been a very busy season and I hope you’ve enjoyed it so far!

WVSC is a community club with just over 1,700 players ranging from under 6 to over 65 years of age. Of this, about 1,570 are children and we have 134 adults playing in the State League and Masters competitions. Our members represent a broad cross-section of school, work, social and other sports backgrounds as well as a wide array of interests and cultures. There might be almost as many reasons for members being a part of our club, such as parents wanting kids to play a relatively safe sport, simply to be active, or for social inclusion. Several of our State League and Masters members played when they were younger, took up coaching when their kids joined, and then decided they would like to try playing again. Whatever your reason for joining and being part of our club, thank you, I – and the committee – really hope you are thoroughly enjoying your experience.

This year is my first in around 12 seasons where I am not coaching a team, which has taken some getting used to! But it has given me the opportunity to help out where needed, to observe some games during the season, and also to reflect on my own coaching performance. Sometimes as a coach we can feel pressure, whether from our expectations of ourselves or perceived expectations of our team or our parent group, and we Human Beings can be quite competitive. But in the context of kid’s sport, imposing our own competitive instincts on kids is not necessarily positive. Sometimes we need to re-evaluate and perhaps reset our expectations and allow the kids to simply enjoy participating and learning in their own way and in their own time.

We have had a small number of reports of poor behaviour toward referees this season and, even though it is a small number, such experiences can have a detrimental effect on the individuals involved. Please consider, if your child was being heavily criticised or even abused by others for doing their best while refereeing, how would you feel, what would you do?

This weekend is the “Play by the Rules, Let Kids Be Kids Silent Sidelines” round. The point of this initiative is to minimise interference from the sidelines and allow the kids to play and to make their own decisions and mistakes, uninhibited by the input (expectations, direction) of coaches and parents. I know we all have the best intentions when we guide, encourage and advise our kids from the sidelines, but what would happen if we just let them play? Well, let’s find out this weekend. For some insight from a child’s perspective, follow this link:

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/videos/let-kids-be-kids-csa1>

Barbecue and Other Improvements

We opened the new barbecue facility earlier in the year and, judging by the smiles on Saturday mornings, our volunteer operators seem to be enjoying it. Thank you, along with our canteen and other volunteers, for your contribution. We’ve also widened the walkway around the bbq end of the clubhouse, installed a wheelchair access ramp to the car park, and painted out a dedicated disability parking space. More improvements are coming, mainly aimed at the organisation, transport and storage of equipment that should make it easier and faster to set up and pack up pitches. You may have seen our electric cart which is already reducing our effort to pack up the PVC goal posts that have been left on the grounds after the U11 games (thanks to those people who do make the effort

to lug them up to the containers behind the club house) and we are now looking at designs for trailers to carry and store the aluminium goals. We will paint the cart in club colours and it really needs a name. So we will announce a naming competition shortly. Please keep an eye out!

Kanga Cup

Congratulations to all those WVSC teams who competed in the Kanga Cup this year. We had some really positive feedback from participants from within our club, as well as some great feedback from other teams about how well-spirited our teams were.

The ageing irrigation system at Mawson let us down again this year which meant that games that had been scheduled for Mawson had to be moved to Kambah. So while the opening ceremony was under way on Sunday, we were busy organising and relocating our equipment, including canteen and barbecue, nets and corner flags - no mean feat - but come 8:30am Monday we had everything in place to support kick off for the first games of the tournament. Thank you to members of WVSC Masters, including Matt, Foxy and Richie, Marvin, Max and Liam as well James and our canteen manager Nicole and her crew, because without their support it would not have been possible.

Upcoming

Look out for details of our new Term 4 Street Soccer program for U7-9 and U10-12 age groups.

There will be no formal teams, no competition ladders, minimal coaching and maximum fun. More to come shortly!

Important dates:

- 9 Saturday – last round of games for the season and presentations for U6 - 9s
- 16 September – Matildas vs Brazil in Penrith. Invitations have been sent. If you're interested in joining us on the bus please let us know as we need to confirm the booking.
- 19 September - Presentation Night for U10 – 18s at the Hellenic Club
- 21 November – Annual General Meeting. If you like something we do as a club, or you can see where and how some improvements might be made, then please come to our AGM and consider joining our committee. There's a lot to feel good about being involved in running this club!

Thank you as always to our fabulous sponsors and partners, who include the Hellenic Club (Major Sponsor), Sportsmans Warehouse, Define Fitness, Bordeaux Constructions, StepSoft, MEJ, Axiom, Capital Chemist, Ganes Building Services and Fox Antiques. I cannot overstate the value of the contribution of these sponsors!

Speaking of sponsors, we need to purchase some important items such as defibrillators (one for the club house and one to keep with our Masters teams), so if you would like to explore this and other opportunities to support our club through sponsorship, please get in touch with us via admin@wvsc.org.au.

In the meantime, please enjoy the remainder of the season. And come and say hi if you get the chance.

Regards,

Danny