

President's Report for 2009



The 2010 season commenced in late March (3 weeks earlier than for some years) and with little rain occurring through the winter) allowed for a more than usual number of games. 23 teams registered with 419 player registrations. Winners for the season were:

Division 1

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| Grand Final Winners | Wollongong Baptists |
| Runners Up | Concrete Innovative |
| Minor Premiers | Wollongong Baptists |
| B&F | Jamin Hudson |
| Golden Boot | Bryan Southall |
| Player of the final | Liam Stevenson |
| Friendship Trophy | Dapto |

Division 2

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Grand Final Winners | Albion Pk Uniting |
| Runners Up | Wollongong Baptists |
| Minor Premiers | Albion Pk Uniting |
| B&F | James Dwarte |
| Golden Boot | Michael Allison |
| Player of the final | Pete Murphy |
| Friendship Trophy | Bowral |

Refereeing numbers were down, leading to referees having to control both games on occasions. Hopefully there will be some interest by players in filling in this year if there are any shortages during the year. The Association took advantage of the availability of a linesman for some matches.

Disputes/complaints were minimal and would have been even less had players accepted refereeing decisions more readily. Clubs are reminded that players are representing the Association at any time they are wearing their club strip and referees have been instructed to apply Association rules (particularly in relation to inappropriate language) even when players are off the field.

Only a small number of card appeals were made to the Committee. The Association does not have the benefit of video replay and it is therefore general policy to support the decision of the referee unless the referee considers an error has been made or another player admits that there has been a case of mistaken identity. Nevertheless each case is reviewed on its own merit. The understanding of clubs in accepting this process has been appreciated.

There are two areas where the Association could improve in 2010.

1. Linemarking. Home teams are responsible for their pitch markings (NOT COUNCILS). The Association will provide linemarking equipment if requested by clubs.

2. Strip. Clubs are required to identify their strip at the beginning of the season and expected to wear this strip while on the field. A small number of players obviously do not consider shorts (or socks) to be a part of their strip. Clubs are asked to remind players that this is inappropriate.

Dept of Fair Trading

The 2009 annual report was submitted to the Department of Fair Trading and accepted.

Constitutional Changes

In 2009 a number of changes were made to the Associations Constitution and By-Laws.

Two further minor modification to Section 5 of the By-Laws (Player Registration) are now proposed as follows :

5.7 *Registration of players with 5 or less rounds remaining shall require the agreement of the Management Committee.*

5.8 *Players shall have played a minimum of 3 matches during the season to be eligible to play in the finals.*

Committee

I am grateful for the excellent support received during the year from my fellow Committee members. Without their help there would be no Association or Competition. Particular thanks should be given to Al Gardner, Zoran Gardner and Mark Bright although all the efforts of Steve Christianson and Neil Taylor were also appreciated.

Outstanding debt.

The Association has been seeking repayment of an outstanding debt by a Mr Chris Jurd who has failed to make a payment on a cheque. The outstanding debt is currently \$2119.04. Mr Jurd has now moved on and the court has been unable to identify his whereabouts. It is proposed that the outstanding payment be written off as a bad debt (although will be pursued further if Mr Jurd's whereabouts becomes known).

Representatives

The 2009 State titles were held in Wollongong and many thanks to Nathan Williams for managing our Representative team in both the State Titles and the Steel City Challenge. Three players were also selected for the State team and are to be congratulated.

Clubs should be encouraged to let their players know about our representative matches. Our competition is arranged so that representative players do not miss club games and a strong rep side enhances the images of our competition.

Graham Brisbane, Honorary President