

Dianella Soccer Club 2017 AGM – President's Report

The 2017 season has been one of consolidation for Dianella Soccer Club with over 320 players in 29 teams from under 6 to under 18, continuing our presence in all age groups of Junior football.

The committee has continued to work on maintaining the infrastructure and practices necessary to provide the opportunity for young people to play the game of football in a community based, family-friendly environment.

Once again the City of Stirling has demonstrated tremendous support of Dianella Soccer Club through its extensive refurbishment of the clubroom facilities and goal compound. The works did kick-off as our patronage of the grounds got under way, but with everyone pulling in the same direction, including our stable mates at ECU Rangers Hockey Club and Stirling Cricket Club, everything finished ahead of schedule and to an excellent standard.

In addition to the clubroom refurbishment, the City also provided us with a third Junior pitch, taking the pressure off the two already in use. We will continue to lobby for additional lighting on the Oval, and more importantly increased lighting across the car park. I have every confidence these issues will be addressed in good time.

I wish once again to thank our Sponsors Galleria Toyota, Natalie Hoyer of Acton Realty, Onside Sports and Cameleon Coatings for their financial support of the Club. We are very fortunate to have had them on board over the last four seasons.

We are currently in the process of re-negotiating our sponsorship agreements for the next three seasons and all current sponsors have been approached. I am delighted to report that one of our sponsors has agreed to re-sign which is fantastic news. Further details will be available upon completion of negotiations.

As our Treasurer will shortly report, the Club is in a sound financial position, with the coming season looking to be a busy one with amongst other things the replacement of the Club's playing strip a necessity. I am satisfied that the future of the Club is financially secure.

Dianella Soccer Club is an organisation that survives solely on the good will of volunteers who give up their time and energy to become committee members, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, referees, linespersons, line markers and many other tasks allowing children to play football. To all of these people I say thank you – this is your Club and we look forward to your continued contributions in 2018.

The high turn-out from new and returning Coaches for our hosting of the Football West Grassroots Skills Course back in April, was a great indication of the high levels of enthusiasm this year. I can only hope that this enthusiasm continues for years to come. Coaches, a special thank you for a job well done.

I wish to thank the 2017 committee for their tireless efforts. Each and every one of you should feel a sense of pride, knowing that your work goes towards making a fun experience of playing football a reality for so many kids.

I would particularly like to thank our Team Co-ordinators Jenny Rossi, Mario Zinni and Maria Stella for taking on their respective roles and being committed to doing the job well. You were the backbone of the playing side this season and I have lost count of the number of compliments received about your work. Special mention should go to Jenny, who is sadly leaving us to join Football West after ten years on committee and eight years as Junior Coordinator. We all know the work involved and constantly admired your patience as you dealt with all the issues that Junior football can throw at you. Our loss is Football West's gain, and I know you can continue to drive them in the right direction. Good luck Jenny.

This year we welcomed Sonia Beros as our Secretary. You have more than fulfilled your role, organising, cajoling and reminding us all, me in particular, of the tasks in hand. Please continue to keep us "on the ball".

To my right-hand men, Akash Bisnath, Treasurer, and Mick Owens, Vice President, thank you.

Akash as always has controlled the purse strings and is also responsible for the sponsorship negotiations. Both time consuming tasks but both carried out to the full, I cannot thank you enough.

Mick Owens is not just the Vice President, but also our Coaches Co-ordinator. If this were not enough commitment, Mick is also the Assistant Coach and Team Manager of the WA State Paralympic Football team. I have seen the team train and play at Yokine and I am in awe of the work Mick is doing, in conjunction with his own Dianella squad, in helping everyone play the beautiful game. Here, special mention should go to one of our own players, Rodrigue Niyongere who has been selected for the State Paralympic team for the Nationals in November this year. He has also been involved in all the Australian Paralympic team camps this season and is hopeful of a call-up to the Australian U19 squad ahead of an overseas tournament next year. To paraphrase Mick "Well done Rodders".

Dorina Martelli as always had us ticking like a Swiss clock for the Shirt Presentation Day and Trophy Presentation and Wind-Up. Carmel deFillipis again had the teams kitted out and photographed, raising a tidy sum in the process. We also went on-line with our sponsor and kit provider Onside Sports so members could order all manner of sporting apparel from the comfort of their own home. This facility should be expanded for 2018.

As previously mentioned, next season will see the Club playing in a new strip. The new strip will be worn across all age groups, unifying once again our Miniroos and Juniors. Special thanks should go to Carmel, Travis Hunt and Alex d'Angelo for designing several great kits from which the committee selected their favoured option.

Pina Ricci somehow found us a coffee van when we were without the use of our canteen at the start of the season, and since we were handed the keys to the refurbished clubroom, our canteen, under the guidance of Pina and control of Nicky Walmsley, has gone from strength to strength.

Mark Oliver is dragging us into the 21st Century as we finally cracked facebook with over 400 likes, and our new Phone app is up and running. Travis has continued to cement relationships with Perth Glory, with many of our players taking part in pitch-side parades and half-time kick-about during several A League fixtures. Our Miniroos assessments with The Glory continue to work well and we

are also hosting our first two day 'Glory School Holiday Clinic' at the end of September. We of course look forward to further cooperation with the State's premier football team.

To the committee, those already mentioned and those not mentioned who have worked behind the scenes, thank you again for making this Club a true, community asset.

On the field, as in all sports there were success stories and the not so successful. Whatever the story, our aim was to make the experience for each and every player an enjoyable one. Worthy of note however, were once again the successes of our Juniors. Of the ten Junior squads, seven made Top 4 semi-finals. Particular mention should go to our 16 A's who were Metro Div. 1 Champions and winners of the Div. 1 Top 4 Cup. In addition, our 18's were Metro Div. 4 runners-up and our 12 A's were North Div. 2 runners-up and both will be promoted. Our 14's made it through to their Top 4 Final narrowly losing to quality opposition. The 18's and 12 A team were left heart-broken, losing their Top 4 semi-finals in penalty shoot-outs, and the 15's, 13 A and 12 B teams lost their semi-finals by one goal. Dianella Soccer Club is very proud of an outstanding effort by all concerned.

In the absence of recorded scores for Miniroos it is difficult to highlight achievements, but I am aware that our 9s Team 1, playing Olyroos football went the season undefeated, a fantastic achievement.

However, I have always believed that children's sport is about more than winning, so thank you to every squad for playing the Dianella way this season. Whatever the recipe is, we appear to have it right. Well done to all those involved.

On a more disappointing note, the Clubs annual Bowling Night was cancelled due to lack of numbers. We did have enough keen bowlers to fill a few lanes, but it wasn't enough to go-ahead. We hope this fun evening makes an appearance in our calendar's next year.

Lastly, one new initiative this season which generated a lot of positive feedback was the exciting partnership with Woolworths Dianella Plaza, who distributed a selection of fruit to players on match day, helping promote a healthy lifestyle to all our members. We hope to build on this relationship in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage others to become part of the Dianella Soccer Club story by getting involved at either Committee level or at grass roots level where the teams are. We are always on the lookout for new ideas and areas of expertise. Dianella Soccer Club is a friendly, welcoming place that offers a rewarding experience. Please give it some thought, we would love to hear from you.

On a personal level, whilst 2017 has been a challenging year, my experiences at Dianella Soccer Club have helped and enriched in ways I couldn't have imagined. With the help of the committee, and every other member I would be delighted to be given the opportunity to continue building this Club into an even greater community asset and help shape 'the world's game' into an even stronger force here in W.A.

Thank you.