



Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club

2020 Annual Report

2020 Committee Of Management

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	PETER BREMNER
VICE PRESIDENT	BELINDA SUTCLIFFE
SECRETARY	MATT DRY
TREASURER	JOHN MARGERISON
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS	SHANE WALSH

GENERAL COMMITTEE

REGISTRAR	ALEX HOPLEY
MARKETING COMMUNICATION	ELENI KARAMIHOS
GROUNDS and COUNCIL LIAISON	LUKE RITCHIE
SPONSORSHIP and MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR	ALISTAIR ROWLANDS
SOCIAL EVENTS & CANTEEN	SILVANA KERIN
CHILD SAFETY and COMPLIANCE OFFICER	SCOTT MILLAR
AUSKICK ADMINISTRATION	DAVID RATNER
TRAINER and MEDICAL COORDINATOR /COVID SAFETY OFFICER	JACINTA HAMILTON





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President's Report

I am pleased to present the President's Report for the 2020 season of the Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club (CBJFC).

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the 2020 season was a season like no other. And hopefully a season that we never have to experience ever again.

Having said that, it was remarkable to witness the positive energy and efforts of so many people to try and get the season up and running. In no particular order, the Committee, the SMJFL, coaches, team managers, Club volunteers and indeed parents and players all tried their hardest under adversity to do the right things and try and play some form of modified season.

However, it wasn't to be and whilst we won't remember season 2020 fondly, I was proud of the Bears spirit that pervaded right across the Club and I'm sure many parents, players and Club supporters will already be looking forward to the 2021 season with extra purpose.

Whilst season playing highlights are hard to identify, I did want to mention the following positive aspects from the 2020 season:

- 334 player registrations were recorded
- The inaugural Dave Skinner pre-season training was very well received
- A highly successful pre-season/ Launch Day event
- 12 Mixed/Boys teams were set up from U8's through to U17's
- 5 Girls teams were set up from U12's through to U16's
- The CBJFC offered close to 100% refunds on all 2020 registration fees
- Despite no income from registrations or social events, and limited income from sponsorship and merchandise, the Club only recorded a circa \$8,000 loss, with some of the costs including football equipment which we will derive future benefit from
- The Koornang Park Pavilion will enjoy a partial upgrade by Council with plans to improve mainly the social room, storage and kitchen/canteen areas

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the 2020 season was that our U17 Boys team and our U16 Girls team weren't able to go out on a high note by playing potentially their final year at the Club.

*"I was proud of the Bears spirit
that pervaded right across the Club"*

Hopefully some of the U17 Boys will be age eligible to play again next season and we are striving for the Club's first ever U18 Girls team in 2021. However, for the players from those two teams which 2020 was their final season and to the Coaches, Andrew Beet and Nick Rhoden, we thank you for your service and loyalty to the Bears and wish everyone well with their future football endeavours.

Registrations

Despite the ever-present threat to the season caused by Covid-19, remarkably the Club still recorded 334 player registrations which was only 22 less than for the previous season. Right up until the time the League made the announcement to abandon the season, we were still receiving daily registrations so augurs well for a big year of registrations in 2021.

From the 334 total registrations, 253 were male registrations and 81 were female registrations.

We had 17 teams set up for the 2020 season (one more team than we had in 2019) with 12 mixed/boys teams and 5 girls teams. A big thanks goes to our new Registrar Alex Hopley who took to the new role with ease.

The Committee made the decision to only withhold \$15 per player registration to mostly cover the SportsTG registration fees (around 5%) and refund the balance of registration money back to players/parents. We know many other Clubs were withholding significantly higher amounts ranging between 20% - 40% to cover their Club costs and therefore refunding far less, however the CBJFC Committee made the decision to offer as much of a refund as possible given the tough financial circumstances some families have been facing.

We look forward to the positive momentum of player registrations to continue into the 2021 season.

Auskick

Unfortunately, there was no Auskick season either, however the Club formally welcomed Auskick at Koornang Park as an official part of the Club.

Also, we were lucky to enjoy the enthusiasm created by David Ratner who joined as our Auskick Coordinator and has brought coaches, volunteer parents and young Auskickers from

his previous Auskick Centre. David will set up a Friday night Auskick session, in addition to the existing Saturday morning Auskick session at Koornang Park in season 2021.

Social Engagement

Covid-19 prevented us from accessing the Pavilion and having any significant physical social interaction with Club supporters in 2020.

The pre-season Launch Day event held in February was another huge success and thanks to Silvana Kerin for pulling together another amazing event. With a revamped pavilion and canteen coming to Koornang Park, we look forward to enjoying many future successful social functions together as a Club.

It was pleasing to see the ongoing social interaction on Facebook and Twitter and we urge Club members and players to keep supporting our local sponsors who financially support the Club.

Sponsorship

When it became clear a full or even a modified season wasn't likely, we made the decision to request that all existing sponsors not contribute financially in 2020 as we weren't able to deliver them a proper season.

We know the Covid-19 Pandemic has meant that some local businesses and sponsors have been doing it tough and we request that all Club members, parents and players support our sponsors and local businesses as much as possible and we look forward to having all 2019 sponsors back at the Club in season 2021.

Facilities

Discussions and plans have been ongoing between Glen Eira Council and the three sporting co-tenants at Koornang Park regarding a much needed upgrade to the Pavilion, and particularly the social room, storage and canteen/kitchen areas.

I am pleased to say that Council have appointed a contractor and construction works will commence to the Pavilion in October 2020 and go through to May/June 2021. Whilst this will mean a disruption to accessing the Pavilion in season 2021, I am looking beyond that short term inconvenience for the future benefits the Club will derive from the refurbished Pavilion.

The electronic scoreboard was installed in August 2019, and whilst we haven't seen it in operation yet, this will be a valuable asset towards the enjoyment of Koornang Park in years ahead.

We are getting quotes to look towards improving the lux of the oval lights at Koornang Park, with our aim being to install new lights that achieve over 100 lux which is the minimum lux required to host night games.

Despite a small financial loss in 2020, the Club is still in a strong financial position for future investment in football equipment and projects.

Committee

The CBJFC is run by volunteers and despite not having a playing season in 2020, there was still a mountain of effort from the Committee and Volunteers that went into trying to get the season up and running.

I would like to acknowledge the entire CBJFC Committee for your dedication and support to me as President, as we all know we did the best we could under trying circumstances. In particular, I acknowledge the supreme efforts of Belinda Sutcliffe (Vice President), Matt Dry (Secretary), John Margerison (Treasurer) and Shane Walsh (Football Operations). Special thanks to Jacinta Hamilton for stepping into the breach at short notice to fill the important Covid Safety Officer role.

The amount of Zoom meetings with the Committee, the League, Stakeholders and other Club Presidents was extraordinary, but it did bring about a greater sense of camaraderie and positive energy which can only help going forward.

Finally, to the 2020 Committee people who have announced that they are stepping down next season, on behalf of the Committee and whole Club membership thank you for your dedication, positive energy, immense efforts and contributions over your tenure. I am confident that season 2020 won't be wasted and that the Club can take many positives out of the season that wasn't and that the Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club will roar back bigger and better than ever in 2021. Go Bears!

Peter Bremner
President



Football Operations



What a Year 2020 has been for all of us!

This was certainly a big initiation to the role as Head of Football Operations. When I decided to take up the role I did not expect that the year was going to be the year of a world wide pandemic. This created many challenges in trying to create a safe environment for the Bears, however in the end it was not meant to be.

We started the season with high hopes of having our best season yet. Planning for the year included the investment in new equipment for all our teams including new footballs and other training gear as required. To get the club moving and working together as one, we decided to run a club pre-season training program by Dave Skinner, Dave is a local (watches the ground from his front door) and is a member of the Bears. This program commenced in February and was a weekly program (over 6 weeks) held at Caulfield Park. It was an amazing success with approx. 50-70 young bears attending each session. The pleasing thing to see was that all sessions had a vast array of age groups attend, had an equal mix of girls and boys and also fantastic to see the smiles on all the kids. The fitness levels improved over each session and Dave did an amazing job, with the support of other Bears coaches it was a great success.

Unfortunately that is basically where it ended, although we did start training again mid-year until Stage 4 ruined our chance, the year was lost and all our teams missed the opportunity to play in 2020.

I would like to thank all the coaches who did an amazing job to keep coaching with such a positive attitude throughout the year. We are lucky to have these volunteers and we hope to have footy back in 2021 and the same coaches put their hand up again. Your support was appreciated from my end.

I would also like to say a big well done to all the members of the committee. It was a tough year and many curve balls were thrown at all of us, whilst still trying to do our normal jobs in the midst of the curve balls, everyone kept on being positive and worked as a team throughout the year.

Finally, just want to also say to the parents that you were amazing this year as well. The positivity and the preparedness to stick by the Caulfield Bears and allow your kids to train is to be commended. The hope is that all the young bears come back to the club next year and get the footy boots on, have fun and play footy in 2021.

Shane Walsh



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club results for the Financial Year ended 30 September 2020. Results for the last 5 years are summarised across the following pages.

The club's financial results obviously look a little different this year due to the abandonment of the season.

When it became apparent that the season may not proceed, the committee's attention turned towards trying to minimise expenditure and maximise the refund it could return to its members. I'm pleased to report that the committee was successful in achieving these objectives.

As mentioned in the President's Report, the club only charged a small \$15 cancellation fee per player (roughly 5%) which mainly covered the fee charged by SportsTG on all registrations. The fact that the club only withheld 5% when most other clubs were charging a 20%-40% cancellation fee is something that I think as a committee we should be proud of and reflects the hard work put in by so many dedicated volunteers.

In the breakdown of costs that follows, the club incurred a number of costs that did not relate to the 2020 season. The most notable being \$6,000 paid for new football equipment which can be re-used next season and \$2,500 in electricity and gas charges relating to prior seasons. If these costs are excluded, then the club would have recorded roughly a break even result for the current year. This is a great achievement in light of the unprecedented season we encountered and justifies the committee's decision to refund such a high proportion of registration fees to members.

Registrations

Registration income was obviously low due to the fact that the season was abandoned and the decision being made to refund almost all the registration income back to members as already mentioned.

The \$2,975 of registration income reported in the financial results primarily represents fees donated back to the club by a number of generous families. The club is very thankful for this kind gesture. It is worthwhile noting that at the time the decision was made to abandon the season, the club had collected over \$70,000 in registration fees which would have been a record year for the club.

The main operating costs incurred by the club to try to get the season up and running were:

- \$6,000 for new football equipment. As all of this equipment is still almost brand new, the expectation is that it can all be re-used which should mean there will be minimal new equipment required to be purchased next season;
- \$4,000 to host the registration day and run pre-season training sessions overseen by David Skinner. Both of these initiatives were well received by members and were organised before the impact of Covid 19 was known;
- \$2,000 in first aid costs such as training courses for volunteers and Covid 19 supplies;
- \$1,750 in miscellaneous admin costs (eg AFL coaching membership fees, website hosting fees)

Fortunately all affiliation fees from the SMJFL were waived this season.

Food and drink

Traditionally one of the club's biggest areas of fundraising is through the running of the canteen and hosting of family nights. Unfortunately none of these were able to proceed due to the season being abandoned and social distancing restrictions being introduced by the government.

Merchandise

The club made a small \$1,852 cash surplus from the sale of merchandise. This was largely due to the club receiving money for merchandise orders that were unable to be fulfilled due to the season being abandoned. It is expected that these orders will be fulfilled next season.

Fundraising/Sponsorship

As mentioned in the President's Report, we made the decision not to ask sponsors to contribute financially as we couldn't deliver a normal season and some of our sponsors were also doing it tough themselves. Having said that, we should acknowledge the generosity of one of gold sponsors, Colliers International, who still honoured their sponsorship deal.

Utilities/Insurance

The club incurred almost \$2,500 in costs due to electricity and gas charges which related to prior seasons. This was due to a delay in invoicing by the council.

Other

The club applied for and successfully received \$1,500 from the State Government as part of their "Community Sport Covid 19 Short Term Survival Program".

John Margerison

Results for the last 5 years:

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Receipts					
Registrations	2,975	68,202	62,591	61,118	50,438
Food and Drinks	-	19,417	13,497	22,133	18,101
Fundraising/ Sponsorship	1,750	31,686	21,392	24,021	12,579
Other	2,254	3,137	1,154	1,218	1,327
Total Receipts	6,979	122,442	98,634	108,490	82,445
Payments					
Registrations	13,758	75,381	68,695	69,198	37,196
Merchandise	(1,852)	27,091	14,151	15,751	8,979
Utilities/Insurance	2,565	11,970	10,830	10,044	11,316
Other	620	9,314	604	916	22,888
Total Payments	15,091	123,756	94,280	95,909	80,379
Net cash increase (decrease)	(8,111)	(1,314)	4,354	12,581	2,066





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