



North Wellington Junior Football Club Inc.
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10 November 2008

President's Report 2008 Season

I am very pleased to report on the progress of the club over the 2008 season and just as importantly, highlight the areas I believe the management committee should focus on in 2009.

The Club fielded 550 players over 55 teams from Nursery to 16/17th Grade. Each year it is pleasing to see our numbers rising and the strong growth in our 7th - 9th Grades. This increase in numbers is complemented with the increase in skill level as a result of our focus on quality coaching and skill development at the earliest opportunity.

Certainly the poor weather curtailed many of our leagues, and did not allow us to see the fruits of our coaching and team building work.

Many players, supporters and Clubs have questioned the value for money this season and this issue has been discussed with Capital Football. Regrettably but understandably, there is not a commensurate drop in costs to either Capital Football or the Wellington City Council because matches were not played.

The only silver lining to the bad weather is the urgent emphasis that Capital Football has put on introducing artificial pitches as soon as possible. North Wellington is part of the working group that is engaged in working with the Wellington City Council to make this need a reality.

On a brighter note, our coaches, managers and helpers clearly are the back bone of our club as without them of course, there would be no junior football. Thanks to them, our club has performed strongly this year with a good showing throughout the football leagues including representative level. These important people give so willingly of their time and are excellent role models for the next generation.

It is important to recognise the dedication and commitment shown by the management committee. Helen Mallon, Jill Blackmore, Tom Zink, Jolene Zink, Gavin Underhill, Arvin Chandra, Louise McDonald, Sarah Stirling, Marina Stevenson and John Pearce are to be congratulated for the energy and dedication they bring to club administration. Thanks to such a wonderful team.

We are also grateful to our sponsors and funding organisations that have provided sponsorship and grants over the year. These organisations have been highlighted in the Treasurer's report and make a significant contribution to the operational capability of our club. Subscriptions alone do not cover our operating costs let alone our new initiatives.

It is important to pay special tribute and thank the New Zealand Community Trust for their generous contribution of grant money which has been used to fund the vast bulk of our coaching programme as well as our prize giving trophies. Without this combined sum of \$35000 there is no way that our club could offer the development opportunities it does and grow both our players and the club in the process.

Notable achievements in the year have been:

- The extension of our coaching programme to cover more players and involving more coaches.
- The continuing professional development of our parent coaches.
- The success of our 11th Grade JPL team under Dave Wright.
- The success of our 15th Grade Promo team under Bill Bradley
- A record 9 players selected for Western Zone representative honours.
- Steady progress on the Multi Club building initiative. (Football, Cricket, Softball and Harriers sharing common premises)
- Commencement of talks around the possible amalgamation of the junior and senior football clubs.
- Further strengthening our ties with the Onslow Junior Football Club.
- Confirmation of a transition grade in 2009 for players aged 16 to 21 - The Under 21 Sunday League.
- The creation of a new partnership with Karori and Onslow Junior Football Clubs leading to the employment (With the help again of NZCT) of Juan Proporto as the Three Club Coach Development Co-ordinator (Coaching the coaches)
- The introduction of a High Performance Programme in Term 4 with Juan and our partner clubs.
- The inaugural offering of a summer player programme.

As well as continuing to develop these opportunities and initiatives it is imperative that the club:

1. Inducts new management committee members, particularly those with children in the Nursery to 11th Grades. These new people must commit to making a small but active contribution.
2. Maintains an active involvement in the move to introduce artificial pitches.
3. Continues to support the Multi Club proposal for Alex Moore Park.
4. Increases income through a strong focus on sponsorship and fund raising to support our various development programmes.
5. Actively pursues merging the North Wellington Junior Football Club Inc with the North Wellington Association Football Club Inc (Senior Club) to form the North Wellington Football Club Inc.

With regard to the merger possibility, my view is that we can no longer achieve our footballing best through a disjointed structure. A common approach on player development and coaching will help those who play the game and those who coach and administer it. The development pathway and transition to youth and adult grades should also be logical and seamless.

There are many successful models which advocate a One Club – Two Committee structure (separate financial and management structures would be retained but with greater cross over and shared approaches in asset management, coach and player development etc) and I cannot see why we should not go down this path.

Having shared clubroom facilities with other sporting codes and organisations makes it even more desirable to consolidate the North Wellington football community.

The 2009 season promises to be our best yet with a solid foundation created through a stable and seasoned management committee which remain focussed on continuously improving the club's performance both on and off the field.

Final thanks go to all North Wellington parents, players and supporters for continuing to support their club throughout 2008. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

In particular, I look forward to welcoming new committee members so that they can help in their children's development and improve how the club operates and the services we provide.



Grant Stephen
President.