



Gymea United FC 2008 Yearbook

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GUFC 2008

It's time to say thanks!

The 2008 season is over. And it was as huge as ever –

1300+ players registered; 130+ teams; the introduction of SSG; hundreds of games played; hundreds of training sessions at the Oval; gala days; coaching courses; training camps; meetings; hundreds of gear bags, balls and uniforms distributed; a raffle and a trivia night; great service at the canteen and Boomerang Bar all year; thousands of tasty sausage sandwiches served and so much more!

And to think every aspect of our 2008 operations (and above is really just the tip of the iceberg) was run by volunteers.

To you we say THANK YOU!

Coaches: for bringing the best out in players and allowing them to enjoy football

Managers: for keeping teams informed and organised

Parents, families and spectators: for lending a hand when needed, whether it was on the BBQ or selling raffle tickets

GUFC refs: who stepped in and ref'd games

Ground control team: for doing a great job preparing and operating grounds on game days

Match reporters: for updating and entertaining us each week on your teams' progress

Committee members: for your ongoing hard work in running the club.

**And to EVERYONE
else who pitched in and
helped run GUFC this year –
THANK YOU!**

President's report

By Stewart Teal

Our numbers were much the same as last year but we fielded 117 teams as small sided games were introduced for the younger players including the under 9's. This concept was very successful and will lay the foundation for skills and knowledge of football to be enhanced in the future.

Well done to all the teams who took part in the finals series. Our congratulations to all the winners and, to the losers, better luck next season. Our 12A, 21E, JW14B, JW18B/1, SWG and AL10 teams are Runners-up, our 21C, JW12A and AL14's are Minor Premiers & Runners-up, the 12E's, 14A's and 35C's are Premiers and the AL2/1's are Minor Premiers & Premiers. We are all very proud of you.

2009 is our 50th year and should be a beauty. We will have water tanks installed to allow us constant watering which should ensure that we have grass over the playing surface and an upgrade of our lighting so that we will be able to utilise the entire oval.

Together with the re-surfacing of the oval everything should be ready to go at the start of next season.

My thanks to all the Management Committee for their commitment and hard work. Special thanks to Lea Tsekouras, Julie & Bryan Molan and Dale King who are standing down after many years of dedication to our Club. They will be sorely missed.

Next season will also see a changing of the guard when I will hand over to Steve Dolheguy and I wish him and the new Committee all the very best. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 10 year reign as President and will look back at the growth and success of Gymea United Football Club with pride and satisfaction.

Great GUFC shot – 801's



GUFC committee

2008 Management committee

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| President | Stewart Teal |
| Vice President | Bryan Molan |
| Hon Secretary | Eileen Ward |
| Hon Treasurer | Michael Blumor |
| Senior Registrar | Julie Molan |
| Junior Registrar | Cathy Economos |
| Gear Officer | Deanne Landers |
| Asst Gear Officer | Wayne Phillips |
| Ground Controller | vacant |
| Asst Controller | vacant |
| Canteen Supervisor | Alissa Teal |
| Asst Canteen Supervisor | vacant |
| Social Secretary | vacant |
| Publicity Officer | Steve Dolheguy |
| Newsletter Editor | Shannon Dixon |
| Minute Secretary | Lea Tsekouras |
| Web Manager | vacant |

Committee persons

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| John Bailey | Michael Lewis |
| Nick Del Din | Michael Liberato |
| Ray Dennis | Wendy Smithers |
| David Johnson | Doug Sparks |
| Michael Keenan | Gary Wall |
| Dale King | Harry Johnston |

2009 Management committee

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| President | Steve Dolheguy |
| Vice President | David Johnson |
| Honorary Secretary | Eileen Ward |
| Honorary Treasurer | Michael Blumor |
| Senior Registrar | Cathy Economos |
| Junior Registrar | Gary Wall |
| Asst. Registrar | vacant |
| Ground Controller | Craig Teal |
| Asst. Ground Controller | Jim Keane |
| Canteen Supervisor | Wendy Smithers |
| Asst. Canteen Supervisor | Di Mayo |
| Newsletter Editor | Shannon Dixon |
| Website Manager | Shannon Dixon |
| Publicity Officer | vacant |
| Gear Officer | Deanne Landers |
| Asst. Gear Officer | Wayne Phillips |
| Social Secretary | vacant |
| Minute Secretary | Lisa Brown |
| Competition Secretary | Pauline Murray |

Committee Persons

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Bailey | Michel Keenan |
| John Coupe | Ian Lamp |
| Nicholas Del Din | Michael Leitch |
| Janelle Hall | Michael Lewis |
| Mark Hildebrandt | Anthony Severino |
| Christian Jory | Doug Sparks |

2008 GUFC finals results

Minor premiers and premiers

AL2/1

Premiers

12E

14A

35C

Minor premiers and runners-up

21C

JW12A

AL14

Runners-up

12A JW18B/1 AL10

21E JW14B SWG

Finalists

14D JW18A JW16B

18B JW21A 35F/2

Semi finalists

10A 21F

12B 35A

14B 35F/1

15B JW13A

16A W30A/1

21A/2 SWB/2

JW12A - as Minor Premiers, the team will participate in the Champion of Champions State-wide competition.

JW18A - semi-finalists in the State Cup Competition.

Great GUFC shot

The 14a's, premiers, receiving their grand final medal



2008 GUFC service awards

10 years

Brad Saunders

Lauren Sharpe

Todd Grant

Chris Stevens

Sam Cobb

Daniel Stevens

Nicholas Geraghty

Max O'Reilly-Phelps

David Thomas

Hayden Cooke

Peter Austin

Michael Baker

Brett Ketelaar

Nathan Farrow

Nicholas Jessep

Jake Walker Matthew

Dean

Dylan Robson-Bray

Damon Anderson

Nathan Bryant

Regan Hendricks

Max Weismantel

Carly Rose Landsberry

Megan Pitt

15 years

Brok Carney

Andrew Harding

Nathan Cawsey

Thomas Cole

Paul Archer

Luke Hopkins

Nicholas Deldin

Shaun Parton

Daniel Fogden

20 years

Todd Lawrence

30 years

Paul Davies

45 years

David Gibson

Patron

Bill Robb

Life members

Cyril O'Neill

Andy Watson

Bill Fisher

Laurie Dean

Ross Smith

Ada Smith

Stan Ellis

John Lewis

Ron Rich

Ken Landsberry

Alan McAlpine

Ruby Ellis

Ken Gough

Max Cameron

Bev Nelson

Greg Harris

Shirley Harris

Harry Basterfield

Doug Barr

Rob Glass

Terry Hibbins

Maureen Hibbins

Harry Johnston

Ray Dennis

Eileen Ward

Stewart Teal

Brian Ward

Peter Blacker

Darryl Clark

GUFC year in short

49th season
1,349 registered players
117 teams

And we're off.....

Pre season: Small sided games

2008 saw a major change to the Rooball format, with the introduction of small-sided games (SSG) for u6-u9 teams across the Sutherland Shire and many other areas of Australia.

March 16: Telstra Rooball Gala Day

For the first time ever, GUFC held a Rooball Gala Day at Gymea Oval – a chance for u6-u9 to get a taste of the new small sided games. Sydney FC players came along, providing a real highlight for the kids. Josh from the u9's said the part he liked most about the day was *"kicking the ball and seeing my mates."*



PHOTO: Sydney FC players lend a hand at the Rooball Gala Day.

Pre-season: A home at Kareela

Kareela 2 is allocated as GUFC's second home ground in 2008.

March 29 and 30: Season starts

On a beautiful Autumn weekend, season 2008 kicked off in fine style, with over 17,000 eager footballers taking to fields across the Shire. GUFC teams were full of enthusiasm. The W18B1 said of their first round: *"hopefully this will set the scene for the team will serve up all season."* The SWD1 said *"having fun together is our objective this season."*

March 31: Charlie's coaching

One of Australia's leading coaches Charlie Davidson returns to GUFC to run a series of informative seminars for our coaches.

End March: u6 and u7 training program

Along with SSG came a new training program for GUFC u6's and u7's. All teams trained together on set nights in a structured program aimed at creating a fun environment for the kids, whilst targeting key skills for the age group.

April 7: Goalies

Experience goalkeeping coach Mike Jaeger kicks off the GUFC goalkeeper training sessions, free to all club goalies.

April: Coaching panel

A GUFC coaching support program is put in place, assigning experienced coaching contacts to each junior age group – extra support and resources for club coaches.

April: The newsletter gets a name!

We asked you – and you suggested a name for the GUFC newsletter. *The Gymea Striker* was born!

April: SSG feedback BBQs

Coaches, parents and players stay back following u6 and u7 training to offer feedback and thoughts on the new small-sided games.

April 26: Wash out!

Atrocious Sydney washed out Saturday Round 5.

May 4: State Cup

State Cup kicks off with GUFC AL1, 12A and 16A getting amongst the action.

May 10: Trivia night helps raise \$13,000

250 people pack the Gymea Bay PS hall for the GUFC trivia night. The night and club raffle raise \$13,000 in funds to go towards oval improvements and water tanks.



PHOTO: GUFC trivia night

Early June: GUFC on TV

GUFC players and families star on the SBS show *Football Stars of Tomorrow*. The show filmed at the Telstra Rooball Gala Day

Mid June: Round 12

Reported through GUFC match reports as the coldest, most miserable, windy and muddy weekend's of the season!

June long weekend: wash out!

More bad weather washed out Round 11 and forces the finals to be pushed back one week.

June 28: Terry McFlynn visits

Sydney FC start Terry McFlynn drops by Gymea Bay Oval for Saturday morning games. Described by those who met him as "an all time top bloke", Terry chatted

with players, signed autographs, refereed a game and warmed up teams.



PHOTO: Terry McFlynn visits GUFC

Early July: Coaching seminars wrap-up

Charlie Davidson delivers the final of his coaching seminars. GUFC opened the night up to all SSFA clubs, allowing more than 50 coaches to attend.

July 6: JW18A's make it to the State Cup semi final

July school holidays: Telstra Football Anytime

Run by GUFC, the three-day holiday program involved close to one hundred 5-8 year olds, both from GUFC and other clubs. Head coach Gary Wall said the key was making sure the kids walked away with a positive attitude to football.



PHOTO: Kids enjoying Telstra Football Anytime

Mid July: 2009 committee elected

The election of the 2009 GUFC committee saw the arrival of new volunteers, the return of some 'old' faces and the departure of some who have dedicated much to GUFC over the years.

August 2 and 3: All good things come to an end

And so the 2008 season comes to an end for many - except those fortunate enough to get a finals berth. The end of the season delivers to coveted minor premiership to four GUFC teams - AL2/1, 21C, JW12A and AL14.

August 9 and 10: Semi finals

All the hard work, sweat and tears came to a head when 31 GUFC teams hit the pitch for semi finals. Some went straight to the grand final, others had to battle on the following week and for some, it was the end of the road.

August 16 and 17: Finals

A final shot at grand final glory. Six GUFC teams bowed out this week, but could hold their head high on their 2008 achievement.

August 23 and 24: Grand final

And so 13 sensational GUFC teams make it to the grand finals - 4 prevail, taking the 2008 Premiership. Congratulations AL2/1, 12E, 14A and 35C.

September 5: Senior presentation

GUFC senior teams let their hair down at the Senior Presentation night, held at Gymea Bay PS hall.

September 6: Junior presentation

The juniors turn to celebrate a great season, at the infamous GUFC junior presentation day held at Gymea Bay oval.

GUFC 2008 highlight

Under 8B match report, round 8

The Magpies we played,
It was tough from the start,
Our Coach wasn't frayed,
As the boys did their part.
With Frankie's quick feet,
He passed their defence,
We rose from our seat,
As a goal we could sense.
Daniel was there,
He tapped it in,
We're not supposed to care,
But you should've seen him grin!
The boys were in top gear,
As Miranda came on the attack,
Chris faced them with no fear,
And helped Matt defend at back.
Goals were scored on each side,
Nick H used his head,
To pass the ball wide,
To Nick L instead.
A really great game,
Kept us all on our toes,
The result was the same,
For us and our foes.

Treasurer's report

by Michael Blumor

As most would be aware GUFC's Financial Year closes 30 September 2008. As a result Final Financial Statements are not available for this Yearbook.

The finalised Financial Statements are presented as the AGM in November.

Having said that the 2008 season was a good one financially for the Club. There were very few washed out matches and in general the weather was kinder than in previous periods.

I expect the Club to close the season with an excess in the order of \$50,000. This should place us in a good position to pay for the installation of water tanks in the off-season.

It also sets us up to commence construction of addition lighting at Gynea Ovals if and when we are able to secure a Government Grant to assist.

It was important 2008 be a year of consolidation for the Club given the expenses associated with the introduction of our new uniform in 2007.

Registration revenue in the main covered the cost of providing football to our 1300 members, which is a key principle within which the club operates. I would like to thank Cathy Economos our Registrar for keeping such good records to make the registration process as easy as possibly from a financial perspective.

The excess quoted above is in large part due to the non-football operations of the Club. A few key individuals need to be called out for high praise in this regard. Alissa Teal our Canteen Supervisor, Uncle Harry, Aunty Pat and Todd Lawrence our Bar Executive, Wendy Smithers our Social Secretary, Deanne Landers our Gear Officer and Steve Dolheguy our Publicity officer...A huge thank you to you all.

Lastly to Brian Ward a ghost like figure who emerges each month to do all the hard work needed to get the Clubs account produced. Who provides guidance and council to inexperienced Treasurers, and teaches then the power of accrual accounting...Thanks You, Thank You, Thank You.

Treasurer (with L Plates)
Michael Blumor

GUFC 2008 highlight

Great job Rooball referees

The GUFC Rooball referees received much praise in 2008. Here's a report from referee coordinator, Nick Del Din, published in the Gynea Striker (Week 15):

"There have been a number of comments both informally, to the Ground Control Office, and more formally to the Secretary Eileen Ward, congratulating many of our junior referees on their performance.

While there is a focus on refereeing on making the correct decisions, the correspondence has also indicated that players and parents are pleased with the encouragement and communication between referees and players. Great job."

GUFC 2008 highlight

Under 6M2 match report, round 6

We played at home under a bright sunny blue sky, the 6M2 boys took to the field and waved their parents goodbye.

All the boys couldn't wait because they love soccer a lot, so the ref blew the whistle and the boys all took off.

Down the sideline Jack dribbled it with passion and glee, as Ashley called out "Jack pass it to me".

And Ashley with the ball at his feet, kicked it to Zac which was really quite neat.

Zac's got the ball now and is sporting a huge smile, he passes to Sam who kicks it a mile.

And Jordan was there as keen as can be, he gets the ball which was a real pleasure to see.

So with the game over now the 6M boys have a drink, all happy as Larry cause they know there's another game of soccer next week.

Coaching report

By Gary Wall, Head Coach

So ends another season, how quickly they pass when your having fun!

The season started with the massive challenge of bedding in the biggest change in junior football since Rooball started 20 years ago with the implementation of Small sided games for ages U6 to U9. We were very lucky at GUFC with the majority of parents embracing the concept leading to a smooth transition. With the smaller fields and teams it was great to see all the kids more involved in the games.

The change to SSG meant we had to review the way we coached and trained our kids leading to the setting up of the U6 & U7 skill's training nights where teams were encouraged to train together on set nights. This system worked very well and was widely accepted, it allowed teams to share players when numbers were low and also allowed them to finish their sessions with a game against another group which was fun for the kids.

The success of SSG at Gynea was mainly due to the tireless work of the Coaching / Grading Panel consisting of:

Dave Johnson
Doug Sparks
Malcolm Curtis
Stewart Teal
Lea Tsekouras
Alan Dean
Dale King
Mark Hildebrandt
Michael Keenan
Michael Liberato
Brian Molan
Todd Lawrence
John Economos
Warwick Gray
Matt Dibley
Dave Anderson

How lucky we are to have the support of this fine group who continually help out on all coaching fronts and have a great knowledge of the game.

Another highlight was the pre season Rooball Gala Day sponsored this year by Telstra, all the kids received a "Telstra Rooball Squad" shirt and played in a number of games throughout the day.

We were also very lucky to have Tony Popovic, Tery McFlynn and David Zdrilic from Sydney FC present who joined in the games and gave a lunchtime skills clinic for the kids. The day was also featured on an episode of "Football Stars of Tomorrow" on Foxtel and SBS (This day was my highlight).

This year we planned to start our Junior Football Academy which sadly we had to defer due to the work involved in getting SSG off the ground, we hope to be able to relaunch this initiative in 2009 so keep an eye on the website for the latest on the academy and coaching.

Charlie Davidson joined us again this season with over 100 coaches attending his Coaching Seminars which have been a huge success over the last two seasons, we hope to have Charlie back with us next year and are presently looking at others ways he can assist the GUFC coaching program.

We had 31 teams make the semi finals with 13 teams making it through to grand finals, congratulations to our 12E, 14A, AL2/1 & 35C's who progressed to be premiers.

A special thanks to all GUFC coaches for the amazing commitment and time that you put into your roles, hope to have you all back next year.

I think that's it, now I can sit on the hill and watch the Fireworks! See you all in 2009.

GUFC 2008 highlight

Terry McFlynn, Sydney FC star, visits GUFC



Sydney FC star Terry McFlynn dropped by Gynea Bay Oval for Saturday morning games on June 28. Described by those who met him as "an all time top bloke", Terry chatted with players, signed autographs, refereed a game and warmed up teams.

Community service report

By John Bailey

I would like to thank the 8 workers from community services who accumulated 390 hours of time behind the BBQ on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the season.

This program encourages offenders to work in the community in order to make reparation for the harm caused by their offending, and gives them an opportunity to utilise their skills, talents and interests and make constructive use of their leisure time.

Having the community service workers over the weekends took the pressure off the canteen supervisor and the team on ground control and their time and efforts were greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank the community service office in Sutherland for their continued advice and support and to the band of supervisors in the club for taking care of the workers, spending some time with them and making them feel comfortable and welcome.

GUFC 2008 highlight

A special kind of soccer

The Sutherland Titans are a club affiliated with the Sutherland Shire Football Association, that cater specifically for kids with special needs. When GUFC U8P3's had a match against a Titans team during 2008, Jackie Dempster, team leader/coach had this to say following the game:

"I just wanted to say thank you for giving my team 8P3 the chance to participate in such an inspiring game on Saturday. We went to the TITANS home ground at Sutherland, There we were informed that we would be playing a 20 minute game against kids with special needs. Prior to the game starting we had a team talk, our kids fully understanding the situation. It was the most moving and enjoyable 20 minutes I have ever had. To see my team out there having a great time and putting smiles on the faces of kids in need. I am so proud of all the kids in our team on their behaviour and kindness they showed to others. Something I will and they will always remember and be proud to have been a part."

Rooball referees

By Nick Del Din

With the introduction of Small-Sided Games in 2008, the number of games that our referees had to cover increased dramatically on last year. This meant the club needed more referees and there were many boys and girls who expressed their interest. This was reflective in their enthusiastic and positive attitude towards refereeing.

Having spoken to a number of other clubs, there is no doubt Gynea has one of the largest groups of Small-Sided Games' referees in the Association.

"All the referees were responsible, punctual and a credit to the club."

I am pleased to report that we have had one of the most successful seasons in terms of refereeing. There were very few incidences where people didn't turn up for their game, and when it did happen it was merely a breakdown in communication. All the referees were responsible, punctual and a credit to the club.

It must be understood that refereeing is not an easy task. People are very quick to criticise but not very forthcoming with praise. Other referees would suggest that if nothing is said to you after the game, then you have refereed well.

I am happy to report that this year there were a large number of complements for our referees. Thank you for being great ambassadors for the Gynea United Football Club.

Towards the end of the season some unforeseen circumstances arose which impacted on some of the referees receiving their pay on time. I appreciate your patience and understanding following these events.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Eileen Ward who has helped me tremendously throughout the year. I realised very early in the season that contacting up to thirty referees each week was very time consuming and trying to find time to study became very difficult. Mrs Ward took that role on for me and also assisted in collating the referees' pay. Her assistance this year was invaluable.

I hope all the referees enjoyed the season. I am sure their experiences will keep them interested in this important part of the game.

I look forward to 2009.

2008 GUFC team reports

And now for the most important part of all – how did the GUFC teams enjoy the 2008 season? Read on.

Under 6's

Under 6B

It was really good to see a newly created team at the beginning of the season, gel and develop together over the course of the season. It had got to the stage where the players would call each other for the ball to be passed, and the two players on the sideline would yell together with parents and other family member in support of the players on the field.

The team ended the season on a high, with wins in their last 2 games. I would like to personally thank Paul Digby (joint coach) for his support during the season, and all the other parents and supporters for coming out every week to the games and practices. Lastly and most importantly a big thankyou to the boys in the team:

Matthew and Hayden (twins) – they worked especially well together, and also with their fellow team members. Plus, the coach appreciated their parents putting them in different colour boots.

Lachlan – added value to the team by being a good all round player.

Hayden – was a fantastic defensive player who saved many goals with big kicks of the ball down the field.

Liam – is good at running fast and enjoys taking his kick-offs from quite a fair distance; which then started a bit of a trend for the rest of his team members.

Jayden – is a very passionate and knowledgeable player who always wears his heart on his sleeve. He has no hesitation in stopping play so that he can stress his point of view to the referee – quite often to the amusement of spectators.

All in all, the six boys worked hard week in and out, but at the same time enjoyed each others company and friendships made.

Stuart Aitken (coach)

Under 6C

Being the first year for all players, it has been very exciting and a big learning curve for all as well. All the boys had a great season and have made firm friends with each other. Yianni found his running legs, Kye found his kicking feet, Konrad entertained all with his on field antics (arm farting was a favourite), Alex became very unafraid of the ball and Ethan always had a bright red face at the end of the game from so much running.

As a first time soccer Mum and also ending up being coach and manager it was a busy season for me, but I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it and the boys made it a pleasure to coach them.

We had some really hard games during the holidays when we were down to 3 players, but the boys got out on the field and did their best every time.

Thanks for making every Wednesday and Saturday a fun time with lots of laughs. I look forward to coaching again next year and watching the boys grow and develop their soccer skills.

Linda Morrison, coach and manager

Under 6J1

What a wonderful way to meet new friends through sport! Our team was excited to find 6 families that were just as committed and happy about watching our boys play soccer.

Joshua, Jasper, Max, Kiaani, Jeremy and Alex have had a great time playing every Saturday. Each Saturday they have been excited about seeing each other and running around the field all seemingly with the same purpose: to score!!

Some may argue the excitement was all about lolly time but equally rewarding has been the friendships made with the team's family, extended family and friends.



PHOTO: 6J1's

Whilst we were worried that we were not equipped to coach our boys, the season continued and flourished with the help of our dedicated dads. Nathan, Greg, Anthony and Elvis were keen to assist and promote skill, motivation and persistence. A special thanks must go to Nathan and Greg who were always on board to ensure the training sessions ran smoothly and productively.

This season provided a great foundation for our sons to realise their soccer dreams and enjoy a sport with good friends.

All games delivered different enjoyment and fun; some became a nail biting experience, some a battle of the

mums' voices, some were just plain fun, some were tense and competitive but mostly all games, were representative of the parents' pride and elation of their son 's independence and enjoyment. Thank you to GyMEA United for running such an organised sport for their community to be involved in.

Dragica Fantov

Under 6J2

What a fantastic year the 6J2's had! The 'all boy' team of Ben, Nicholas, Curt, Joe and Luke had an extremely successful season with numerous goals scored by all team players and only one game defeat. For three of the team it was their first year playing soccer (not that you would have known!)

They have played almost 50% of their matches with no reserve player and still held their own. How proud their families and supporters have been watching them grow both as players and friends. The teamwork and tactics have been built on throughout the season resulting in an almost undefeatable force.



6 Jade 2's from left to right: Nicholas, Curt, Luke, Ben and Joe

PHOTO: 6J2's

Every game ended with great praise for their opposition players and friendly handshakes. The team have had three cheers for their success on many a Saturday morning but praise is due for their teamwork and commitment week in, week out. Well done boys!

Lisa Merrison

Under 6K1

Once upon a time on a cold morning at Port Hacking High School a bunch of boys and their parents gathered into a group of eight to form what could be loosely described as a team. That was in early 2008 and I for one didn't imagine that we would end now up with such an exceptional team!

Lead by a dedicated coach and an even more dedicated bunch of six boys we went on to win all but one game – most by a significant margin. The team spirit was inspirational; both from the boys and the proud parents cheering until we were hoarse from the sidelines.



PHOTO: 6K1's

Some of the highlights:

Sam – the amazing defender, blocking countless goals and scoring from field long runs.

Chris – unstoppable, left foot or right, every goal celebrated with nothing but pure passion.

Rhys – always a team player, week in and out with unrivalled team spirit, displaying fighting character throughout all games.

Will – awesome spirit in defence and attack, scoring more goals per game than the whole last season.

Cruz – who can ever forget those great tackles and huge kicks, scoring goals from half way. His dedication and passion was a pleasure to witness.

Josh – always a team player, great passing, scoring and defending with fantastic determination.

A special mention for Jake for the most memorable goal of the season! I for one look forward to many years to come with these boys becoming an even better team as they grow together. My personal thanks to coach Guy, the boys and the supporting parents of 6K1.

Gary Angus, proud manager

Under 6K2

Wow, didn't the season go quickly??? The 6K2's had a fantastic year in 2008 and were disappointed it all came to an end! They enjoyed every minute of football.

In just their second year, the kids improvement was noticeable – they were enthusiastic, always tried hard and really started to show they are learning the skills of the game. Above all, they had fun every single week.

Having played in the old Rooball format for only one year, the team quickly adjusted to the small-sided game (they probably didn't even notice the change!). The SSG format was great – allowing all the kids to get in and have a go.

Monday night training was a favourite with the 6K2's, with coach Josh really putting the kids through their paces – but they couldn't get enough.

Parents, coach and manager were so proud of the 6K2's this year:

Chloe Cotter: always amongst the play and showed she's a smart footballer, positioning herself in just the right spot to pop that goal in many times.

Riley Dixon: the towering five year olds' kicks and passes were terrific and he proved a master of the breakaway goal.

Olivia Eason: the coach was proud of his determined daughter who chased, kicked and tackled with the best of them.

Ethan Henniker: tried hard all year chasing and kicking well, and put in a super effort in his first season.

Nathan Jay: the little terrier never gave up and was always amongst the play - strong in attack and defence all year.

Josh Shiel: the big bombers gigantic kicks and solid defence were a huge bonus in all our games.

A huge thanks to Josh for doing an absolutely fantastic job with the team. You've really got the knack Josh and the kids love you! Thanks for giving them the perfect introduction to football.

Shannon Dixon, manager

Under 6K3

Well, what can I say? It's been a fantastic year for the team who went from zero wins last year, to an undefeated season this year. Now normally in a season there are highs and lows, and the season itself can be measured according to which of these outweighs the other. From recollection there were no low points in the season, so if my assumptions are correct, then we're on an all time high.

However, whilst an undefeated streak is good (especially for the player's morale) there are two aspects of it which have to be considered for its evaluation. The first of these is the ability of the players themselves and how they have progressed, and the second is whether or not they have enjoyed the season.

From a coaches perspective I must say that the first of these has been exceptional within all the players. They went from a timid first match, to a 'no fear' attitude in the closing games.

The one area we needed to work on and I think all coaches will agree with me when I say this, is passing; the key to winning.

At the beginning of the season we were not a team, merely five one-man teams, but by the end of the season we were one five-man team, and I must say that this is a true testament to all the players and their accommodating attitudes. Whether it was employing the long ball by Zac, the accurate pass by Mitchell, the fancy footwork of Najeeb, the winger style tactics of Jude or the ability to score a goal around a wall from the halfway line by Riley, it is clear that all the player's contributions have led to their heightened successes on the football pitch.

On the second note, which is whether the players themselves had fun, I cannot answer this. My perspective would be too biased, as I know I have thoroughly enjoyed the season, and I would envisage that all the players, and their parents too, would agree with me when I say this.

While I have the opportunity, I would also like to thank the parents for their support this season and their dedication in bringing along their child to those freezing winter games, braving the ten degree air temperatures and the (seemingly) minus five degree wind chill factors. Your support is greatly appreciated and I know that this fantastic season would not have been made possible without your ongoing support. As the coach I do hope that the team will stick together next year, and, if permitted, I would be delighted to coach the boys again.

MOST HILARIOUS MOMENTS: There are two contenders for this honour and they both involve Zac. Firstly I remember one training session, early in the season, Zac turned up to training with his boots on the wrong feet. When I asked him why they were like that he replied with, "I put my shoes on the wrong feet so that when I kick the ball it will curve the other way." Laughing, I considered that it was actually a pretty good idea, until of course, five minutes later, Zac inevitably asked me to help him put his shoes back on the right feet as he was now complaining that they were painful to run in.

The second of these moments was in a more recent game when Jude was running after the ball; his right shoe coming off as he continued to chase it. When the ball was out and Jude went back to get his shoe he found that it was gone and that Zac, standing with his back to him, was trying to hide the shoe up his shirt.

Good times, and I'm sure that I've only touched briefly on the light-hearted humour that our team possesses, but it does go to show you that it has indeed been a great season, and one that will live on in the memories of us all; for the decades to come.

Nicholas Fahy, coach

Under 6M1

Team: Bodhi Ewings, Cooper Gannon, Jay Louison-Roe, Jenna Metcalfe and Tahlia New
Leader: Scott Gannon

Great fun was had by all in a fantastic season of soccer for the 6M1's. Each week the team were eager to play showing great enthusiasm and sportsmanship, all while improving their skills along the way. Well done team.

Scott Gannon

Under 7's

Under 7B1

Another great year for the top team. I think as a coach I enjoyed this year even more than the last.

With the introduction of the SSG our team adjusted very well. They made us play on a smaller field with less players on the field. The only problem we had with that was, for Alissa our manager she had to change two players every 5 minutes instead of one. But she handled it quite easily!

We beat most teams by over ten goals. We concentrated on our passing and team playing at training this year and it shows in there game play on the weekend's.

Harry and Taj topped our goal count for the year to many to count, Jackson, Shaydn and Finnan where getting up there with there goal count still to many to count. Baily and Tyler might not of scored as many goals as the others but were solid in our defence.

All in all it was a great year. I'd like to thank Alissa for all her hard work through out the year and also thanks to the parents for all the support you gave the boys and me. Hope to see you all again next year.

Michael Liberato, coach
Alissa McCann, manager

Under 7B2

Our year in review.....the season started well with a pre-season gathering at the Old School Park. The boys quickly settled in to their routine of Monday night training with Rory Staples, and early Saturday morning games as U7Orange 1. The boys performed well in all games in the first few weeks and were actually undefeated up until week 13 when we played our first game as U7B2's (against Lilli Pilli).

The boys' consistent wins in the first half of the season made it apparent they needed extending and fortunately an opportunity to swamp to a higher grade (the 'B's) was organised and implemented. Once in the B grade, the competition was more challenging and the boys had to rely on their skills, training and teamwork to make headway. However, they always had fun, and often seemed to gain momentum in the second half of a game, sometimes coming from behind to win - maybe they had thawed out by then?

While the focus of the small sided games was not the goals, in summary I can say there were about 12 wins, 4 losses and 1 draw out of a total of 17 games. I am also happy to report that all of the boys scored at least 1 goal.

It was a real pleasure to watch the developing teamwork and enthusiasm on display. The mantra of "pass it" seemed to pay off in the end and I think I wrote in a previous match report that I was very proud to see one of the boys deliberately pass the ball to another in the goal area so that they could go for the goal. That really summed up the spirit of the game for me.

Throughout the season we got to witness some lovely passes and good football in general, and by the end of the season there was a greater awareness that a goal scored is a team effort.

I thoroughly enjoyed the season and I want to wish all of the boys the best over the summer, you are all champs and we hope to see you next year for the 2009 season.

The 2008 team was:

Kyle Goulding: known for his goal striking abilities and attack. Also known as the only player to score a goal from a header!

Ethan Harris: who can forget those 2 corner "bend it like Beckham" goals? Known for his energetic midfield and striking abilities.

Marcus Malandin: not afraid of the opposition, our Marcus is known for his big kicks and vigorous tackling. Marcus also exhibited some nice passes and defence.

Ethan Redwin: a versatile defensive midfielder. Ethan was great in defence and intercepting the ball and had an uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time.

Matthew Staples: Matthew saved the day many times with his great defending, passing and interception of the ball. The latter half of the season saw a greater thirst for tackling.

Sam Wild: an energetic striker/midfielder and our most consistent goal scorer, known for his long skilful dribbles and attack, and some slides here and there.

Darcy Yates: A versatile midfield player, who in later days gained strength in attack and blocking and intercepting the ball. Darcy also energetically marked the opposition.

Rachel Dewar

Under 7B3

Team : Anabella Caroca, Daniel Shaw, Lachlan Dick, Logan Carmont, Nicholas Condon, Takuya Shida-Money.

Coach: Stuart Dick

Manager: Abraham Caroca

The team development was amazing. At the start of the year we had trouble in passing the ball, tackling and defending, but after much practise and effort the team started to show promise - then it just clicked and after a few games, we were off playing football.

It was great to see the team develop into players. They concentrated hard and maintained their positions, and played like champions. They chased the

ball, tackled the opposition and passed the ball. It was great to see the change from not only last years as under 6's, but from the start of the season.

Nicholas was outstanding throughout the season as Captain and settled into the position of sweeper. Nicholas was a pillar of defence at the back and would always win the ball, then he would look up to pass the ball, Nicholas had a great season.

Lachlan played up front and scored the majority of goals, his positional play was great for his age, he was always looking for the ball and moving around to receive the ball. Once he received the ball he would take on the defender and most times go around them to shoot at goal or score a goal, he showed great ability to dribble and take on players.

Daniel was the most improved player, as he had not played football before, this was his first season. At first Daniel was a bit timid, but soon found his feet and you could see the determination in his face as he tackled and tackled to win the ball. Daniels most outstanding skill was his ability to dribble the ball, the control was amazing as he kept the ball close to his feet.

Logan was a great versatile player who started the year off up front , then moved to play in the midfield and then the last few games at the back with Nicholas. Logan was determined and tackled well, then he would win the ball. Logan's strength was his speed and tackling.

It was also Anabella's first season, and although a little bit timid at the start she got into the swing of things and played well in the midfield. Anabella was the best and fairest on the day, played fairly tried hard and enjoyed the game.

Takuya was fast strong and had a big kick. Takuya mainly played in the midfield and chased and tackled the opposition to win the ball. At first Takuya had a big kick, which we worked on to be an effective big kick , and pass the ball to his team mates.

We played 16 games, won 7, lost 6 and drew 3. It was a good season, as we won some games extremely well, then we also lost some games, a good learning for the team to experience winning and losing.

We trained hard all season and at times the team were testing at training, but they were always attentive and tried their best. We practised some drills, especially the goal kicks and it was great to see the team implement the skills and tactics learnt at training.

The majority of the season we played well, but there was the game against Grays Point on the 12th of July that sticks into our minds, and only if I had brought the camera.

We started off as usual but we soon scored 2 quick goals, and this was the formula for our confidence. At 2 nil up the team realised that they were going to win easily and then they started to play football extremely well. They would win the ball, then look up and pass the ball, and not just once. The goal of the season came when Logan won the ball, passed it back to

Nicholas, now Lachlan has come back for the ball, and calling for it on the wing, Nicholas passed to Lachlan, Lachlan received the ball then he went around a player and passed it to Daniel who passed to Takuya, and now Lachlan has ran forward to the front and then Takuya passed back to Lachlan who scored. A truly great goal.

All players on the field at the time touched the ball without the opposition getting near the ball. The parents were amazed that they did this, and of course the coach and manager were ecstatic. What a goal! The rest of the game was ours and we played with confidence for the duration of the game. What a game. Of course not all games were as good as the Grays Point game, but we showed the potential to play and, look out, next year will be better.

A big thank you to Abraham who helped out on the manager duties and at times stepped in to coach. Of course I would like to thank the parents for their support through out the season.

Stuart Dick

Under 7G3

This is the second season that I have co-coached this team of boys and I hope that they have had as much enjoyment as I have.

They were an energetic and focused team who showed a lot of promise. They all have an understanding of field position and the role they play in the game, each with their own talents.

Jed and Matthew W were good at turning defence into attack, Matthew H, Jordan and Zane were good at controlling and dribbling the ball. Thomas and Kobi had big clearing boots. Together they made a team that was rarely defeated.

Many thanks to co-coach Bill, manager Kathy and a really lovely group of parents and kids who have made the last two seasons a pleasure.

Joe Sabbagh, coach

Under 7P1

Team: Alex Bell, Isabelle Fox, Heather Ewings, Olivia Maxworthy, Claire Stafford, Joshua Delgado

Coach: Paul Bell

Manager: Lisa Maxworthy

Another great season comes to an end and it's been a fun one from the beginning, when the girls kicked off with an impressive win. As the mornings grew colder and we were pitted against more and more all boys teams who seemed impossible to beat, the girls kept their enthusiasm and weren't afraid to get in there and tackle the boys, with some great defending to be proud of.

Although the new small-sided rules were hard to adapt to, the girls gave it their all and with the addition of the only boy on the team, Joshua who joined us for a few matches mid way through the season, we had some great games.

Highlights of the season were nearly the whole team turning up half an hour late to play Miranda (thanks Heather for playing the first half!) Playing on pitch 5 when the ball rolled down the embankment constantly while the other team chased it and our girls took the opportunity to have a chat, and watching the girls get better with every week that passed. We hope they will all be keen to continue playing in 2009. Well done to the whole team and see you all next season!

Under 7P2

The season started off with us not really sure of our team makeup or the rules for the new format. We ended up getting together a great little bunch of kids and parents to match and we all had a fantastic fun season.



PHOTO: 7P2's

The team:

Aidan – With Shots from all over the park Aidan was a lethal goal scorer & clearance man at the back.

Zac – Always trying his best & will chase down any ball. His enthusiasm on the pitch was infectious. Go Zac!

Sean – Sean was our pocket rocket, one second he was in the backs tackling, the next second he was dribbling the ball into the goal at the other end.

Josh – This was Josh's first year at soccer and his improvement on the ball by the end of the season was excellent. Josh certainly new how to find the goal.

Spencer – Spencer improved throughout the season & scored his illusive goal mid season. It was the most memorable goal of the year enjoyed by all.

Tom – Our force at the back with some hard tackling & winding runs that at times had our hearts in our mouths and other times resulted in a blinding goal.

Each week I could see small improvements individually & in our teamwork. It was most pleasing to see a pass

to setup a goal, or one of the boys marking & getting in front of defenders & not just ball watching. Keep trying - you all will become superstars.

Can I thank all of the kids for showing up to training each week and for their willingness to learn and improve. Also a special thanks to Karen for managing the team and giving up her time to make the season more enjoyable To the other parents thankyou for always making sure the kids played in the spirit of the game & positively encouraging the kids each & every week. It was a pleasure to coach the boys and hope to see you all again next year.

Paul Heffernan, coach

Under 7W1

How quick the season passes! New rules, new players and new experiences! Many were unsure how the kids would respond to the small sided games. This little side had a great time. We began the season in the 7Bs and found the opposition sides a little too fast and physical and swapped with one of the sides in the 7W's. We were far more competitive in our new grade and although we only won a couple of games, we were always in the game and there were many close scores.

Karlee, Kaylea, Nicola and Phil had played together the previous season and were joined by Zac and Riley. We did not have any star player but instead a little side with 6 big hearts. Every player improved considerably during the season and adapted to the concept of the small sided game.

Phil continued on from where he left off in 2007 with big kicking and great defence. Nicola was terrific with her big kicks resulting in many goals and some big tackles. Karlee continues to impress; although much smaller than the opposition she never took a backward step often finding herself knocked over after another one of her trademark dribbles.

Kaylea, Karlee's partner in crime, was also exceptional often defusing the opposition's attack.

Zac was easily the biggest improver over the season and Riley's tackles were always a highlight of any game. And who will forget Riley's goal in the second last game (his first) making sure that all scored at least one goal.

Finally thanks to the parents that also made the season a joy. A special thanks to Adrian, who agreed to be manager and did a great job. He was always there at training to assist, made the necessary phone calls and provided beautiful watermelon for half time. Also thanks to Anton for his help at training each week. I thoroughly enjoyed the season and hoped the players had as much fun as I did.

Mark Hildebrandt

Under 8's

Under 8A

What a year, the boys approached the new format of SSG with some trepidation having eagerly anticipated the move to a larger field only to find themselves on a smaller field than previous there were rumblings all over but our lads took the game on board and proved to be the team for all to beat.

Whilst scores weren't recorded the boys at this level know who and by how many and this was the catalyst for some exciting football. The encouraging signs were always there many passes no negative football and no goal tending from this team it was all about playing to feet, control and movement. Most of the time it worked as seen by many opposition teams and even when it didn't the boys stayed with the formula that super coach Baldy Linden Grant had deployed.

So lads thanks for some exciting games some glorious goals some hard tackling and also plenty of laughs along the way

Chris H - Quick dependable scorer of the year's best team goal Well Done

Matty F - Mr Reliable great foot skills and timing ever present to defend any onslaught Well Done

Nick L - Improved leaps and bounds very quick on the ground and his foot skills improved all season. Well Done

Daniel D - Scorer of plenty played mostly up front adapted well even though he can't work out why there isn't a goal keeper. Well Done

Nick Toes H - Ever present in the middle leader of raids and tough tackling scorer of the longest headed goal in SSG Well Done

Franky J - Our revelation. FJ was all over the park and played with confidence and skill and dominated games Well Done

I said it last year that this team will be good for many years we confirmed it this year and it can only get better so parents Stay Tuned next year will be even more exciting.

Thanks again to Natalie Hards for coordinating all and wearing the yellow vest and to BALDY Linden Grant who continues to coach this group and who the boys really enjoy playing for.

Steve Dolheguy

Under 8G1

This has been a very successful season in pursuit of our goal of having fun while learning and developing football skills and teamwork. There was a noticeable positive change in the confidence and skill level of each player across the season.

As a team they encouraged each other and worked on building a passing game. Over the season: Adam showed excellent control with the ball at his feet and scored some very timely goals; Antonio put the 't' in tenacious, showing dogged determination to not lose possession; Cameron put in many solid tackles and played a lone striker role in many games; Jack worked relentlessly in midfield with many well timed tackles; Kail played with determination and always lifted the tempo of the game; and Rhys always gave his all, being the rock of the defence and a creative provider in attack.

Some 2008 season statistics:

- We scored 53 goals and conceded 61 on the way to seven wins and nine losses.
- The 'Mr Reliable' award for playing in every game was shared by Cameron and Jack.
- Adam receives the 'Laidback' award for being the most relaxed and at ease.
- The Golden Boot award for highest number of goals scored was shared between Antonio and Rhys.
- The most efficient goal scorer was Kail who scored a goal for every 33 minutes played.

Thank you to the parents and families for supporting and encouraging the team throughout the season.

Evan Hughes, coach/manager

Under 8M1

Team: Tyson Gilbert, Preston Knowles, Ben Metcalfe, Cody Mitchell, Nathan Skinner and Luke Sothern.

Coach/manager: Zena Metcalfe

The season started with energy and enthusiasm that was contagious. The skill level within the team was varied but as the season progressed they all found their niche.

It was hard at first adapting to the small sided games when the boys had been looking forward to playing on a larger field, but they soon started to understand the benefit of shorter passes and more control needed on the smaller field.

It was a good season with each player finding the net on more than one occasion.

Nathan played a strong defence, clearing the ball well under pressure. *Cody* too, often saved the day as our last line of defence.

Ben and Luke played well in midfield working hard with persistent tackles and putting some good passes through to the forwards.

Preston played consistently up front with good ball control and accurate shots.

Tyson enjoyed playing on the wing with some powerful crosses to the middle.

The boys came together as a team as the season progressed with the last game being the best one to watch with the most smiles from the players and parents alike. Thank you to the families for all your support at each game. Well done boys a good season.

Under 8M2

This team began as a lotto pool. 6 players who didn't know each other very well, 3 boys and 3 girls. Thankfully, we got another player, Julia, to sign up because most weeks we were never sure how many players we had until the whistle blew and often played with only 5 players.

Julia was our most consistent player. Each week she'd surprise herself and would have the biggest smile on her face. Julia was comfortable playing as a fullback and really enjoyed playing.

Sarah ended the season a little early. She scored her person best. She also discovered her middle field skills by running and chasing even if you can't catch them. To her credit she utilised her spare time on the field to catch up with the latest gossip.

Elana is a good sport. She had an scare in our first training session as a team, and to her credit played out the whole season. Elana was our forward. She played up front and tried her hardest to capitalise on any balls put through. Well done Elana for not giving up and improving each week.

Luke was our best and fairest player. He has loads of skills and always tried to pass them on to his team. Luke was a valuable player who was missed when he wasn't on the team. He also is a good sport, always high fiving his team-mates in recognition of their effort.

Mitchell was a great defensive player. He has a great boot but was not able to utilise it on the small field. Mitchell is a strong team player. His efforts this year in defence and attack helped steer the team to many victories.

Nathan came to our team as a league player. There was only 2 rules he needed, don't use your hands and don't take out your own players. He was terrific. He wanted to be fitter and he did just that. Every game he gave best and ran everywhere, even when he was sick. Nathan had a never give up attitude and sometimes forgot he had team-mates when he take the quick kick and run onto himself.

Jessica undoubtedly was our most skilful player. She loves the game and she is a pleasure to watch. Spectators would often comment about her skills. She committed and a scoring machine. Jessica would be a huge asset to any team she plays with in the future and we are lucky to have had the pleasure of having her on our team. And did I mention that she is a scoring machine.

Thankyou to Jason Steuart (Mitchell's dad) for stepping in and coaching the team.

Good luck next year Julia, Sarah, Elana, Luke, Mitchell, Nathan and Jessica whatever sport you decide to play - as you are all champions and would be a valuable team member.

Pauline Brown, manager

Under 801

The 801's had a fantastic season. The SSG format really suited the boys and the extra touches and participation saw all their skills improve. It was excellent to see them passing, calling and working together as a team. They were good sports throughout the season and let their football do the talking!

Hugo: When he flicks the "on" switch, Hugo goes hard all game. Hugo's work rate this season has increased significantly giving him several goals as a reward. His defensive work has also been excellent pulling off some big tackles at key times.

Jackson: Again this season he made defence his speciality - and what a fantastic job he did. Jackson is a talented player who possesses great speed and stamina, enabling him to participate in attacking plays but still being able to get back in time to defend.

Jamison: There is no stopping Jamo when he's on the charge! Jamison scored many goals this season, many of which were through a lot of opposition players. He covered more ground this season which is great to see. He has good touch around the goal.

Nate: Our little General who did a great job in organising the boys on the field. Nate is excellent at anticipating the play and as a result made many goal saving tackles and attacking passes into space. He always makes the most of opportunities near the goal.



PHOTO: 801's

Thomas: Goal scoring machine who covers the most ground in the team. Thomas is the "Energizer Bunny" who runs all game. He makes big tackles when required and looks to pass to team mates in attack.

He specialised this year in going around the pack to score many goals.

Tom: Small in stature but big in heart. Tom had a massive clash with a boy twice his size. He dusted himself off and got back into the game (whilst the big boy was taken off!). His extra enthusiasm this season resulted in many goals.

Coach Brendan: A huge thankyou from the boys and the parents for your huge effort this season. The training drills obviously paid off because the improvement in all the boys this season was incredible. Thanks Coach!

Parents: A feature of our team was the dedicated tribe of parents and grandparents who regularly braved the cold sidelines every week.

Brendan Mooney, coach
Tim Cox, manager

Under 8P3

A group of kids called the 8P3 can stand very tall and proud of themselves this year. They all showed outstanding sportsmanship towards each other and to others.

Their team spirit was unbreakable and each week that went by made them stronger and so many individual achievement were made.

They would all come into each and every game with so much enthusiasm and excitement. As there Coach I could not have been prouder and more honoured to be there with them on this journey.

Thank you to Hugo, James, Eliza, Grace, Maiya, Eleisha and Taylah. You have all come so far.

Congratulation on a great 2008 soccer season.

Jackie Dempster, coach and manager

Under 9's

Under 9A

Another great year of football with a fantastic team of boys - again we were lucky to have a wonderful team of players and parents who from the outset were keen to work together as a cohesive team and have a great time doing it.

All of the boys embraced the new small sided game format and learnt a lot about working as a team, looking up and passing the ball to each other and the importance of going up to and tackling the opposition.



PHOTO: 9A's

Every week the boys coach, Gary Wall, put a lot of time and effort into training and developing the boy's skills and this paid dividends towards the end of the season when we were Runners Up in the Jack Bird Cup which was a tournament played by each of the Shire's 9A and 9B teams.

Unfortunately half of the boy's games this year were played at 8am which didn't seem to be a good time for most of them (and their parents!) – with a bit of luck next year's later game starts will be more fruitful. Hopefully most of the boys are enthusiastic for the 2009 season and will continue working on their skills and will be an even better team next year.

The game is all about each and every team member and I would like to thank each one for the effort they have put in this year.

Robert, our 'newest' player worked as hard as he could each week and never stopped running or trying. Zachary, so solid in defence but also amazing in the middle never stopped tackling and constantly turning the game around from a defensive position to attack. Daniel and Jesse were wonderful in defence, working really well together - if the ball was near them it was safely tackled and passed to one of their team mates. Tom was fantastic – he never stopped trying, constantly running and was always in the right place on the field to help his team mates. Joseph and Ben

were rock-solid in all positions, particularly in the middle, and always helping the team. Nicholas was fantastic in the middle and up front, trying so hard every week and thinking his positions very well. Each boy took their turn in goal and never stopped trying. Congratulations.

I personally would like to thank all the boys and parents for their support over the last two years as the team's manager. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know everyone and I will miss you all. Cherie

A Word from Gary the Coach: Well our first year in the new SSG format was most enjoyable and a great success, with a focus on the kid's passing and control of the football these kids really have a great opportunity to be the first generation of a more skilful nation of footballers. All the boys improved during the season and are developing into a very good side that plays attractive football, looking forward to seeing all the boys back next year.

Cherie Donoghue, Manager
Gary Wall, Coach

Under 9H

WOW. What a season! What a team! More importantly what a great bunch of boys and girls made up the U9 h soccer team.



PHOTO: 9H's

From our very first training session right through till our last it was a very enjoyable experience, although the parents probably thought that their kids had some deluded drill sargent who had dropped out of the army and could only get a gig coaching U9 soccer. (they were right) Each of the kids in our team grew in leaps and bounds during the season..... starting with.....

*Troy...*What a work horse! Started the season well and showed his ability early in the season. Troy's confidence grew as the year progressed which was evident with an ever expanding range of 'fancy' footwork, flick passes, overhead volley's, slide tackles (are they legal dad?) and of course some of the best shots at goal I have seen. Well done Troy you will be a star!

*Michael.....*One of the dynamic duo up the front and a key player to the team all year long. Michael's positional play was excellent as was his attack. Many times a multiple goal scorer he was not afraid to drop into the midfield and help. Watch for Michael name in the future. He will be a star!

*Aimee.....*One of the midfield marvels in the U9's. Aimee started the season not really sure where she was best suited but boy o boy sure put her stamp on the midfield position and owned that part of the field all season long. Aimee would run all day and as the season progressed became a great tackler as well. Positional play was also very good and once Aimee had marked her opponent he/she was 'marked' out of play. Watch for Aimee, she will be successful at any sport she plays!

*Carla....*The other half of my midfield marvels. Like Aimee, Carla really owned the midfield with her teammate. Carla developed as the year went on and was an early adaptor of positional play. Quite often it was Carla who was in position for goalkicks, throw ins and corners. Carla's growth saw her become one of our key people with her mighty 'throw ins' and even scoring the odd goal or two. Watch for Carla next year on the field or Hollywood!

*Lachlan.....*What a season, when you talk about a young person growing into the game Lachlan is it. Starting the season as our first choice goalkeeper Lachlan did an excellent job whenever he was between the sticks. As the year went on we experimented with different positions but we always came back to defence. Along with his partner (Tom) in the backline he was a key defender with a enormous boot that could, and did quite often turn the game around. With a hiccup or two mid season behind him (and a new contract with his coach) Lachlan showed that he has, and will, develop into a fine young player. Watch for Lachlan as he grows older!

*Tom.....*Well my son you did me proud! (dads eyes swelling up with pride now) Tom was the our key strike defender and along with Lachlan proved to be a formidable duo that was the talk of the opposing teams. Some truly memorable defence in many games which would not have been out of place in teams 2 or 3 years above our age group. Tom also grew his soccer skills as the season went on with some time spent in midfield which resulted in 3 or 4 goals. But it is defence where Tom belongs with great and emerging skills as a goalkeeper as well. With a kamikaze type attitude to tackling watch for Tom working as a bouncer somewhere down the track.

Thanks to the parents for the support you showed all year long and I would be more than happy to coach any and all of the kids next year!

Matt McInerney

Under 9I

The Gynea United 9I's had a fantastic year. We won some games, lost some games but in the end the results didn't matter. We only had seven (7) players so in a number of games we played short. All the parents got right behind the kids, which was great to see.

Maddison BRYANT: Without a doubt our best goalkeeper. Maddie has a great right boot which was put to great use with goal kicks and corner kicks.

Luke CONWAY: Luke was great in attack. Scored a few goals and never stopped trying. Great job

Keegan DOOLEY: Scored a few goals, was really solid in midfield.

Denver GANNON: Scored a couple of goals. Never stopped running both in attack and defence.

Hugh LINKS: Iceman was our rock in defence. Took on all the attackers as well as supplying entertainment for the huge crowds that witnessed our games.

Taylor RIGNEY: Was very solid in midfield. Never stopped trying and never gave up.

Jake ZDRAVKOVSKI: Scored the largest number of goals, went well as goalkeeper and did a great job in midfield.

Overall great job kids. See you again next year!

Gary Rigney

Under 10's

Under 10A

Lachlan Ancora – 'The Speed Machine' gave 100% every game. A pleasure to coach and a real team player.

Mitchell Bishop – Ball control is his biggest asset. Would fool many an opposition player with his size but left no doubt as to the size of his heart.

Nicholas Button – One word described his year 'BRAVE' never took a backward step. Had a good year for his first year in the top grade.

Brandon Cleary – When the going gets tough, this is the player you want in your team. As each year goes by he just gets better and better.

Andrew Condos (alias WEBKE) – Played some of his best games when we really needed him to step up to the mark, not many got past him.

Dane Cooper – A pleasure to coach, this young fellow gives his best each week without ever questioning 'Why'. Give him a job to do and you know he'll give it his best.

Jordan Hunt – First year at Gynea, unfortunately due to injury we didn't get to see his best. Played with plenty of spirit and will be looking for a big year next year.

Riley Kilham – The personality of the team. Versatile is a good description of Riley, he can play just about anywhere and you know that where ever he plays he will give it his best.

Joshua Maile – Another first timer in the top grade, nobody will forget the two goals in the semi-final. A left footer who can take control of the ball and let rip from anywhere on the park.

Jed Mcstravick – Another speed machine. Playing up a year for the first time, he was never far from the action and with this year's experience under his belt will be one to watch in the future.

Matthew O'Dell – A player with a big future as well in front of him. With a bit of belief in his own ability the world is waiting for him. Always knew we were in with a chance of winning when you knew Matt was on the field.

Drew Pickup – One of the most likeable players you could ever hope to coach. One of the leaders in a defensive line, who would never give an inch, played each game to his full ability. Great year.

Joel Walker – Not much that hasn't been said about this young fellow over the years. Each year I check to see that he's signed up again and with a big sigh say

"Yes". Problem with Joel is he's too good at too many things. Hope to be saying "yes" again next year.

Kyaan Williams-Bond – Our 'Sheep dog', no one in the team worked harder than this young guy, I think he'd play even with a broken leg. He proved himself time and time again, when the going got tough he just worked even harder.

Liam Thomas – There's nothing left to say that can be said about this young person. He is a coach's dream, a team player who never left anything in his tank at the end of the game. Nothing would please us more than to see him achieve all his football dreams.

On behalf of Lisa, Dave and myself I would like to thank the players and parents for allowing us to be associated with such a fine group of young men and great parents.

Under 10B

Ben Howe, Connor Beard, Rikky Fitzgerald, Sebastian Diefenbach, Matt Sparks, Mason Neale, Simon Duff, Alex Hatzimihali, Nathan Sullivan, Nathan Duncan, Harrison Riordan, Nick Varney, Albert Fong
COACH : Warwick Gray
MANAGER : Tom Riordan / Meredith Sullivan

Played 17 Games, won nil, drew 2 and lost 15 games. Anyone not connected with the team could be forgiven for thinking we had a dismal year. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact of the matter is we had a good year regardless of the statistics. I continually stressed to the team that I was not interested in the scores but how they played as a team. I asked that they try and give me their best in whatever position and above all that they enjoyed themselves.

I believe that we achieved our objective, if the way we played the final game of the season is any indication. For twenty minutes we played the best football of the entire season. Each and every player played to their potential and it was excellent to watch. As a coach I could not ask for anything more. I was absolutely wrapped in their overall performance. But we were unable to sustain the high level of performance for the entire game.

I wish to thank the parents for their understanding and patience throughout the season and to thank Tom and then Meredith who managed the team and parents admirably, this in turn made my job that much easier. I would also like to thank all the players for their enthusiasm for the game and commitment to the task at hand throughout the season.

Being elevated to B grade was always going to be a difficult assignment but after a solid performance in the first game against Seagulls away, (1-0 loss) I felt we were not disgraced in the higher grade. During the season the team performance on the whole was creditable and at times belied the position in the competition table. Apart from the two draws, I rated

the games against Seagulls away, Como- Jannali and Miranda at home as the best performances this year.

The final game of the season against Miranda was the best game. Perhaps it was the change in training methods that did the trick. (dinner after training at McDonald's) After a long season I was particularly impressed with the way everyone tackled, controlled the ball and passed it to a team mate in space. Keeping possession at throw-ins improved immensely, the drill at training certainly paid dividends.

My goal this season was to get the boys to play the ball out from the back and construct goals through the mid-field. I was delighted on occasions when we achieved this goal. I am convinced the ground work laid this season will pay handsomely next season. I look forward to continuing my association with the team next season where it is hoped we can further boost team morale with a few wins which were so elusive this year.

Warwick Gray

Under 10D

Another Football season has come to an end and the 10D's can hold their heads high after a successful season both on and off the field.

A great group of parents and an even greater group of kids that were an absolute pleasure to coach made my year fun and rewarding. Just seeing their improvement as the season progressed was the most important thing for our team. Our success is measured by each player looking forward to training hard on a Thursday afternoon and then playing hard and fair on a Saturday morning.

THE DEFENCE: Kayley Williams, Jayden Ring, Reese Akkari, James Spriggins

The four players who formed the "rock solid" basis for our defence were Kayley, Jayden, Reese and James. We had the third best defensive record for the whole of the 10D competition and it was largely as a result of these kids.

Jayden "Lollybags" Ring loved to control the left hand side and played many a long, accurate clearance up field for us to go on the attack.

Kayley "The General" Williams showed strength and determination when tackling and was an inspiration to the team.

James "Cool Hand" Spriggins was our utility player, slotting in wherever he was needed and always gave 100%. His ability to clear the ball when under pressure keeping a cool head played an important role in our success in defence.

The backs were led by Reese "Big Fella" Akkari. This player was absolutely everywhere and his ability to read the play and cut off many attacking plays by the opposition kept us in every match. I couldn't of asked

anything more of the back four and without a specialist goal keeper, they knew the importance of keeping the opposition away from our penalty area.



PHOTO: Under 10D's

THE MIDFIELDERS: Megan Dibley, Phoebe Hick, Oscar Langton, Isaak Ford

The Engine Room of the team just never stopped running and tackling. Their amazing stamina and never say die attitude was a big contribution to our impressive defensive record.

Megan "Blonde Bomber 1" was always first to the ball with her impressive turn of speed feeding the forward line with accurate passes. Her long, long throw-ins were the envy of opposition teams and her willingness to "get back" when needed often took the pressure off our defence.

Phoebe "Blonde Bomber 2" just never stopped running. She could always be relied upon to cut off dangerous moves by the opposition and could out-run any opponent who got in her way. Phoebe and Megan often caused the coach and spectators confusion about who was who. Let's just call them Pheegan and Meebe.

Oscar "Brave Heart" Langton and Isaak "Speedy Gonzales" Ford formed a rugged and livewire partnership in the central midfield positions. Their knowledge of each other's play allowed them to interchange positions whenever required.

Oscar's crunching tackles on players twice his size brought the supporters to their feet and were inspirational. His partner in crime, Isaak, could turn the game in an instant, dispossessing the opposition and then attacking the goal, forcing our opponent's goalies to make some great saves.

THE FORWARDS: Ben Fuller, Shaun Malivindi, Joel Christensen, Jack Stevens

Our forward line were relentless in their efforts to penetrate the opposition defences.

Ben "Golden Boot" Fuller was our top goal scorer for the season. His marauding runs down the right wing were the source of many of our attacks. His pace and

strength saw him attack the goal creating many chances.

Shaun "Hava Chat" Malivindi was our left wing and his very handy left foot resulted in a number of goals and scoring opportunities. Many a time his left foot shot had the opposition defence scrambling.

Joel "The Chief" Christensen was a pleasure to coach. He was always willing to do the hard work and would often get a tackle in at a crucial moment. He worked hard at his game all season and was always available to slot in to whichever forward position was needed.

Jack "The Tank" Stevens was all action. Always keen to take the opposition on and put his body on the line, he was unlucky not to come away with more goals under his belt. He kept the opposition guessing with his handy ball skills and attacking runs which contributed to our chances on goal.

A big thankyou to Belinda "Radar O'Reilly" Fuller our wonderful Manager who always knew what needed to be done and kept me and the parents informed throughout the season.

And finally, thankyou to a great group of parents and grandparents who ensured their children made it to training and games. Thanks to Dave Fuller and Justin Ring who helped out at training. Hope to see you all back next season for the club's 50th anniversary year.

Matt Dibley, coach
Player's Player: Ben Fuller
Coaches Award: Reese Akkari

Under 10E

Ben, Blake, Courtney, Dom, Dylan, Harley, Hayley, Jaylen, Jordan, Josie, Kain, Liam, Peter, Rhys & Tim.

What a great season 2008 proved to be for the Gynea United 10Es. The core of the team was from last year's 9Fs and with a couple of additions from above and below, they formed a very formidable group of players. It was only under the watchful guidance of their coach Anthony that they actually became a "TEAM". There were a few 'individuals' who hadn't been part of a 'team environment' before and they took a while to settle in, but once they saw what a fantastic bunch of kids we had, it didn't take them long to fit right in and feel part of the team.

The team had some mixed results during the season, but overall they were outstanding, with only a couple of results not going the way they should have. At one stage we were up with the front runners, but a couple of weeks of illness in the team slowed our progress a bit and we battled to stay in the race.

Once again brick wall-like defence was the cornerstone to their success, only conceding 17 goals in total (2nd best in the comp). In attack we had 10 of the 15 players getting amongst the scorers this year (great teamwork).

With 9 wins, 3 draws and 5 losses for the season we finished up running 5th at the end of the competition, and only missed out on a place in the semis by 4 points (we were 10 points clear of 6th place). It was a shame to be that close and not be there in the playoffs. However all the parents, Anthony and myself could not be prouder of the whole team for the way in which they competed each and every week giving their best for each other and the club.

Anthony and I would like to congratulate all the players on a fantastic season, and also thank all the parents for their support throughout the year and hope that everyone enjoyed being part of the team.

Anthony Severino, coach
Rod Donaghey, manager

Under 10F

If the success of a season is measured by a team's enthusiasm and enjoyment, good sportsmanship and improvement then the 10F's year has been an "F for Fantastic" achievement.

For many of the kids, it was their first year playing the "beautiful game" and together with the more experienced players they formed into a happy and sociable team. Special thanks to super coach Andrew Johnson for all his time, efforts and patience.

The improvement in the team's skills and understanding of the game throughout the season was obvious to all.

My manager's role was made very easy because of a great group of friendly and helpful parents. Thank you for making my job an enjoyable one.

But most importantly, to Abby, Ami, Caitlin, Deni, Emma, Hannah, Heather, Juliet, Kevin, Kurt, Mikaela, Rebecca, Rosalie, and Zeke-Congratulations guys! We enjoyed cheering and watching every minute of every game. You are fine ambassadors for your club and your parents are all extremely proud of you.

We are looking forward to next season already!

Under 11's

Under 11E

Another soccer season has come and gone and although we struggled against some much stronger teams throughout the season, the kids were happy to be out on the field, enjoying their soccer and giving their best each week. Under the guidance of our coach Steve, the team steadily improved. By the end of the season the effort and skills achieved by the kids was evident in matches against the stronger clubs.

Thanks to Samantha, Saige and Tobias for sharing the "high pressure" Goalie job as well as their usual field positions throughout the season.

Great work from the rest of the team which includes: Ben, Conner, Gabriel, Jarrod, Leia, Matt, Michael, Nick, Philimon, Phoebe, Sam O and William. It has truly been a pleasure to be manager of the team and watch the kids show improvement with each match.

The highlight of the season for me was the close games we had with Menai Hawks. It was fantastic to see two equally matched soccer teams battle it out on the field.

Thanks to the parents for their support throughout the year. It is always great to hear the cheering and encouragement from the sidelines.

Thanks to everyone that helped on our ground control days, your assistance on these days is much appreciated.

Special thanks to Steve for coaching the team this year. It is not an easy task to keep 15 kids under control, focused on soccer and teach them skills but I think Steve has done a wonderful job.

Look forward to seeing you all at soccer next year.

Dave Dunford, manager

Under 12's

Under 12A – Runners up 2008

What a fantastic season! It wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the team and the parents. Our coach Doug Sparks has molded them into a skillful and dedicated team. Our coaching assistants Richard Lyons and Alan Watts helped with the boys fitness and training as well.

This year everything was organised perfectly and ran like clockwork by our Manager Dave Kable with help from Karen I'm sure. And we can't go past thanking our generous and wonderful sponsor ExecuJet. A BIG THANKYOU for the boys jackets, which kept them warm on those chilly winter training sessions, and their training shirts and not forgetting the end of finals party at Lasertag.

Special mentions go to Tyron, who with big shoes to fill, did an amazing job as our goalie.
Nick, who was consistently reliable at stopping the ball at every attack.
Dane, for always giving 100% and playing with a lot of heart.
Daniel, for working so hard every game.
Dylan, for his strong and tactical defense.
Corey, for his speed and amazing power slides which always put the ball out when needed.
Tommy, need we say more, big kicks, big air, big hair.
Blake, for his speed and skill.
Jason, our mighty mouse of power.
Ben, for his speed and agility.
Jake, for his determination and consistent attack.
Aidan, for his skill and bravado, never backing down from a hard tackle.
James, for always giving 100%.
Lachlan, for his versatility in any position he played.

The dedication from our boys this year is a real tribute to them, and as each one grows up, it will be exciting to see a team of taller, faster, stronger players next year.

Sue Lamb

Under 12B

The 12Bs had a great season despite playing a fair part of the competition with the 'bare 11' which is great testament to the determination of their boys and their Coach, Bryan Richardson.

Over the course of the year the team has tried to play attacking football (which netted the team the 2nd highest 'goals for' in the competition), focus on their positional play all while blending 5 - 7 new players into the team and Bryan has successfully developed the boys into a great little team. There were a lot of games that could have gone either way and this

demonstrated how competitive the team was and it was due to a great win in the last competition game that they actually made the semis only to go down 1-0 in the last 5 minutes of extra time. Well done boys!

Special mentions go to: Luke whose touch resulted in many great passes to put us on the attack, Andy whose speed and skill always gave the opposition grief and resulted in a number of goals, David who was 'golden boots' No.1, top goal scorer for the season, Jack H whose tenacious defence at the back stopped many an opposition attack, Josh for helping us out when we needed a goalkeeper and also for his speed in attack, Alex for playing wherever he was asked and always giving his best, Jordan for leading from the back as Captain and for his consistent defence, Brendan who was 'golden boots' No. 2 for the season and David's partner in crime up front, Jack L who settled straight into the team after being away and played wherever he was asked, Kurt for pretty much being fulltime goalkeeper in the 2nd half of the season (and playing even when not feeling 100%) Nathan for doing a great job at centre back and snuffing out the opposition attack Adam for always giving 100% and making the most of his opportunities after joining the team half way through the season Marc for those determined runs down and crosses into the centre from the right flank.

Lastly there are a few people to thank. Firstly, to the boys for their dedication and willingness to learn. Secondly, to Bryan as Coach for his dedication and positive attitude. Thanks also to Frank Laezza for assisting Bryan at training and also for filling in as Manager on a number of occasions.

Thanks also to the parents and families for their continuous support throughout the season. We would also like to thank Adam Landers and the 12E's for their support early in the season when we continually had to call on them for players to help us out. Hope to see you all again next year.

Steve Keith, Manager

Under 12E – Premiers 2008

Premiers! We started the season with a new mix of boys and a new attitude. Consistency was the key, the boys focused on skills and turning up to train and play week in and week out, a big thank you to the parents for making this happen.

Every boy played a part and contributed to our success this year. The boys always turned up to train and play with the right attitude and enthusiasm, it was great to see the amount of support they gave to one another over the season. We started the season with a loss and followed this up with a nail biting "last second" win, from here on the boys started to believe and put together a string of wins based on a simple trap and pass game, it wasn't until the back half of the season that we pulled out our trump card, "the header". Before we knew it we were staring down a spot in the semi's. Here our consistency throughout the season, only 2 losses, put us in a great position and allowed us

to get our nerves out of the way, we lost our way in the semi, but got back on track in the final and followed the game plan of the sharks and ground out a draw after extra time, finishing in front of the opposition on the table meant a grand final loomed.

A cold and miserable day, blowing a gale, we had never beaten our opposition however we were match fit and ready to go. We won the toss and through caution to the wind, Scott elected to run into the gale in the first half (a master stroke). The boys defended bravely in the gale with all the play in our half, again as all year every boy put in, keeping the ball out of our goal, after 25 stressful minutes we had done it, nil all at halftime, what an effort. The script wrote itself in the second half, the game was ours to lose and this never looked likely, we fired off 3 goals into the opposition's net, a thoroughly well deserved win, after a consistent performance all year! Well done boys.



PHOTO: Under 12E

Matt Underwood - Matty took on the role of goalkeeper for the majority of the regular season and excelled, blocking many an attacking raid, for the final and grand final a key role of defender was played, and outstanding effort in the first half of the grand final! Thanks for the attitude and enthusiasm you brought to training.

David Lawrence - David was a staunch defender all year and finally followed his calling taking on the keepers role in the final and GF, his first half miracle save in the final won us through to the GF, David followed this effort up with some great saves in the GF that kept the team and parents on a high.

Marco Sposari - Marco came up from the 11's to help us, what a year, our right back just got stronger and stronger as the season progressed, his last four games were flawless, always safe in the back, as the crowds grew to watch our games so did Marco's prowess on the field. Gynea oval now has 6 months to recover before the "backhoe" comes back for another season.

Braden Moon - Braden lead by example, leading the charge in snuffing out attacking raid after raid. A very strong defender, with a killer corner kick "the rock" never gave in and did not have one off game all year. Braden was voted by the boys as their Players Player for the year, congratulations well done and deserved.

Jake Frendo - Jake came up from the 11's to help us, and took on a central defensive role with plenty of

running always involved, his determination, never give up attitude and an ability to listen saw Jake's confidence on the ball grow from game to game, not one training session or game was missed, great effort.

Lachlan Fahey - Lachlan a defender with a roving role, like all of the boys came into his own as the season wore on, a goal in our second game in the dying seconds was only one of many highlights, Lachlan led the charge with the call for more headers, culminating with a defensive header in the GF that lifted the spirits of everyone, his roving dribbling runs always created opportunity to attack.

Scott Whiteman - One of our half's who dominated the midfield with his never say die attitude, Scott ran his opposition out of puff every game, his effort at Oyster Bay was outstanding and inspired the team to a great win. His passing game improved throughout the year, he made the right side of the field his own.

Leighton Chen - Our left half and forward, Leighton took on his new role of midfielder with gusto, and worked on his passing during the season, always looking for opportunity, he was a stand out at Gwawley Bay and in our semi final game.

Andreas Nicholson - Andreas played in the halves all year, and was awarded the Most Improved Player for the team! Confidence is a powerful thing and game after game Andreas grew in confidence, his shot on goal at oyster bay was a highlight.

James Landers - James took on the role of centre half, always solid and never afraid to attack the ball, he did plenty of running in attack and defence, his killer throw in's, led to many an attacking raid. A goal this year, his first ever, finished off the season well

Kai Pendlebury - Kai our right wing, led many an attacking raid, like all of the boys his last 4 games were sensational, he attacked the ball and was instrumental in getting our passing game back on track in the finals, thanks for listening Kai.

Garrett Barker - Garrett played right wing and worked hard all year, his passing into the centre always created open play and opportunity. Garrett conjured a penalty for us in a tight game that helped us on our charge to the finals.

Connor Moon - Connor played in the forwards and improved his striking ability over the course of the season, a crisp strike in the GF was a great end to a great season for him, Connor always put in at training, and didn't mind sweating.

Nicholas Flitcroft - Nick played in the forwards and worked well with his fellow strikers, taking advantage of many defensive mistakes, culminating with two great strikes in the GF which sealed our win. Nick always tried up front.

Many thanks to Carl for his ongoing support and collaboration throughout the year, it was greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the Mighty 12E's, a great year! *Adam Landers*

Under 13's

Under 13A

I would like to apologise to the team for underestimating the ability and commitment that they possessed but the boys had also underestimated themselves. At the beginning of the season when we found out we had been promoted from B's to A's there were many boys asking the question "can't we stay in the B's? or saying we will get smashed in the A's."

Well, after the first game, when we drew with the defending premiers, it was obvious we were going to be a competitive team but when we soundly beat Lilli Pilli in Rd 2 we all realised that we were going to be challenging the top sides for a semi final spot.

A couple of more wins and we even led the competition briefly. However as the season unfolded scoring goals became a little more difficult and by season's end had become a bit of a problem. Our defence, in contrast was rock solid being one of the best in the comp.

Goal keeper Nathan was outstanding making many fine saves - he is a goalie with lots of potential. Our fullbacks John, Josiah, Scott, Steve Condos and James were wonderful, thwarting many attacking raids with lots of desperate defending. Our midfield consisting of Jordan, Jacob, Ewan, Daniel and Lachlan worked tirelessly throughout each game, running themselves to a standstill and creating opportunities for our forwards Keegan, Aaron, Steve Curtis, and Jye who troubled defences all season.

In the end we missed the semis by a solitary point and we can look back on both the games against Menai that were our undoing. Both these games we dominated and should have won easily but our finishing was sadly lacking and the best we could manage in these games was a 0-0 draw. A harsh lesson but one that must be learned - take the majority of chances that are presented in a game.

After all that and with the early season uncertainty of how we were going to go this was still a magnificent season, one which all the players can look back on and be very proud of their achievements. There commitment to each other on the field and to training was excellent and we can look forward to next season with high hopes for further improvement.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be your coach and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of our association and I hope to see you all again next season. Finally, I must say a big thankyou to Julie and Michelle for being such wonderful managers and to Dennis for all his help at training. You all made my job alot easier and your efforts are greatly appreciated

Peter Hunt, Coach

Under 13C

The 2008 season ended with our 13c's in sixth position. Together Sean Bonser, Storm Drury, Trystan Dunlop, Phillip Gutierrez, Nelson Hall, Matthew Heycox, Jordan Jessep, Simon Jones, Brad and Jeremy Low, Douglas Lord, Toya Sunarya, Mason Whyte, Alex Wood, and Coaches son Mitchell Wade each met their opponent with outstanding attitudes to a win or a defeat. They worked together to improve technique and provide decent victories with determined attack and sincere defence. They strengthened friendships and found mates with team players.

What has always been impressive watching the 13c's play, is their spirit at full time. Whether it was a 9-1 defeat or 4-Nil victory, the boys were satisfied just to play the game and were happy regardless.

At the start of the season Tony Wade indicated his intention for the Saturday games and Tuesday night training to be something they enjoyed and I believe the lads felt that. I put my hand up for the opportunity to manage the side and assist Tony this year and I'm glad I did. As I don't have a P.C. at home, i put in extra time at my desk on a Monday night to complete weekly striker reports and on Tuesdays to assist Tony at training and at no time did i think of it as a chore. It was fantastic to assist a great football club.

We had some early starts and some trying conditions with the weather, rained out games and howling winds. Though we all turned up eager and marched on.

Half way through the season our team captain Sean Bonser succumb to a knee injury which unfortunately put an end to his 2008 campaign, though from what Sean's outlook is, is going to be all good in 2009. We all wish him a great recovery and look forward to his soccer skills once more next year.

A special mention of Trystans 100% game attendance this year and to Nelson only missing one game. Nelson even attending a cancelled training session and having to get home in the dark.

This year we were lucky enough to play the mighty TITANS special needs team which the 13c's met with maturity and common sense and the two games were enjoyed by all.

As I mentioned previously, I have put alot of time and effort into this team this year alongside a great coach. I understand the commitment and time consumption. Tony also did this for another Gynea girls team, so I can imagine it has been a difficult balance of duty at times. He has mentioned to me that he would not continue to do this coaching next season and I personally think this would be a loss for G.U.F.C. On the other side of the coin I refer back to the time commitments and understand why he would pull the pin.

I thank Tony on behalf of every player who has

been lucky enough to have been coached by him, and wish him good retirement from Giants coaching should he choose to finish.

Thankyou to all the referees this year and to all the players from every club.

Thankyou to all the parents, brothers, sisters, grand parents and all the fans. Ich hoffe, Sie nächste Jahreszeit zu sehen.

Martin Dunlop

Under 13D

Not such a successful year for the 13Ds this year, but there were plenty of great moments, with the team growing over the course of the year, and showing a marked improvement in their skills and their reading of the game.

We won our first and last games and one in between. We had about half the team from the year before with a few new recruits who added plenty to the make up of the team.

We had many close games and in most cases the soccer gods weren't on our side. We displayed plenty of character, and had lots of fun along the way.

Here's a quick snapshot of each player's contribution to the team this year:

Jordan Boseley: Became a key defender and was always safe under pressure

Conor Riordan: Went overseas half way through the season, but played strongly on the ball in the backs

Kurt Arrowsmith: Played every position on the field and found a home up front in the last game

James Dodds: Was an enthusiastic runner and very versatile

Brayden Wall: Always on the hunt for a goal, hit the post many times, scored late in the season

Jarrett Wall: Played most of the season in the backs but scored 3 goals in his last 2 games

Andrew Duncan: Enjoyed his time up front, got amongst the goals, played well

Sam Phillips: Golden Boot again with 8 goals, some of which were sublime

Matthew Edwards: Owned the midfield and showed a really clever football brain

Michael Blumor: Continued to play the safe no nonsense defenders role

Chris Moir: Had a red hot go every week and showed great improvement over the season

Stuart Dean: Had a very good year in the midfield as well as slotting home 6 goals

Andrew Thompson: Great reader of the game from the back, a fiercely competitive and determined defender

Andrew Barton: Played all over the park, quite comfortable up front, scored a couple of important goals

Luke Brann: A solid year in goal, did his best under difficult circumstances, enjoyed his time on the park

A special thanks to Gary Wall for putting his time and effort into growing these lads as footballers, ably supported by Alan Dean when required during the season.

Thanks to all the parents and supporters for their time and effort during the season. Here's hoping we'll see these boys back next year for another fun season.

Steve Brann

Under 14's

Under 14A – Premiers 2008

A fantastic end to a wonderful season by defeating Menai in the Grand Final 1-0 to become Premiers for 2008.

The entire season has been a real team effort with every player contributing to the final result.

The boys started the season well and continued to build their skill during the entire season. The quality of football being played at this level is remarkable and to win an A-Grade competition is testament to the skill of the boys.

One of the most noticeable features of the team was the sportsmanship and unity in the team. All the boys were supportive of each other and never critical of other team members. The games were always played in a way that showed control and discipline and there were never any moments of panic.

Good Football was always the order of the day.

A few statistics, played 19 matches and won 13, with 3 draws and 3 losses. Goals scored 42, goals against 12 giving a goal difference of 30 being the highest in the 14A competition. Apart from a penalty in round 16, no goals have been conceded against the team since round 12 on the 14th June, this is the last 8 matches. This is also the last game that was lost.

Menai who were the Premiers on 2007 and Minor Premiers in 2008 only lost 4 matches all season, 3 of these were to Gynea.

These statistics show that the boys had an outstanding season and their consistent performance throughout the season has bought about the great end result.

Come meet the team...

Ryan Agar, Damon Anderson, Patrick Beck, Clayton Beranek, Stuart Betts, Daniel Brown, John Dundas, Thomas Gibson, Ben Huertas, Illia Iordanidis, Harrison Irvine, Matt Lewis, Sam McCarthy, Blake Royston, Liam Unicom (C) and Metan Zirham

Special mention also to Nathan Campbell, keeper for the 13A's who filled in for us a couple of times during the season and was also on stand-by during the final series to help out if needed.

Damon Anderson was leading goal scorer with 8 goals for the season. Whilst Damon lead the pack, most of the team scored goals during the season which again shows how this was very much a team effort.

Many thanks must go to the coaches this year. The time and effort that both Dave Johnson and Stewart

Teal put in this year coaching the boys is very much appreciated by all the boys and the families alike.

To coach a team is a big commitment, and to coach a team where a family member is not involved is an enormous effort and a wonderful gesture. Thanks Dave and Stewart.



PHOTO: 14a's receiving their grand final medals

A special thanks also to Dave Anderson who filled in as coach for a couple of weeks when Dave and Stuart were not available.

Also to Gary Lockwood who supported and helped Dave and Stewart during the final series preparing the boys for the big games.

Finally many thanks to the parents who have contributed in many ways during the season, whether at training or supporting, without your help the season would not have the success it was.

Look forward to seeing everyone next season.

Ron Gibson

Under 14B

The 14B's with a squad of 14 young men had a very good season, culminating in a narrow semi final loss to our nemesis Loftus, the only side we did not get a point from all year.

Every week the boy's turned up to play and train with great enthusiasm and as the season wore on they began to form some very good combinations, and the last month of football was great to watch.

All year we 'stuck it' to every team and competed in what was a very tight competition, we finished 4th with 8 wins, 4 draws and 5 losses.

In a number of games luck deserted us. It seemed that every half chance the opposition got, they took, and leaving our boy's hitting the crossbar and post but just not going into the net. This left us fighting hard to

get a win, which we did on a number of occasions, never giving up.

Coach Macka and Manager Brett would also like to thank Michael Leitch and Ian Pollock for their help during the season at training and game days. We worked with the young guys to try and improve our attacking football which worked sometimes giving us all the treat of watching how well they could play football with a lovely passing game.

Thomas, Nathan Green, Douglas, Jake and James all played as strikers at some stage of the season, they combined well scoring a number of great goals and kept the opposition backs guessing.

Team Captain Rhys along with Nathan Pollock, Jason, Corey, Jake, Nathan Green, Thomas, James and Mitchell were our midfielders at some stage of the season, all had great games at various times. Their versatility ensured that we were able to adapt to the different positions against different opponents and keep pushing forward trying to score goals. The midfielders had to work hard and we thought they all rose to the challenge.

Blake, Max, Trent, Mitchell, Jason, Corey and James held the defence intact at various times of the season, ensuring that our backs closed down a number of opposition strikers and worked very effectively as a group.

Nathan Bryant tried his hardest in goal to stop all the shots that came at him.

In the end we played the semi final on the Shires smallest pitch which did not suit our style of play and we just got beat one nil.

The awards which were very hard to pick once again, went to Nathan Pollock as the Players Player of the year which was very deserving after his great displays every week with Thomas Pemberton receiving the coach's award for his amazing efforts week in and week out.

We would like to thank all the young players for their excellent effort and sportsmanship, enjoying the wins while also congratulating the opposition when we lost.

I hope we see you all back again next year with any new players that may help in our endeavour to win that elusive title.

Thank you for a very enjoyable season of football.

Malcolm (Macka) Curtis, coach
Brett Bryant, manager

Under 14C

The 14C's began the season as a melting pot of keen soccer players. A mix of dedicated Gynea players, combined with a strong group of new recruits from other clubs and even other football codes!

The team had one thing in common; they loved soccer and played hard each Saturday. Every team member always put in 100% and thanks to Darren's fair coaching style, each of the players had plenty of game time every week.

The forwards; Lindsay, Max, Michael and Elias (also our back up goalie) were constantly hungry to score, their determination was obvious with a never say die attitude, they consistently pushed the opposition's defence.

In the centre Lee, Shaun, Jason and James, were all key players. Each was able to pass and move the ball around beautifully between them and over the season set up some great plays for their teammates.

Defence was always strong for the 14C's. The monster kicks and headers from both Tim and Anthony saved the day in many matches, while Zac and Dylan never failed to hustle and wear down their opposition on the wing. Jimmy, our key Goalie, was a rock throughout the season and his safe hands helped the team every week.

The 14C's played with great conviction and though sometimes the underdogs, always dug deep and played as a team. For their first year together as a team, they have achieved a great deal and each player has been an integral part of the team.

During periods of injury, when we did not have a full team, playing without reserves or not even a full team on the field, the boys always lifted and in many cases, it was these difficult matches that they went on to win or draw against their opponents.

Darren's passion from the sideline and often vocal support from some of the parents meant that each Saturday the games were always competitive and great to watch, no matter the outcome.

The 14C's have evolved over the season and are a strong team of young men who played each game with great heart and determination. Well done to all of you! You should all be very proud of how you played throughout the season.

Thanks to Darren for giving his time to coach the team and to all the parents for their support every weekend. 3 cheers for the 14C's !

Maria Losh

Under 15's

Under 15B

Can't believe another season has come and gone. It's fair to say that our season wasn't as successful as it could have been, although we scraped into the semi finals. We began the season with enthusiasm and drive, but lost Dom to a knee injury in the last trial game for half the season. Well, with the competition of and running, it wasn't long before other teams were aware of our potential. The top five teams sorted themselves out fairly early and the order in the table changed weekly. The final four decided in the last round of the regular competition.

Our performance as a team was a bit hot and cold, which cost us dearly, conceding points to opposing teams when we were leading the scoring and clearly the stronger team. But if nothing else it has been character building. It was pleasing to see a number of the boys improve dramatically and others who are proven performers maintain their consistency throughout the competition. All the boys starred at some time during the season, the Man of the Match and Encouragement Awards shared around by all of them.

Fate stepped in for our semi finals appearance against Marton FC and left Jesse, our goal scoring machine bedridden with a gastro virus and Nick B suffering the effects of the same virus, which left us playing understrength. To the credit of the all the boys though, they gave it their best shot and never stopped trying, making Marton FC earn their right to progress through to the final. Better luck next year as they say. You should all be proud of your finals effort, because your Coach Manager and parents were. Well done.

To all the parents thanks for your support throughout the season, it was much appreciated by all the boys, as did Zac and I. We hope to see you all back next year to give it another go.

Neil Walker

Under 15C

The team –

Defence: Matthew Dean, Chris Ramirez, Nathan Smith and Max Weismantell.

Midfield; Nick Jessep, Andrew Loizou, Christopher MacFarlane, Jacob Mark.

Keepers, Matthew Lopes, Vaughn Rosewall.

Strikers; Aaron Hunter, Chris Weber and Luke Solomon.

Overall the team finished 9th out of 12 teams. The first round was not the best but the lads did come back in the second round. Overall we played 16 games, won 5, drew 1 and lost the others. Top scorers were Chris Weber and Aaron Hunter. Chris held the distinction of being able to score a double in the game he scored in (mostly). Chris may have had more goals but between Luke and Aaron the woodwork on lots of grounds was seriously damaged this year.

Other firsts in a while were Vaughan scoring twice in the same game and Nathan finally getting a goal. Nathan certainly gave the best post goal celebration this year.

Each one of the lads has their own style that contributed greatly to how the team worked with each other. Other notables, Chris Macs' Wookie noises at training; Maxs' solid 'bounce off me' defence; Nathans chase 'em down no matter what; Matt Lopes laid back style, Big Chris walloping the ball, Andrew heading the ball no one else will, Matt Dean chasing, Jacob Marking hard, Nick cornering, Vaughn running the length of the field to chase down his marked player.

This year was notable for effort. The lads reached deep and truly committed to the team as whole. Yes folks, it all worked.

The second round saw us finding not only our stride in what were doing, but understanding more of what Alan had been saying all the way along. The drills began to work, and the strikers worked out that the goals that had eluded them in the first round were able to be scored. Even when the keepers ventured onto the grounds they scored in the season.

A big thank you goes to the parents who not only helped out during the year but kept on supporting their lads. Most of all, thanks all to the lads who I'm very proud to have managed this year.

Sol Solomon

Under 16's

Under 16C

COACH – STEVE DOLHEGUY

MANAGER – GREG ATKIN

THE TEAM – MICHAEL ATKIN, KANE BARKER, LACHLAN BERGER, TOM CULLEN, NICK GERAGHTY, ZAC MITCHELL, CONAN O'CONNOR, MAX O'REILLEY-PHELPS, JAKE PHILLIPS, MITCHELL STEVENS, DAVID THOMAS, DALE THOMPSON

The U16C GyMEA side finished the season with 8 wins, 2 draws and 7 losses putting them in 6th spot on the table.

The season started much better than past seasons and the 16C's were in the top four for most of the season, but unfortunately, due to having to play three of the top teams in the last rounds, were unable to maintain the position. This is an improved position over 2007 especially considering that the team had moved from D grade to C grade despite finishing outside of the top in 2007.

As in past years the team was very cohesive and seemed to enjoy their time on the field and played well with each other. All of the boys had their moments on the field displaying great football skills. One of the biggest challenges for the team in 2008 was the settling on a coach and that only 12 regular players were allocated to the U16C team.

In regard to the coach, I would like to thank Steve Dolheguy for agreeing to coach the team despite significant other pressures. I know the team appreciated his input and his interest and ability in bringing the best out of the boys on the field.

I would also want to thank the boys from the U15 and U14 teams that regularly assisted the U16C team by turning up and filling in due to illness, injury or unavailability.

A thanks also needs to go to the parents of the boys who regularly turned up to support, encourage and assist week in and week out. One of the highlights of the season is the manner in which boys and parents get on so well together.

Awards for the 2008 season go to Lachlan Berger (the Coach's Award) and David Thomas (the Players' Player Award).

Congratulations to all the team for the effort put in during the 2008 season and you can look forward to 2009 in the U18's.

Greg Atkin, Manager

Under 18's

Under 18A

With each new year comes new excitement, expectations and aspirations. This year was no different other than to say that as our 2nd year in 18A's an some quality new recruits in Daniel Braun and the return of the prodigal sons Daniel Maraconté and Joel Leffler we had raised aspirations.

Unfortunately our year was not so lucky as our recruitment. Injuries plagued our team with long stints away from the game with broken bones and injuries to Pat, Mitch, Noel, Jules and Donny all spending larges chunks of time out. Add to that 2 suspension stints for Pat and Donny. Our keeper John found employment but had to then work most Saturdays and you can appreciate that we had to perform with limited resources. Sharing the keeping duties around and guys playing 90 minutes without rest we really made a good fist of it.

Mid season it seemed we had found the magic balance and the guys were really working as a team and played with great composure and we were getting good results against the top sides. Sadly a lapse in form in the later part of the season put us out of contention despite finishing with very good lat season form against the top sides again.

As always the lads played with great team spirit and sportsmanship. We know how to have fun and generally know when to perform. With a little more discipline and stability in goals this could have been an outstanding year. Maybe next year when we move to 21's?

As always it's a great pleasure to coach this side and with the great help from Jeff Dibley the job is all the more easier. Thanks to our Manager Kelly Saunders for her help and to the Club for it's great support.

A special farewell and thank you to Stewart Teal from me and all team for your fantastic support and help over the many years!

Brad Saunders, coach

Under 18B

2008 proved a year of ups and downs for the 18B's.

The move from under 16's to under 18's and the challenge of meeting opposition sometimes a couple years older and bigger presented the first hurdle. The second challenge was our usual very slow start to the season as new players got used to old and fitness slowly improved.

As a result our year started with a number of draws and a few too many near losses. However, with each match we grew in confidence and slowly but surely started to get some wins under our belts.

Our early saviour was keeper Sean Garton who's athletic and solid keeping helped keep the team in many of our closer games. "Garto" proved himself the comps top keeper throughout the year.

As our season progressed our up front men, Keiran O, Levi (run 'till you drop) T, Sam J and Andy G all showed the importance of going forward. Our defence in Sean M, Sean K, Mark S, Jarad M & Josh F all did a great job in working to keep opposition forwards honest.

As fortune would have it just as we started to gain some momentum we were hit with a run of serious injuries – at one point 5 of our regular players on the bench together. But from adversity great things can happen. With the seasons memorable moment our 2 all draw against a full strength Lilli Pilli with only 9 players – yes, we were always 2 short with no subs. Lilli Pilli were lucky the game didn't run for another 10 minutes or a Gynea victory would have been inevitable! Well done guys.

This game highlighted the fitness and non stop running of Mitch H, Craig B, Matt C and Jasper B who ran tirelessly in so many games.

By season's end we came within 1 goal of minor premiers but finished 3rd, beating Lilli Pilli on goal average to make the final where we lost by a very good but lucky early goal to Bangor.

Overall 2008 was a good but hard year for the 18B's. We ran 3rd but could easily have been premiers. Whilst injuries were a challenge we received fantastic support from our regular super subs: Alex Keith, Ben Hines, Jordan Knapp, Chris Leak, Jason Economos.

A big thank you also to Co-coaches Dave Johnson and Dave Gray for again keeping the team moving forward.

Bev Hows, Manager

Under 18C

The year did not start off to well for the team this year with them loosing their first 4 games. However this did not deter them in anyway as attendance at training and match days was as high as ever in fact they trained even on days when the grounds were closed

So after the poor start the team found itself on the bottom of the ladder after game 5 and clearly had a lot of work to get back into contention. This work was not only on match days but also at training. It soon became clear that they were up to it though with many of the players doing extra training to get on top of their game. By game 15 they were sitting in 3rd place and looked poised to get into the semi finals, this was a direct result of the hard work the guys put in during those 10 weeks. The next 5 games were nail biters but

they kept on winning until they were in a position to get into the semi's and just required Bosco to win but it was not to be. So the guys can look back with pride on the season, they may not get any medals but they know how hard they worked to get the results they wanted

Watching the games each week has been a pleasure seeing the wins and losses and how the guys handle each situation. The attendance on match days has been marvelous with some of them traveling back from holidays to make sure they attended all the matches. Unfortunately we have had some injuries this year which has impacted the side and I hope those players are just as keen to 'go again' next year.

The team's choice as Players' Player is Ben Hines. From the high quality in this side it would have been difficult to single one out but it was well deserved. It was Ben's long throw that gave the team such an advantage – well done!

The Coaches award goes to Chris Leak. Again a hard choice but just as well deserved. Chris has been recognised for the hard work he has put in as a very solid team sweeper and team Captain – well done!

All up though it has been a pleasure to work with this team and also enjoy the games they have played and the skills they have demonstrated. They are able to maintain a sense of humor, to encourage and motivate each other and I hope they have many years to come playing soccer for the fun of the game and the "mate ship".

I look forward to seeing the guys in action next year.

Trev

Under 18E

2008 proved to be quite a challenging season for the 18E's, but it wasn't without its rewards. There were memorable moments and forgettable. The team could justifiably claim a record for the fastest goal this season (if not ever), when Sam found the back of the net even before coach, manager and subs had reached the sideline after kickoff! A "blink and you missed it" classic!

With nearly all the team only U17 (having stepped up from U16's the previous year), it wasn't surprising that many were occasionally intimidated by competing against teams of much bigger and certainly more physical 18 year old young men.

It was a credit to all who retained their composure and played the games full of enthusiasm and good spirit – as perhaps exemplified by the ever-smiling Ian.

Despite having a squad of 16, there was only one match when everybody was available, meaning 5 - half a field team! - were sidelined. By taking full advantage of the unlimited interchange rule, the usual count of 3 or 4 subs were rotated equitably throughout matches, often to the relief of some weary bodies! (Perhaps I

should have been more fitness-focussed at training?!) The regular regime of substituting reduced opportunities, however, for the players to become settled in regular positions and develop the heightened teamwork of being in set combinations.

Whilst most had positional preferences (and nearly all started the season wanting to "be up the front, scoring"!), I very much appreciated their cooperation in accepting the routine swaps and doing their best to contribute whether as forward, midfielder, or defender.

It was also great to have the ever reliable "goalkeeper extraordinaire" Daniel, who regularly entertained with spectacular saves, and Michael T capably deputising in goals when required.

Individual and team improvements throughout the season were encouraging. From early on when heading seemed "an action best avoided", to Craig scoring with a header in the last match, the team increasingly displayed mastery of not only the basics, but also of teamwork and strategy - controlling, looking up and passing to team-mates in space rather than "hot-potato" football. In fact, with their skills and confidence up, they showed they really could play "the beautiful game" and even led against the teams coming first and third in the last two matches!

Finishing the season in mid-table and only two wins from 4th spot, the team proved it was competitive. With 7 wins, 2 draws and 8 losses, 43 goals for and 51 against, we almost "broke even" - and if their Round 16 win-by-forfeit over Barden Ridge is factored in as a (record-breaking?!) 99-0 (as it is recorded on the ShireFootball website!), then their goal-difference looks most impressive indeed!

Greg Shepherd

Under 21's

Under 21E – Runners up 2008

Coach – Stewart Johnson
Manager – Anthony Mayo

A brief summary of the team's 2008 season – finished second with a for / against record of 58 – 26 excluding the final series, and only lost one (1) match over the entire season.

Our 'ace reporter' for the 2008 season is Dean Smith:

Another season, another year. And boy what a year.

The boys of the 18D's went up to the 21E's. This year there was many highs and lows.

Star player Andrew Dowrick was side-lined in our first trial match, with a popped / dislocated shoulder, out for the entire season. Lucky for the team, Aaron Greaves re-united with us, plus a 'new kid on the block' Ben McCarthy joined, along with another late starter, Alan Poulsen.

Now with a full team of 15, the lads headed into each game with great determination, early on everyone knew the lads had a solid chance to get into the finals.

However, the team had a loss and a few tough matches, but some hard training sessions and a bit of a wake up call by AM and SJ, and the boys were able to pull their socks to waist height.

Unfortunately Mitch Johnson skipped the country, and went to the USA where he is still now, but anyway I honestly believe that our efforts this year were outstanding and to make it to the Grand Finals were amazing.

Gloves and all, Ben Mayo saved some brilliant attempts, but his keeping skills are just outstanding!

With our backs in solid defense, thanks to the angry voice of Dean Smith the backs of Sean Eagle, Thomas Vernier, Hayden Cook and Ben McCarthy made a tremendous stand, the mid-fielders also played their best, listening to the wise words of Mr. Johnson (alias SJ), Nick Murphy, Rede Carney, Tim McCarthy, Jordan Lee and Aaron Greaves defended and attacked, each of them putting in the effort.

Big Al, Thomas Ellercamp and Paul Meekings, our three forwards gave us hope of our final chances scoring some stunners of goals.

Throughout the season I was proud to watch and play along side these boys. Alas good things must come to an end and the boys tried, but unfortunately lost the Grand Final 3-1.

We did it for ourselves and I'm proud to say that the boys are sticking together for which should be hopefully another great year in '09.

Cheers DS.

P.S Were not doing it for Mitch Johnson anymore! Its all for us! And a big thanks to our parents for being our creepy cheerleaders. And especially to AM and SJ!

Junior women

JW12A – Runners up 2008

What do you get when you put 12 enthusiastic young girls, an eccentric coach and a bunch of hanger-ons together? The Minor Premiership winning JW12's!!!

And it was evident early in the season that lack of attention to the coach and a good supply of half-time lollies was all it took to bring out the best of this bunch.

They were a group of winners and the team list says it all: Kaitlin (run like the wind) Dooley, Jessie (the tiara is mine) Ewings, Jamie (dancing here, there and everywhere) Hick, Ruby (the quiet enforcer) Hills, Aleisha (safe as houses) Hindle, Rachel (cooler than cucumbers) Holland, Ebony (the rock) Lane, Hannah (duracell bunny) Lupton, Aysha (the tiny pirouette) Morrison, Aleisha (back of the net) Oberg, Ellen (just try getting one past me) Ryan, and Ashleigh (1st time = best time) Twomey.

Throughout the year the girls took each game in their stride, getting their rhythm and stayed on the top of the ladder for the whole season. Clearly it was a case of the right support team being recruited at the start of the year. These included but was not limited to Sir Craig Oberg (say no more), Evan Morrison (manager by title only & 1st reserve coach), Michael Hills (defensive tactician/line runner & 2nd reserve coach), Michael Ryan (goalkeeping tactician & 3rd reserve coach), Steve Ewings (midfield tactician/line runner & key training assistant), Kelly Morrison (manager by action – well someone has to do it), John Lupton (the storyteller – *Lagunculae leydianae non accedunt*) and Lauren Ewings (party planner).

So it was with great angst amongst all that the final game of the normal rounds still left the Minor Premiership in the balance. A game of 1 v 3 with a loss allowing team 2 (we dare not even name them!) to beat us for the prize. A tense and character building game that was eventually won, beating Georges River 3-2. And it was noted that for each of Gynea's goals Sir Craig's air punches would have won him medals in Beijing for both the High Jump and Boxing. This certainly was the game of the year for the girls. They played a strong opposition and took it to them – and the Minor Premiership was theirs.

Regrettably though the winning streak did not continue into the play off's. A hard fought draw with extra time got them into the Grand Final and hopes were high, particularly when it was Georges River who became our sparring partner, Alas, a tight as it can be game ended in despair when the opposition scored in the final minute, winning the game 2-1.....Tears, agony, oh, and lollies. Heads up girls, well done nonetheless!!! Bring on Champion of Champions, bring on next year.

Craig Oberg

JW12B2

As the curtain is being drawn, the fat lady starts to build to her crescendo, the last cowboy wanders off into the sunset, and a little tear of regret tumbles down this correspondent cheek. It must mean yet another year of Soccer has passed us by. But let me not dwell on the melancholy that descends with the completion of each Soccer season. Let us celebrate the season that was 2008.

An extraordinary period in which 13 young lady Dancers, Netballers, Touch Footballers, Runners, Gymnasts and Flower Arrangers were transformed into what could best be called a group of 13 young lady Dancers, Netballers, Touch Footballers, Runners, Gymnasts and Flower Arrangers that got together very, very early on Sunday mornings at the most appallingly cold and barren places to talk about the type of things that 13 young lady Dancers, Netballers, Touch Footballers, Runners, Gymnasts and Flower Arrangers would talk about. The only real problem seemed to be that a couple of big fat blokes, the girls parents and another group of girls dressed in absolutely the worst fashion imaginable, keep yelling and kicking/throwing a large round ball at them. Life would have been perfect but for that.

But like most things in life if you communicate well with your peers then success will come. I think my wife told me that the last time we were talking, it's hard to remember. Anyway with plenty of talk, the team in their first year of Soccer (Yes all you SBS zealots and hanger-on's "Soccer" is Australian for Football.) did remarkably well. We played 18 games, won 3, drew 6, and did that unmentionable thing in the others. These results saw us finish in a credible 9th position in the 12-team competition. This result would have been much improved had the girls not been so kind hearted as to draw on almost every occasion they had the opportunity so as not to hurt the oppositions feelings. So with that as preamble let me turn to the highlights.

Highlight One – Holding our Positions

As part time coach it was great to see by the end of the season our Forwards were looking up to pass the ball forward. Unfortunately for our Forwards they soon realised that they had drifted into the halves and so that the person that they were looking to pass to was not only not there but in fact already had the ball. So by the time their thought process had worked this through the opposition had usually taken the ball off them. Therefore they were in exactly the right position to help the Halves defend the opposition attack.

Our halves not to be outdone felt stifled by all this attention from the forwards and retreated into the backs, which was good. Except the backs were trying to hold the opposition up, and so the halves generally played the opposition onside which meant the fullbacks need to drop. It's a very good thing that the goal had a net on it otherwise I think on some occasions our Goalie may have ended up in the car park behind the

field. Is it any wonder we ended up with one of the better defensive records in the competition?

Highlight Two - Understanding the Game

By seasons end I think there was only one player that still thought the act of kicking the ball into the opposition's net was in Soccer technical talk called a try. This was a great improvement on our early season vocabulary.

What we could not change however was the need for the entire team, to come to aid of one of their number, if she was injured during the course of play. It was not unusual to see nine players and the goalie standing around a fallen comrade concern looks on their faces as play continued around them. It seemed no amount of "gentle urging" from the sideline would see them resume play. Until they were sure the magic water had been applied, and their colleague was returned to full health. We were never short on compassion!

Highlight Three – Goal Keeping

Very early in the season it was clear this was not going to be an easy spot to fill. One young lady came to each game looking as if she had just seen her dearest Grandparent meet with the most horrific of deaths. She would then sulk up to our coach for the day, eyes pointed down, back arched and face miserable and ask the question mankind has been unable to answer thru the centuries, "Am I Goalkeeper today", on receiving advice in the negative she would be transformed instantly into a delightfully effervescent young lady and skip off to join her friends.

While each week it was struggle to find a goalkeeper some of the years highlights involved that very position. We had a juggling goalkeeper; a goalkeeper that nearly had a hole blasted thru her by a nuclear missile shot from a nuclear powered (I'm sure that reactor leaks!) Menai attacker, we had a Goalkeeper who after catching the ball put it down to kick it and a Goalkeeper who liked to keep the fullbacks entertained with little anecdotes from her experiences and a number of goalies that tried to bribe both the the opposition and defenders so goals would not be scored when they were on duty.

So while each individual brought a different dimension to their time in goals what was really pleasing for me is they all took their turn and gave it a red hot go.

Highlight Four – Good Judgement

One of the great things about sport is it teaches or refines an individuals judgements, as one understands more about team work and the motivations of others. Sport in general and Soccer specifically broadens the individual's views and perceptions. As coach it is not just about teaching the players the game, it is about making them think and become better individuals. How about the following for a list of coaching achievements:

- In relation to Current Club President Teal "Isn't the little goalie cute"

- In relation to Current Head Coach Wall "Gee that Gary is a Good Coach"
- In relation to Club President Elect Dolheguy "Did someone cut off his trunk"

Thank goodness I'm the manager, next years coach will sure have his work cut out.

In closing, I would like to thank this years coaching staff, Head Coach Ashley Lockwood, her Assistant Coach Gary Lockwood and their Assistant President Elect Dolheguy. Also a big thank you to Head Coach Wall for not providing any input this year, I think all the girls appreciated the opportunity to grow.

A big thank you to all the parents for making all our jobs so easy. To our Minister for Good Times for organising various social functions and providing an on line link between my brain (what's left of it) and the brave new world of text communication, thank you.

To this years GUFC committee for all their hard work, and especially to the handsome, swashbuckling and gifted Treasurer you are all very luck to have him.

And finally and most most most importantly to 13 young lady Dancers, Netballers, Touch Footballers, Runners, Gymnasts and Flower Arrangers who could even make early miserable Sunday Morning seems fun.... Thanks for all the effort.

I think I am safe in saying you can now probably include Super Star Soccer Player in a prominent position within the list above.

Michael Blumor

JW13A

Whilst Michael was away in sunny Europe with Jenny and Dana, I stood-in and coached the girls for 6 weeks or so. I have to say it was very enjoyable and I got a lot out of it.

Michaela, Left Forward:

Michaela is the sort of player who never gives up. You know every week what you are going to get – her best. Michaela's skills are developing before our eyes, week by week. When Micky gets the ball, no-one is going to run her down. That left foot is getting stronger and more accurate as the weeks go by. Can't wait to see her perform next season. Thanks Micky.

Charlotte, Centre Forward:

Charlotte can run all day – she is absolutely everywhere. Her work rate on the field is exceptional. When the going gets tough she is always there to help in defence, then one blink and she is back up front looking for that elusive goal. A formidable player on the ball and often converts a great goal. Thanks Charly

Sienna, Right Forward:

Sienna. What can I say – another speedster. Definitely an all-rounder and an extremely talented

athlete. Without a doubt you could put Sienna anywhere on the field and not have a moment of concern. Week after week she delivered a fabulous game. The "X" factor (aptly named by Sienna) was our secret move, and one she mastered well. Well done Sienna.

Renee, Left Half:

Renee has gone from strength to strength. Her speed on the wing was invaluable, working well with Michaela, continually putting pressure on the opposition's defence. Renee's grasp on the game is getting stronger every week and you can see she is starting to think about opening up the game with great placement. Well done Renee.

Brittany, Centre Half, Full Back

Brittany is tenacious. She puts her head down and goes after her target, whether it is in a defending or attacking position. With her exceptional speed, she can run down any player. Connects beautifully with the ball and has put us in great attacking positions with her skill. Another very versatile player. Great Work Brittany.

Sarah, Centre Half

Sarah has the natural ability to hold the mid-field. A pivotal position in soccer that Sarah does very well. A beautiful strong boot that always hits its target. Sarah has put some great balls out to our wingers and is always ready to back up with a good shot at goal. Well done Sarah.

Dana, Centre Half:

Dana is a very strong performer. Her connection with the ball is brilliant. She can place the ball anywhere on the park. She moves extremely well and always gets the job done. A multi-talented player who could take-up any position on the field and do it justice. Dana came back from Europe and picked-up exactly where she left off. Great job Dana.

Georgia (Mazie), Mid-field:

Georgia acquired a new nick-name "Mazie" as we have two Georgias in the team. Mazie went from strength-to-strength. Always listened to direction and held her position; a great trait to have when playing soccer. Mazie put some beautiful balls through to our forwards and helped out in defence when needed. Great season Mazie.

Georgia Spratt, Mid-field:

Georgia started off the season fantastically, unfortunately broke her wrist playing Netball, which saw her out for some weeks. Georgia is a natural hitter of the ball; she times it to perfection, something we all wish we could do. Her corner kicks are extremely accurate, placing the ball perfectly in the box, setting up some great potential goals. Well done Georgia.

Grace, Left Fullback:

Grace is a little terrier, she will run-down anything. If she loses the ball, she doesn't give up, very important in this position. Grace is starting to think about her placement of the ball and has improved out-of-sight. Saved some great goals this year. Well done Gracie.

Chloe, Centre Fullback:

Chloe is a natural fullback. Her goal-saving skills this year did just that – saved us many times. Chloe strikes the ball with confidence and precision and has speed to boot! She did a great job back there with her fullbacks and kept it very tight, running the girls back to halfway to make the oppositions job that bit harder. Great job Chloe.

Rebecca, Right Fullback:

Rebecca's timing is improving every week. When to jockey and when to tackle is a very hard skill to master. Bec has done just that – she has mastered it! Her eye is always on the ball and she lifts her head just at the right time for a beautiful pass. A great asset to the team. Well done Bec.

Tess, Midfield/Fullback:

Tess had some injury problems this year and missed most of the season. However, Tess is back on deck and stronger than ever. She has slotted back in and has certainly made up for lost time. Tess is another good striker of the ball and covers the field extremely well. We really missed your skills Tess. Can't wait to see what you have in store for us next year. Well done.

Louise, Goalkeeper:

Well as we know goalkeeping is a skill all of its own. It is not easy however; Louise does make it look that way. When to run out and when to stay – Louise's innate ability to take away the opposition's angle is extremely well executed. She pulled-out some brilliant saves. Not only that, Louise is a formidable opponent on the field. Very fortunate to have your skills in our team. Great job Louise.

Well girls, this team has everything – WATCH OUT NEXT YEAR 14's.

Thanks Michael for coaching the girls this season. You have done a fabulous job with them and it shows. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to stand-in for you – I really enjoyed it.

Leah – once again you have held the team together. You are extremely well organised and everything always runs smoothly. Thank you so much for all your hard work.

Cath

JW13B

It was absolutely a pleasure to be associated with all these girls, each one beautiful in there own special way.

Their skills developed throughout the season, to a level where the last game was won through passing and possession, more worthy than where they finished on the table.



PHOTO: JW13B's

Congratulations girls on a fine effort throughout the year, at training and the way everyone played during the season, when winning wasn't everything and being a good sport was.

Waz

JW14B – Runners

Season 2008 proved to be a great journey for the JW14B side. It was newly formed this year and came together in one pre-season game to convincingly beat the opposition at Helensburgh. Everyone was very confident in the belief that we would be a formidable unit.

In the first round we came up against Como and were thrashed 8 - 1. Some soul searching was done after this match.

It can be said, that the result in that match pretty much defined our season. The benchmark was set and from then on it was a pleasure to watch the improvement in the team. That improvement is a credit to each member of the team and also to Coach Holland who guided the team each week and instilled confidence in every player.

We showed in every game that we could be very competitive. Como were minor premiers and after securing second spot on the ladder, we earned the right to play in the Grand Final. This fact cannot be understated and was a massive achievement for the team.

Having said that, we knew that we could do well in the final game if we went hard at the ball and let our teamwork do the talking. After two lucky goals in the first half, we clawed one back in the second with the aid of the breeze. We pushed the opposition for the whole game and came away at the end of the game in the knowledge that our season had been a successful one, despite going down to a team that had been streets ahead of all opposition throughout the year.

Congratulations girls on acquitting yourselves so well throughout the year, not only on the football park but as individuals.

Special thanks to Coach Holland for his dedication, time and enthusiasm towards coaching and improving the girls' skills.

We look forward to going one better next year!

Susan, Manager

JW14C

Team: Aimee Norden-Powers, Alese Macarthur, Ashleigh Croucher, Bridgette Jones, Christie Mortimer, Ebony Gillies, India Johnson, Kirrily Hanson, Kirsty Lowe, Lauren Hayson, Paris Williams, Samantha Biddlecombe, Sophie Piggott & Taylor Kent.

Coach: Craig Teal

Manager: Peter Croucher

This season we welcomed four keen new players into the team- Aimee, Bridgette, Ebony and Lauren. We also had some of the most talented girls in the competition, being able to chat about boys and do their hair whilst playing football! Each of the girls took a turn to keep goal, and tried out various positions on the field, learning all the time. THANKYOU CRAIG for putting in your time and effort as Coach this season. The players and parents really appreciate it!

Sophie: - Sophie played in the forward line mostly with a few guest appearances in other positions too. Sophie shows great excitement when the ball is approaching her in the air, which is infectious!

Kirsty: - Kirsty spent most of the season in our front line attack, although she also played a few games in the midfield and a couple in defence, keeping the opposition (and our coach) on their toes. She stepped up, when given the responsibility of captaincy and can make a raid when she puts her mind to it.

Christie: - Christie couldn't get enough training, and pushed for training to be extended in time each week. She played in the midfield mostly and never gave up.

Ebony: - Ebony can really play in any position, with good speed and footwork and she is quite an able Goalkeeper too. She played in the left midfield mostly and tried to the end.

Bridgette: - Bridgette was one of the few who actually headed the ball during the games as practised at training. Bridge was everywhere in the midfield, covering the width of the pitch and taking it up to the opposition's defence. She can also score goals too.

India: - India defended our midfield mostly, with good strong kicks to the sides and gave verbal encouragement to her team.

Aimee: - (i-may) Aimee has a good strong kick and she has some speed which came in handy when chasing down our attackers. She put fear into the opposition!

Paris: - Paris played in the mid-field, spreading the ball wide. Paris was not scared to follow through and put her body on the line, getting to the ball first and

making progress up the field. She is an able defender too.

Alese: - Alese is a reliable defender and often played as our sweeper. Alese was probably the most improved player in the team this year. Alese has a good clearing kick and saved our bacon many times.

Ashleigh: - Ashleigh is a specialist defender. Ashleigh is able to read the play and position herself well to inhibit the progress of an attacker. Ash can "sweep" and she has also shown an interest in Goalkeeping where she is quite able.

Sam: - Sam is versatile in both the midfield and as a forward, however her footwork was targeted by the opposition and she sustained a broken toe and ankle ligament damage in two separate incidents which sidelined her for many weeks. Sam was greatly missed for most of the season as she is a strong and skilful competitor.

Kirrily: - We lost Kirrily half way through the year, when she was selected for St George's Representative side, and she was dearly missed for her goalkeeping skill and defensive work. Kirrily is also a competent forward.

Lauren: - Lauren started the season in our backline, however she found the midfield more to her liking and made the switch halfway through the year. She improved her game each week and never gave up.

Taylor: - Taylor played in the midfield and on the wing. Taylor has good footwork and showed that she can dribble around her opposite number. Taylor is an able goalkeeper, but prefers to be a part of the attack.

Peter Croucher, Manager

JW16B

We started our season with all the team agreeing that the aim of the season was to have fun and enjoy playing soccer. I am happy to say that we achieved our goals and along the way had an outstanding competitive season.

To make it into the final four was a great result and the team revelled in the big game atmosphere. Although underdogs in the semi final they turned into a well oiled machine and convincingly outplayed the opposition to secure a spot in the finals.

The girls entered the finals with a new found determination and realisation of their capabilities. In front of a large crowd the team produced a fantastic effort but with the score 1-1 at the end of extra time could not score the elusive, but deserved, goal leaving the result to teams placing's on the ladder.

The team left the field with smiles on their faces knowing that each of them had given their best which in the end is what it's all about.

I greatly enjoyed my year as coach, no small part of this due to the efforts of Sue our manager who kept everything running smoothly.

Thanks and well done team.

Stuart, coach

A pleasure and a privilege to have been the manager for this wonderful, spirited team of young ladies. Stuart, our coach, had his work cut out trying to get sixteen 16 year olds to listen and learn – no easy feat - but it worked, as our team made it through to the finals and did everyone proud.

The Grand Final was not to be (this year) but going out on a draw showed that they will be a force to be reckoned with next year!

The girls got better and better through the season and were a team who supported each other both on and off the field. Great team spirit and comradeship. These qualities will stand you well as you journey through life. It's been fun girls – thank you.

Sue, Manager

W18A

The expectations were high this year with new recruits in the team. Everyone was hoping for big things.

The girls were tied in first place with Kirrawee until the last game of Round 1- their first loss. That was ok, they maintained second place until the downhill run in the last few rounds. State Cup was going to be theirs again until Kirrawee knocked them out in the SEMI FINAL and they lost their lucky charm on the same day-Jess's injury to her knee at THE CREST.

From that day with total distractions from 18th Birthday parties the passion just wasn't as strong. But the girls lifted in the semis and showed their true colours- outstanding soccer and were just pipped at the post by Bosco in the Finals.

To the parents, brothers, uncles, grandparents and friends, thankyou for all the great support to the girls and good company at the games.

To the girls, thankyou from all of us for the entertainment and fun. We did look forward to every week.

The girls:

Nadsy: our brilliant sweeper who just appeared out of nowhere in defense.

Jenna: our graceful centre back who excelled in heading this year(as well as everything else)

Jessica: on fire until the knee developed a mind of its own- a brilliant all rounder.

Leah: the goalie who had a great year and even scored a goal.

Skye: excelled in midfield and always gave 150%

Bree: our Sharkette come allrounder who was never

LAZY and stuck like glue to those fast runaway players.

Rochelle: our left mid who upped the anti on goal scoring this year- 3rd highest scorer!

Georgie: our fearless centre who didn't back down from anyone and did the best curve ball corners.

Lisa: found her skills and awesome speed on the wing and in the forwards.

Mel: our reliable back who reads the play magnificently.

Emma: our smiling forward, who has excelled in the backs as well this year.

Alana: our holiday girl who runs like the wind in the forwards- our second highest scorer this year.

Ash: our highest goal scorer and the one who intimidated the oppositions defenders with her speed and footwork.

Lucy: our right mid who has unfortunately had a lot of illness this year. Better luck next year.

Adele: a welcomed addition to our team who has fitted into our mids and backs beautifully.

Brogan: our gorgeous mid who never let us down, unfortunately her back let her down this year. Next year Brogs.

To the coaches, young Todd and Wadey! What a great job you have done over the past two years and I might add what fun you have created. You have helped the girls improve on certain skills that they had not quite mastered and kept the teamwork alive.

Good luck Wadey with your own team next year and increased work load and I am sure ALL the girls will miss your presence next year.

To Todd, thankyou for putting your hand up again for next year. Thank you girls for another great year.

Jenny

W18B1

Magnificent team, magnificent coach and a magnificent season are the words that spring to mind when I have to pen a few words about the season that was.

Our W18B1's were made up of a few 18's from last year, half a team of 16's and some players from Gray's Point that absconded to the mighty Giants after not being able to form a side there.

The good news though was that we had an even spread of backs, forwards and mids along with a goal keeper and an inspirational coach. As the season would go on to show, together they formed a formidable outfit that would train hard and then methodically go about the weekly game with the precision of master craftsmen.

The season started with us being 1-0 down at half time to last years W18C grade winners in Como/Jannali but the fight the ladies showed in the second half of that game to come away with a 4-1 win, really set the scene for the season. Whilst they were rarely down, when they were they never dropped their heads but

would pull together and lift. They won games where their opposition thought they had a chance.

We finished the first round of home and away games in top spot but having some players injured for key games in the second round saw us finish the season 3rd on 42 points but just 2 points and less than a game behind Como Jannali who took out the minor premiership. We did however claim the award for the best for and against with a goal difference of 60 ahead of second placed Menai on 42.

The other interesting stat was that 1st, 2nd and 3rd all finished the season with 14 wins which left the drawn games (we never had one) to decide the final make up of the table.

Anyway, as I write the stats are all but history as this champion team has won its first 2 finals games and has progressed through to the Grand Final. So who makes up this team of miserly backs, attacking midfielders and scoring forwards?

Dil – Our vice captain and one of our key backs / centre mid fielders whose pace and tenacity ensured that our team controlled the game. She would run all day and then run some more if she thought it would benefit the team.

Bec C – Right Forward. Our youngest lady in the team but with skills and a boot to match anyone 2-3 years her senior. Scored some great goals throughout the year and set up many more through general play and corner shots.

Nicola – Left midfielder but could really play any position on the field. Her hunger and determination to get the ball would usually see her in possession and creating a play before the opposition had time to compete. Some fantastic headers in games.

Jemma – Has made the right mid field position her own this year and in addition to scoring a few goals herself has been a key play maker in setting up numerous others. Passes opponents using her dexterous footwork but puts in the big boot when needed.

Fiona – *Our Goalie*. Played the position that can be a frustrating and thankless role extremely well. Her fantastic sense of humour helped here. Continued to develop her skills throughout the year and finished as one of the best goalies in the comp.

Bec K – A fantastic mid field player who's timing to contest and win a ball is impeccable. Coupled with her deft footwork she has weaved her way around many a defender throughout the year to set us up in attack.

Sophie – Our Striker. Scored goals in most games this season and with ease off either foot as the year progressed. Probably none more important or memorable than the one in the preliminary final that put us into the Grand Final.

Katie – Left Forward. Taunted and frustrated many a back throughout the year with her capacity to gain and

retain possession of the ball whilst using her pace to head for the goals.

Hannah M – Another star of the back line who just played better and better every week. Like a thief in the night she would steal the ball in a contest without her opponents knowing what had happened.

Chantelle – Another of our mighty backs that would just hassle opposition forwards until she got the ball or they gave up and passed it off.

Paris – The Captain and one of our key backs who led by example both on and off the field. With a heart the size of Pharlap and the pace to match, she thwarted dozens of forward attacks by opposition teams and so often turned defence into attack.

Hannah P – Right midfield / right forward who would win the BP award for the quite achiever as she went about her game without any fuss or ado.

Ellaine – Another of our key backs who would never shy away from a contest. Regularly broke apart opposition forward plays with a timely boot or tackle.

Catherine – *Miss Versatility*. A player who could play any position on the field and play it well. Certainly missed through the middle of the season when out with a badly sprained ankle.

Lucinda – Midfield. If you looked at this player now you would have no idea that it was this young ladies 1st season. What a learning curve, what a player, what a 1st season – in the GF.

Well that's about it. Thanks to all the parents, grand parents, friends, boyfriends and all our other followers for their support this year. To our coach Dale for the time he has willingly put aside for the team and the passion with which he has trained and coached. And of course, to the 15 young ladies that have provided us with some magical moments and fantastic entertainment each Sunday over the winter. You are a fantastic team and I hope to see you all back playing together again next year.

One game to go – the Grand Final – lets get out there and have a real crack at it.

Kevin Gallehawk

JW18B2

The JW18B2 had another enjoyable season getting together to train and play each week. We had a core group who have been together for a few years now and they were complemented by the addition of several new girls Mikaelee, Kelsey and Verity playing up from the U/16s and Lisa our star exchange student from America.

We also welcomed Liv and Gig to the club who moved from another club down the road and also Nicola from further afield. The team quickly bonded as a unit and

the girls enjoyed each others company and were a lot of fun to be around.

Competition-wise our season was more or less over before it started when we found ourselves in the unfamiliar territory of B grade despite a consistent record of underachievement in C and D grades over the previous several years. Nevertheless, the girls accepted the challenge with grit and determination and turned up each week to give it their best.

The focus was on enjoying each others company and supporting each others play whilst always striving for an elusive victory but being gracious in defeat. It was tough going for girls and parents alike but their efforts finally paid dividends with a win in Round 7 over the hapless Kirrawee which gave us all a mid-season boost to continue the fight. Continue we did determined to enjoy ourselves.

Possibly not our finest moment, but a testament to our determination and fighting spirit nonetheless, was the game where we collected an astonishing 5 yellow and 2 red cards in a hard fought contest mid season. We managed to control the aggression after that and finally struck a rich vein of form in round 14 which saw the arrival of a 3 game winning streak which caught us all by surprise. It may have had something to do with the impact of school holidays and world youth day on our opponents but, then again, maybe not and, anyway, it was a nice run to have at the back end of a long season. Hopefully it will inspire the girls to come back again next season and have another go.

It was a privilege to coach such a terrific group of girls and with the support of the world's greatest football manager, Deanne Rees it was a lot of fun.

Peter Brown – coach

Senior women

W30A1

As the unofficial team scribe I thought I'd give the final wrap up on what was a very successful season for the W30A1's.

We finished a very respectable 3rd on the table. Although we were a little unlucky not to get one more game, after being narrowly defeated in extra time in the semis, I think 3rd after 18 rounds was a fantastic result. We played some great soccer throughout the year and as always shared lots of laughs and fun together as a team.

Probably the most successful outcome was that we all managed to avoid major injuries, which is no mean feat at our age. With the exception of crashing into glass doors, pulling groin muscles the morning after playing a soccer match AND running a half marathon and not withstanding any "incidents" that may occur on our girls weekend away, we'll all be able to live to fight another day!

Thanks to super coach Dale and marvellous manager Deanne for all your help, support and efforts this year. I think Deanne kicked every ball at every game she watched. I can't imagine how frustrating it must have been to stand on the sideline when she would love to be out there too. Poor Dale lost a few more grey hairs some days (probably fortunate for Leanne that he was unable to witness our last game - she may have lost her hubbie to a heart attack!). Thanks guys we appreciate everything you've done and all hope to see you back next season.

On a personal note I'd like to thank the committee for all the work behind the scenes this year that usually goes unnoticed. They make it possible for kids and seniors alike to arrive each weekend and participate in a game of soccer in a well run and enjoyable atmosphere up at Gynea Oval.

Finally to our outgoing President Stewart - you have been President of Gynea United for as long as our family have been involved in the club and your enthusiasm and contribution over the years has helped to make Gynea United the successful club that it is. But it's your ideas and work getting the Sutherland Titans up and running that is something very special, not only for the special needs kids but for all those teams that play them. I'm sure the smiles on all the kids faces make it all worthwhile for you but it's nice to be acknowledged for such an achievement.

Well, that's it from me. Thanks to all the amazing, fun, and great girls in our team for yet another fantastic season-I'm already looking forward to pulling on the boots again next year!

Linda xxxx

W30A2

Where to start? Firstly, it MUST be stated that for a team of women, it is truly stunning how silent they can be when faced with a task. The more complex and challenging the task, the more silent they become. No finer example can be found than that marvellous quote from their own ranks when Como #1 were at their collective throats—"It's strange how we're so silent on the pitch when we talk so much off it".

Secondly, no matter how adverse the adversity might have been, each player continued to strive forward and maintain the squad's reputation for clothing finery and tasteful hair styles. Even that most famous game in the mud against Point #1 the ladies kept both hair styles and clothing intact—though both were soaked by rain.

Thirdly, this team can find inspiration where mere mortals would wither and die. Take for example the energising impact upon the ladies when they faced Heathcote at the top of the second round. In the change room—the one AND ONLY time 'we' had one—stood Tim Cahill wearing two bras. Taking inspiration from this, the team took to the pitch and notched up the first win of the season playing as though they were twice their normal size and I refer NOT to the items contained by Tim's attire. So to the squad of ladies...in no particular order:

Therese—"I Ran; Flock of Seagulls" experience from last year pointed to a person that could flash around the pitch drawing spectators from near and far. Kind heart hidden behind a cold, hard and skilled demeanour that saw her cause dramas for other teams against whom she delighted in pin-pointing their weakness—especially if wrinkles were involved. As for that foot of hers, it's lethal to ball, shins and goal nets!

Jill—"Walk like and Egyptian; Bangles"—debut this year and she was certainly tossed into the deep end and swam competently for certain!!!! Jill arrived in A Grade after contemplating a team in B Grade but thankfully, she did not force the conditions of the contract. After suffering injuries through her energetic efforts, she solidified as a player in the squad...though perhaps a very sore one.

Cheryl—"Highway to Hell; ACDC"—one lady that has a wealth of game experience though she is quick to highlight it was a couple of years back. Still, good ground skills and an uncanny ability to read the play saw this lady send most attackers to Hell with their intentions. Keeper of steel, back of pure determination and possessing the focus of a monk in a trance, Cheryl's reputation continued to grow upon what it was last year in the Bs.

Chele—"Born to Run; Springsteen"—another lady of speed that was able to run down women sprinters that were many decades her junior. (Well, at least one decade she conceded). Making her debut and "all at sea" to start with, in the wet, she found her ideal location smack in the middle of the defence line. Able to go from stationary to ludicrous speed in a flash, she

snuffed out many attacks and came on leaps and bounds as the season progressed.

Kellie—"Another one Bites the Dust; Queen"—stalwart of the backline, keeper par excellence and destroyer of striker's aspirations. This lady has the experience of the previous season but with being such a quick learner, one would think she had been playing for many years and of course, she plays football too. Ever reliable and one of the most optimistic as she agreed with the Coach about ability to win—some games.

Karen—"Don't Panic; Powder Finger";—after a knee dislocation early in the season at training, her armoured knees again plied the football pitch for her third year at GUFC making her one of the team's most experienced players?? Oh well, stats never lie. Being flexible enough to play forward or midfield she was able to wreak havoc amongst her opposites. Her discovering the art of subterfuge meant that her team mates thought she looked faster at times.

Sharon—"Greased Lightning; Grease/Travolta"—speedster and swimming guru rolled into one and spectators wondered why some of her better games were in the wettest conditions? Another player who had a boot to be feared at close and long range. Ever so polite both on and off the pitch, she managed to hide her true persona of utter compulsive love of football. In her third year, she used her experience to ignore the pleadings of her coach when required—lest insanity take her.

Christine—"Get a Kick; Diesel"—another player from the previous year who knew what to expect of the higher grade. Using her height and size, she intimidated her opposites where ever on the pitch she was dispatched. Now while that might read poorly, it must be said that being taller than most can be intimidating without intent!! When she was not heavily marked, she upset the keepers by pushing the ball past them.

Vicki—"I'm still Standing; Elton John"—making her debut for the Club; though not her football debut[it can be argued that a decade or more of not playing means your status as a player lapses so perhaps a debut of sorts]; this lady had the background to read the game and present herself on location for maximum effect. A critical element of the backline, she was regularly denied a rotation for which we believe she is secretly grateful.

Meredith—"I still haven't Found what I'm Looking For; U2"—yet another debutant for football and the Club...obviously. Ok. But she played hockey and it showed! Meredith held her position and knew when to run to get the ball but sadly, Offside applies in football. With that little drama fixed, she settling into any position that she felt might settle her. As the season passed and her injuries healed, she became more and more effective in reducing her opponent's ability to play football and at times, she actually took the ball and always contributed to the team.

Kathy—"Simply the Best; Tina Turner"—one of the most impressive players of the entire competition. This lady could play most off a break when it came to

quick, intelligent replies, insights and good humour and of course, Dobbing. In between these, she managed to impress as one of the star players on the pitch. Ever vigilant for team mate's slips and their talking over the coach, she kept the team in the hunt and supplied all with both goals and drinks at the end of the season. Another from the B side of last year and many teams have dreamed about having in their ranks.

Fiona—"Hot Potato; The Wiggles"—this is the Mum of note that in just 6 weeks of delivering super baby Dane [the one that made the calls on the mobile for a top-up] she was on the pitch making a mockery of those that tried to dispossess her. One of the famous Sutton Triplets [sisters Vicki and Kathy] she amazed everyone with her fine form of managing Dane, football and breast feeding. Another from last year who is a pillar of ability for the side.

Dani—"Darth Vader's March; John Williams"—new recruit to the side bringing along additional depth in skills and game knowledge. This lady applied herself in ways that many dream of. Slide tackles, shoulders and plain tough football were available to the team in spades. Making her debut for the Club, she fitted in perfectly with the team and was a treat to watch with her on the ball skills. She also entertained all by not taking any crap from anyone—coach included.

Angela—"Angels; Robbie Williams"—debutant to football and a conflict of appearances. Mild mannered Mum and friend of all in the team, she became Angel of Death to her opponents once let loose on the pitch. A keeper of note and determination, she also had a terrier-like zest for the ball and went from "not knowing much about this game" to being able to execute it and others at will.

Kim—"I will Survive; Gloria Gaynor"—another from the Bs last year and one that very nearly did not make it! Injured while playing the summer variant of the World Game, this lady had to work hard to get into form. Once she made it, she made her normal impression with shimmers and twists and steps that confused and left her opposites speechless. Throughout the year, Kim consistently improved and demonstrated her ability to learn with ease. She is also handy in obtaining photographic evidence that will implicate anyone in anything it seems.

Wendy—"Did it Again. Kylie Minogue"—well, the theme for this lady could be based around The Who's Rock Opera "Tommy". Released from her shackles of not playing in a competitive sport for many years and being of the B heritage, Wendy has come out as a ferocious competitive sportswoman with an appetite for any and all sports. Ranging from swimming, wrestling, softball, 20k walk, boxing, fencing, judo, basketball, athletics, rowing, table tennis and yes football, this woman is a pillar of power, strength and determination who really just keeps on keeping on and entertaining at every turn. No comment on her drinking capacity.

Kathryn—"Another Brick in the Wall; Pink Floyd"—now it can be argued that the theme for Kathryn is a "no brainer" and there would be little argument but not for

the name, moreover the playing style and reliability. From the B side of last year, Kathryn was asked to play her game across a number of positions and stoned walled attackers time and again. Many felt like they were "Banging their head against some mad bugger's wall"—but while not "mad", she was brilliant in her play and rarely in a "flap".

Lee-Anne—"Danger Zone; Kenny Loggins"—debuting for the Club and arriving with a reputation for being tough, gritty and having a most evil smile, Lee-Anne slotted in like she was part of the furniture from the word "Hello". Taking little time to settle into any role, she discharged her duties as one of the team's screens and quickly became a key member of the defensive and attacking lines. Needing to pop-off from time to time to check her BGL, she was never far from the action and simply kept improving throughout the season.

Jenny—"Taking care of Business; Bachman Turner Overdrive"—Manager for the team and Mother to all and sundry. Without Jenny's work and efforts, team sheets would have gone missing, alternate strips would never have arrived and the points we did rack up would never have been counted. A striker of past years, Jenny scored more goals without kicking a single ball and was proclaimed around the nation. Shame it took place, in her imagination! Next year...next year Jenny.

John—"Brain Damage; Pink Floyd"—Now while this theme might apply to this soul, it is only because of the protracted exposure to coaching females and working hard to understand their language. Perhaps in due course? Oh...the joy of penning a report. Brevis esse latoro obscurus fio - When I try to be brief, I speak gobbledegook

John Lupton, coach

Senior men

35C – Premiers 2008

A new era for what was the "5's". We were now the 35's as we migrated the veteran's league. Sadly having to leave a few young guys behind, we had some spots to fill and too on board some castaways from the defunct 45's with Paddy, Rosey and Greg joining the Gynea faithfuls. Also new to the club were Deano, Adrian and later Phill to complete the playing roster. We awaited to see what grade and were pleasantly surprised with C grade. This brought high hopes of a successful season.

Pre season and early form not so fantastic as we needed to gel as a new team. However, it didn't take long and were away hitting our straps. After losing one game early in the year we were never beaten again. Apart from dropping points on few draws the comp was fiercely fought out between 3 sides.

Finishing 2nd at the end of the season we played and won the major semi 2-1 and into the GF we went waiting to see who would get through. Quite rightly Kirrawee the Minor Premiers won through meaning we had to win as a draw wouldn't do. They were at full strength with all their stars, we were too (bar injured Phil and Greg who both missed large chunks of the year) so no excuses! A most exciting and enjoyable day as we finally brought home the silverware with a 3-1 victory. Star of the day was Mitch who saved a penalty at 1-1 to keep us in the game. Dave's long range top left screamer to put us up 2-1 with 6 minutes to go and Saundo's double on the back of a complete team effort.

The spirit in this team is fantastic and the support we get from our wives and supports is second to none. I would dearly like to thank them all including Roger who was our interchange man on GF and other key games this year. Thanks guys for being a great bunch of blokes and now true CHAMPIONS and PREMIERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brad Saunders



See you in 2009!

**The year to celebrate
50 years
of Gynea United
Football Club**

2009 will mark the 50th anniversary of Gynea United Football Club and we plan to honour it in style with the biggest season in the clubs history!

One of the major celebratory events has been set, so put it in your diary:

**GUFC 50th Anniversary Gala Evening
Friday 29th May, 2009
Doltone House, Sylvania Waters**

REMEMBER:

if you have any historic GUFC material – old photos, memorabilia etc. – we'd love to hear from you, so please contact:

*Wendy Smithers 0402 301 241
Gary Wall 0412 522 136*