

Greensborough Junior Football Club

2023 Annual Report



Affiliated NORTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

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1. Notice of 2023 AGM Annual General Meeting & Agenda

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The GJFC 2023 AGM will be held in the Anthony Beale Reserve Club rooms, 277 St Helena Road, St Helena on

Tuesday 12th September 2023 @ 7.30pm

The agenda for the meeting will include;

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Welcome / Apologies |
| 2 | Confirmation of the 2022 AGM Minutes |
| 3 | Presentation and adoption of 2023 Financial Statements |
| 4 | Presentation and adoption of 2023 Annual Report |
| 5 | General Business |
| 6 | President to declare all committee positions vacant |
| 7 | Secretary to advise all committee nominations |
| 8 | 2024 Committee appointments / elections conducted |
| 9 | 2024 Non-Committee roles filled |
| 10 | Welcome 2024 GJFC Committee |
| 11 | Close meeting |

The process for nominations of candidates for election as members of the Committee –

- a. Shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the club and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
- b. Shall be delivered to the secretary of the club not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.

If you want to access a nomination form and/or an outline of the various committee and non-committee roles please contact the secretary.

Nominations are to be forwarded to the Secretary; secretary@gjfc.org.au by 7pm, **Tuesday 5th September 2023**.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

Greensborough Junior Football Club

2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

AGENDA ITEMS

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Welcome / Apologies |
| 2 | Confirmation of the 2021 AGM Minutes |
| 3 | Presentation and adoption of 2022 Financial Statements |
| 4 | Presentation and adoption of 2022 Annual Report |
| 5 | General Business |
| 6 | President to declare all committee positions vacant |
| 7 | Secretary to advise all committee nominations |
| 8 | 2023 Committee appointments / elections conducted |
| 9 | 2023 Non-Committee roles filled |
| 10 | Welcome 2023 GJFC Committee |
| 11 | Close meeting |

The process for nominations of candidates for election as members of the Committee –

- c. Shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the club and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
- d. Shall be delivered to the secretary of the club not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.

| Meeting details | |
|-----------------|--|
| Meeting no. | AGM 2022 |
| Date and time | 6 th September 2022 7.30pm |
| Venue | Anthony Beale – Greensborough JFC Club Rooms |

| Invitees: Role | Name |
|---------------------|---|
| Executive | |
| President | Andrew Cleary |
| Vice President | Marc Vangelista |
| Secretary | Carly Walsh |
| Treasurer | Dean Eldridge |
| Football Director | Kerriann Sigley |
| Committee | |
| Assistant Secretary | Jacinta Elliott |
| General Member | Sara Flottl - Communications |
| General Member | Stuart Lavender - Sponsorship |
| General Member | Lyndahl Adonis - Merchandise |
| General Member | Scott Devers – Team Manager Coordinator |

| Apologies Role: | Name |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Assistant Treasurer | Melissa Halley |
| Grants | Sue Verdini |

| Item | Subject |
|------|--|
| 1 | <p>Welcome / Apologies</p> <p>Melinda Munro, Simon Harding, Brett Cook, Kylie Campbell, Paul Hattenfels, Anthony Gasparini, Daniel Keenan, Jayde Keenan, Dean Howitt, Dean Eldridge, Nadine Gregory.</p> <p>Apologies – Melissa Halley, Sue Verdini.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Confirmation of the 2021 AGM Minutes</p> <p>Moved: Andrew Cleary Seconded: Kerriann Sigley</p> <p>All in favour.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Presentation and adoption of 2022 Financial Statements</p> <p>Moved: Andrew Cleary Seconded: Kerriann Sigley</p> |

| Item | Subject |
|------|---|
| | All in favour. |
| 4 | Presentation and adoption of 2022 Annual Report Moved: Kerriann Sigley Seconded: Andrew Cleary All in favour. |
| 5 | General Business Annual Report to be sent to Sara for website. Coaching Expression of Interest (EOI) email to be sent to community 08/09/22. Close date 04/10/22. Applicants to email EOI to Secretary and secretary to pass to Football Director. Football Director and chosen panel to arrange meetings and once positions have been filled, Football Director to contact all applicants, both successful and un-successful. |
| 6 | President to declare all committee positions vacant |

7 **Secretary to advise all committee nominations**

Carly advised of nominations:

2023 Executive Committee appointments (5)

| Name | Position | Nominated by: | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Cleary | President | Marc Vangelista | Kerriann Sigley |
| Marc Vangelista | Vice President | Melinda Vangelista | Carly Walsh |
| Carly Walsh | Secretary | Kerriann Sigley | Andrew Cleary |
| Kerriann Sigley | Treasurer | Paul Sigley | Carly Walsh |
| Brett Cook | Football Operations | Lyndahl Adonis | Carly Walsh |

2023 General Committee appointments (4)

| Name | Position | Nominated by: | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Anthony Gasparini | General Committee | Sara Flottl | Lyndahl Adonis |
| Kaine Plummer | General Committee | Kerriann Sigley | Marc Vangelista |
| Simon Harding | General Committee | Sara Flottl | Lyndahl Adonis |
| Stuart Lavender | General Committee | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |

7 **2023 Non-Committee roles filled**

| Name | Position | Nominated By: | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kate Bonazza | Assist. Secretary | Andrew Cleary | Carly Walsh |
| Melissa Halley | Assist. Treasurer | Kerriann Sigley | Marc Vangelista |
| Scott Devers | Auskick Liaison | Carly Walsh | Brett Cook |
| Melinda Munro | Awards | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |
| Jacinta Elliott | Bar Manager | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |
| Dean Eldridge | BBQ Manager | Andrew Cleary | Carly Walsh |
| Marc Vangelista & Dean Eldridge | Buildings & Maintenance | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |
| Nicola Harwood | Canteen Manager | Jacinta Elliott | Carly Walsh |
| Jodie Hogg | Cleaner | Andrew Cleary | Carly Walsh |
| Brett Cook | Coach Coordinator | Carly Walsh | Andrew Cleary |
| vacant | Communications/ Media/Newsletter | | |
| Simon Harding | Council Liaison | Sarah Flottl | Lyndahl Adonis |
| Jacinta Elliott | First Aid Officer | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |
| Sue Verdini | Grants | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |
| Craig Dimech | Grounds Manager | Kerriann Sigley | Carly Walsh |
| Lyndahl Adonis | Merchandise | Sara Flottl | Carly Walsh |
| Dean Howitt | NFNL Advocate (Tribunal) | Carly Walsh | Andrew Cleary |
| Greg Shambrook | Player Welfare | Andrew Cleary | Carly Walsh |
| Simon Harding | Policies | Sarah Flottl | Lyndahl Adonis |
| Kerriann Sigley | Property Steward | Jacinta Elliott | Carly Walsh |
| Lisa Luke | Registrations | Kerriann Sigley | Marc Vangelista |
| Marc Vangelista | Senior Club Liaison | Jacinta Elliott | Carly Walsh |
| Sara Flottl | Social Events & Fundraising | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |
| Stuart Lavender | Sponsorship | Carly Walsh | Kerriann Sigley |
| Scott Devers | Team Manager Coordinator | Carly Walsh | Brett Cook |

8 **2023 GJFC Committee Meetings and handover:**

First Executive Meeting Tuesday 4th October. First 2023 Committee Meeting Tuesday 11th October

9 **Close meeting:** Meeting closed at 8.34pm

3. 2023 Executive, Committee and Non-Committee Roles

Executive Committee

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| President | Andrew Cleary |
| Vice President | Marc Vangelista |
| Secretary | Carly Walsh |
| Treasurer | Kerriann Sigley |
| Football Director | Brett Cook |

Committee and Non-Committee Roles

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General committee 1 of 4 | Anthony Gasparini |
| General committee 2 of 4 | Simon Harding |
| General committee 3 of 4 | Kaine Plummer |
| General committee 4 of 4 | Stuart Lavender |
| Assistant Secretary | Kate Bonazza |
| Assistant Treasurer | Melissa Halley |
| Registration Secretary | Kerriann Sigley/Lisa Luke |
| Coaches Coordinator | Brett Cook |
| Team Managers Coordinator | Scott Devers |
| Auskick Coordinator/Liaison | Emma Anderson/Scott Devers |
| Communication/Media Manager | Ari Bitzilis |
| Merchandise Manager | Nadine McClintock |
| Social/Fundraiser Manager | Sara Flottl |
| Sponsorship Management | Stuart Lavender |
| Canteen Manager | Nicola Harwood (paid position) |
| Bar Manager | Tony Black |
| Council Liaison | Simon Harding |
| Building and Maintenance | Marc Vangelista |
| Ground Manager | Craig Dimech |
| Player Welfare Manager | Greg Shambrook |
| First Aid Coordinator | Marie Bonanno |
| Grants | Sue Verdini |
| Awards/Trophies | Melinda Munro |
| Property Steward | Kerriann Sigley |
| Cleaning | Jodie Hogg (Paid position) |
| Senior Club Liaison | Marc Vangelista |
| RSL Liaison | John Waugh |
| BBQ Manager | Vacant |
| NFNL Advocate (Tribunal) | Dean Howitt |
| | |

4. GJFC Origins & History

GREENSBOROUGH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATED. Founded 1964

Affiliated Northern Football Netball League.

The origins of the Greensborough Junior Football Club are closely linked to the origins of junior football in the Diamond Valley area.

In 1966, Greensborough Football Club President and All-Australian footballer Joe Murphy, initiated the introduction of junior football to the Diamond Valley area. Two Greensborough under 15 teams, the Colts and the Rovers, played in the now disbanded Preston/Reservoir Junior Sunday Football League. Four Greensborough under 13 sides, known as the Blues, the Blacks, the Golds and the Maroons, together with two Watsonia teams and one Montmorency team formed the Greensborough Midget League.

In 1968, the administration of Junior Football was handed over to the DVFL, and the competition commenced as we know it today, with senior teams fielding Under 13 and Under 15 sides.

In 2001, Greensborough Junior Football Club with 11 teams in Under 10's through to Under 17's relocated to Anthony Beale Reserve with 2 grounds and a state-of-the-art pavilion – the Premier Facility for the Diamond Valley League.

Girl's football was introduced to Greensborough Junior Football Club in 2015. In the first year there were 3 teams; Under 12, Under 15 and Under 18. A successful start with the Under 15's winning the Premiership. To date, we haven't been able to fill squads to field teams amongst the junior years, although have come extremely close. We are confident this will happen in the 2024 season.

5. Premierships

Greensborough Junior Football Club has a proud history in the Diamond Valley Football League & Northern Football Netball League with the following list of Premierships:

| Team | Year of Premiership |
|-----------------------|--|
| Under 11 | 1974, 1975, 1994, 1996, 2005, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2022 |
| Under 12 | 1976, 2006, 2009, 2016, 2017, 2021* |
| Under 13 | 1970, 1975, 1996, 2005, 2015, 2022 |
| Under 14 | 1977, 1978, 1985, 2001, 2018 |
| Under 14 Girls | 2018 |
| Under 15 | 1968, 1969, 1970, 1973, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2002, 2017 |
| Under 15 Girls | 2015 |
| Under 16 | 1980, 1983 |
| Under 17 | 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1988, 1989, 2008, 2009, 2022 |

* 2021 Under 12 Premiers – No finals played due to Covid-19 Finished on top of the ladder

6. Achievements & Objectives

A number of achievements and objectives for the 2023 season;

Achievements:

Building Refurbishment

The Club secured \$1.5 million from Banyule Council for a Club refurbishment. This was scheduled to be completed for the 2024 season, which would have nicely coincided with the club's 60th Anniversary. The refurbishment sub-committee were disappointed to learn that costs had come in at approximately \$1 million over our budget, hence the refurbishment has been pushed back 12 months and we now hope that we will have new rooms for the 2025 season. The upside of this is that Banyule Council has pledged to find the additional \$1 million required either via State or Federal Government funding.

Grants received

The Club was successful with the Jaga-Jaga 2022-23 Volunteer Grant, which has seen the Club purchase office equipment, including an A3 Printer and Laminator.

Kitchen makeover

A new sink, dishwasher and benchtop was installed by one of our members at cost price. This was badly needed and made the canteen staff's time so much easier on game day.

Toyota Good for Footy raffle

Once again the Club participated in the Good for Footy raffle, which helps fund projects needed to keep the club ticking along. At the time of writing the raffle was not closed and we had raised \$1570, which will go into the coffers for the 2024 season.

Club structure

An external company was engaged to help oversee the restructure of club roles in an endeavour to streamline the running of the club and make things more efficient. People can now volunteer for a single role - for example Club History - without being obliged to take a committee role and attend meetings. This should result in more people volunteering smaller portions of time to the Club whilst still making a valued contribution.

Headspace

Our members and supporters raised \$2000 for local not-for-profit organisation headspace, which provides services and mental support for local youths. I hope that this is an ongoing partnership.

Diamond Valley Lions

The Club donated \$500 to the Diamond Valley Lions Club in recognition of the work provided by their volunteers who cooked a barbecue for our members over the course of Registration Day and Presentation Day.

Mission Statement and Values:

During the course of this year, we took the opportunity to refresh our Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Club Values. These are all important tools to guide the decisions we make and ensure everyone is pulling in the same direction.

We achieved this with the help of Clubmap, a company that specialises in helping sports clubs make the most of the volunteer resources they have available.

A **mission statement** is a concise description of the organisation's key fundamental purpose. Going forward, our mission statement will be:

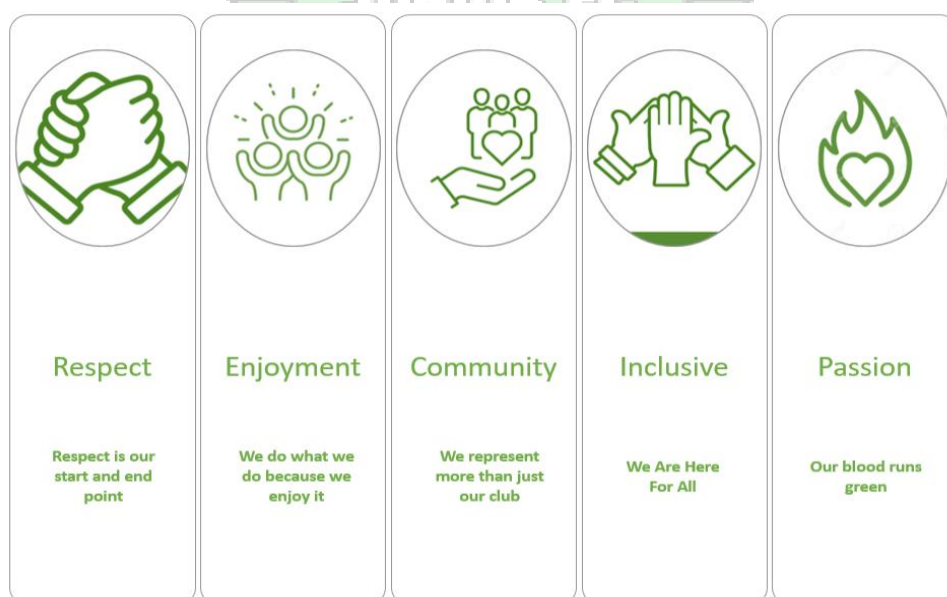
To build the Diamond Valley's most inclusive and supportive community sporting club.

A **vision statement** is a big-picture statement that looks to the future of the club. It should focus on the long term. Going forward, our vision statement will be:

To establish ourselves as a destination sporting club by creating an unrivalled culture built on development, support and commitment to players, members and community alike.

At the same time, we took the opportunity to refresh our club values. These are the common language we share that helps us form our decisions and influence our behaviour.

Our refreshed **club values** are:



Objectives:

Indigenous jumper

Plans are underway for the design and manufacturing of our inaugural Indigenous jumper. A sub-committee will be formed during the off-season consisting of committee members and team leaders who consult with an Indigenous artist and will oversee the design of our jumper. Our apparel sponsor is confident that we will have the jumper ready for the 2024 season.

Fixed Seating

As we are a Junior Football Club we have a number of grandparents in attendance who enjoy watching their grandchildren play. It would be ideal if fixed seating could be installed so committee members don't have to put seating out at every game and spectators don't have to bring their own chairs. There is no reason why the area between the gravel path and retaining wall on the bottom oval could not become a bank of seating.

Goal Net

The cost of a net behind the goals at the north end of the bottom oval is extensive, going by a Council quote, however a net should be installed to stop footballs from going down the hill and a deliberate tactic of time wasting being employed to stop opposing teams winning a game.

Scoreboard

A new scoreboard has been on the club's radar for a number of years. In the last 12 months, we have taken significant steps forward and, at this point, we expect to have a new scoreboard in place by the start of the 2024 season.

The plan is to implement a 4m by 2m LED screen to replace the existing scoreboard on the bottom oval. We have a quote and are just finalising the installation cost and waiting for council approval. Once that happens, we will place the order.

Rather than being a sunk cost that we depreciate over time, the new scoreboard will be a working asset. We will be able to use it for promotion and community purposes (e.g., movie nights) and also to generate additional revenue for the club.

Thanks to a sizeable donation from the Greensborough RSL, we believe we will be able to achieve a return on investment within four years.

7. Club Awards 2023

| Award Name | Awarded to: |
|------------|-------------|
|------------|-------------|

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Life Member | Andrew Cleary & Kerriann Sigley |
| Ray Dickson Award – To coach | Damien Toomey |
| Joe Murphy Trophy – To player | Ethan Edwards U17.5 |
| Stephen Hatfield – To U17.5 B&F player | Ethan Ferris U17.5 |
| Club Person of the Year | Helen Giannakos |
| Little Lion Award – No 1 supporter | Hamish Beadles |

Life Members

Each Year the club awards Life Membership to selected members.
Members must be nominated for the Award and it is voted on by the Executive Committee.

The criteria include: Years of service, Distinction of service, well respected by peers and committee. The recipient shows integrity and good character.

This is awarded annually to the Junior Football Club member that the executive considers the most outstanding for that year. A shield is displayed in the Clubrooms and the recipient is presented with a pin on Presentation day.

Previous winners

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| 1988 | Rex Smith Wayne Zealley | 2009 | George Vale Steve Allen |
| 1989 | Lew Hall * Norm Gibson | 2010 | Lisa Haber |
| 1993 | Glen Harris | 2011 | Jayne Barnes Geoff Schmidt |
| 1994 | Alan Cameron Stephen Hatfield * Peter McCullouch | 2012 | Sam Fiorini Philip Grice |
| 1998 | Gererd Wilson Jim Lawrence Rob Lincoln | 2013 | Rod Cann Rod Haber Chris Hogg Philip Grice |
| 1999 | Neil McKinnon Len Ritchie Keith Evans * | 2014 | Les Hill Rod Hughan |
| 2000 | Shane Gration Dawn Ritchie Janine Lunny | 2015 | Kathy Buckley Chris Buckley |
| 2001 | John Rayner | 2017 | Glenn Seivers Melanie Phelan |
| 2002 | Lindsay Knox Jeff Buchanan | 2018 | Rob Lamb Brett Luke Bruce Ramsay Matt Phelan |
| | Previous winners cont'd | | |
| 2003 | Greg Sullivan | 2019 | Bridget Raemakers Richard Pocock Mark Ryan Jason Thompson |
| 2004 | Graham Millson | 2020 | N/A – Due to Covid-19 |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 2005 | Con Xanthos Graham Walker | 2021 | Scott Bennett Sara Flottl Marc Vangelista |
| 2006 | Ian Parke | 2022 | Kon Dalianis |
| 2007 | Peter Miller | 2023 | Andrew Cleary Kerriann Sigley |
| 2008 | Wayne Darrington John Cisek | | |

* Deceased - RIP

Ray Dickson Award

The Ray Dickson award was started in season 2018 in respect to one of the founders of our great club. Ray was a very passionate coach who dedicated his time to helping develop all of his players to be better players and better people. Ray coached to give every player the opportunity to play at the highest level that they could and gave positive feedback to all. He taught his players about respecting the community and the people that helped our club grow.

This is awarded annually to the Junior Football Coach that the executive considers the most outstanding for that year. A shield is displayed in the Clubrooms and the awarded Coach is presented with a trophy on Presentation day.

Previous Winners

| Year | Awarded to: |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 2018 | Rob Lamb |
| 2019 | Marc Vangelista |
| 2020 | N/A due to Covid-19 |
| 2021 | Les Hill |
| 2022 | Paul Hattenfels |
| 2023 | Damien Toomey |

Joe Murphy Trophy

Joe Murphy came to Greensborough from Fitzroy in 1954 as Captain-Coach and won the first of 2 DVFL Best & Fairest awards in that year.

From 1955-1958, he was Captain-Coach of the La Trobe Football Club in the NWFU in Tasmania. He represented Tasmania in the State Carnivals and won the All Australian selection. Returning to Greensborough in 1959 to set up his legal business, he was Captain-Coach of the 1960 and 1961 premiership sides, and won his second DVFL Best and Fairest award in 1961. Many observers regard Joe Murphy as the best player ever to play DVFL football. Following various positions on the Greensborough committee, Joe was Club President from 1966-1968 and was the instigator of Junior Football in the area.

Everybody connected with the DVFL was saddened by the passing of Joe at a comparatively young age on June 7, 1985 from a terminal illness. In 1986, as a tribute to the vision of Joe Murphy, the Greensborough Junior Football Club created a perpetual award known as the Joe Murphy Trophy. It is awarded annually to the junior footballer that the committee considers the most outstanding for that year. A shield is displayed in the clubrooms, and the awarded player is presented with a trophy on Presentation day.

The trophy reads ***“Awarded to the player who embraces & represents the Club's values and the spirit of Club founder Joe Murphy”***

Previous Winners

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1986 | Jason Keogh | 2000 | Jared Ritchie Andrew Evens | 2014 | Tom Phelan |
| 1987 | Damien Johnson | 2001 | Simon Buchanan Brett Millsom | 2015 | Luke Hogg |
| 1988 | Adam McWatters | 2002 | Luke Gration | 2016 | Lachlan Hill |
| 1989 | Steven Ellis | 2003 | Nick Carnell | 2017 | Lachlan Agnew |
| 1990 | Scott Butterworth | 2004 | Brett Millsom | 2018 | Ethan Lamb |
| 1991 | Scott Drummond | 2005 | Chris Walker | 2019 | Toby Brown |
| 1992 | Ryan Cameron | 2006 | Ryan Scarce | 2020 | N/A Due to Covid-19 |
| 1993 | Glen Hatfield | 2007 | Brendan Dowse | 2021 | Emmison Zealley |
| 1994 | Kade Smith | 2008 | Travis Miller | 2022 | Josh Vangelista Tom Walker |
| 1995 | Kris Watson | 2010 | Jordan Cisek | 2023 | Ethan Edwards |
| 1996 | Lucas Fleming Ryan Cameron | 2011 | Jarrold Barnes Stephen Schmidt | | |
| 1998 | Trent Lawrence | 2012 | Daniel Schmidt | | |
| 1999 | Conlan Gunn | 2013 | Joel Quinn | | |

Stephen Hatfield Award (U17.5 B & F)

Stephen Hatfield was a long-standing club member and a dedicated club volunteer during the 1990's. In speaking with previous members of the club, they mentioned the variety of contributions and hands on roles he performed around the club as a parent volunteer, and described him in the highest terms of his grassroots involvement.

Stephen was the Team Trainer for the 1996 GJFC U15 Premiership team, for which the flag and team photo hang proudly in the clubrooms.

Tragically just a year later in August 1997, Stephen was killed in a light plane crash in the Northern Territory. The Cessna with 5 people onboard was on a chartered sightseeing flight from Darwin to Katherine. However due to pilot miscalculation, the plane ran out of fuel and crashed just 6km short of Katherine airport, killing all onboard. Stephen left behind a wife and 4 children. In his memory, the GJFC created the Stephen Hatfield Memorial Trophy, and since 1997 this has been awarded to the U17 Boys B&F player. The 2023 B&F winner will also be inscribed on this trophy and help to maintain Stephen's legacy.

Previous Winners

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1997 | Troy Pedder/Daniel Baldwin | 2006 | Ashley Neville | 2017 | Jordan Smith |
| 1998 | Leigh Orton | 2007 | Brent Brigham | 2018 | Campbell Walsh |
| 1999 | Brendan Morrison | 2008 | Tyler Scarce | 2020 | N/A Due to Covid-19 |
| 2000 | Shane Gilbert | 2009 | Scott Conte | 2022 | David Tomaino |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2001 | Joel Buckley | 2010 | James Love | 2023 | Ethan Ferris |
| 2002 | Luke Gration | 2011 | Stephen Schmidt/Konrad Brauhn | | |
| 2003 | Travis Knight | 2013 | Jacob Pickett | | |
| 2004 | Brett Millsom | 2015 | Alex Hughan | | |
| 2005 | Jason Rogers | 2016 | Lachlan Hill | | |

Club Person of the Year (2023 initiative)

The "Club Person of the Year" award is given to an individual who exemplifies certain qualities and contributions within the context of the Greensborough Junior Football Club. The recipient of this award is someone who embodies the following qualities: **Camaraderie, Leadership, Positivity and Dedication.**

They work well with others, builds positive relationships, and contributes to a supportive and inclusive atmosphere within the club.

They show leadership qualities by taking initiative, guiding and inspiring their peers. They lead by example, motivate others to achieve their best, and contribute to the overall success of the club.

The award recipient brings a positive attitude to the club environment. They uplift others, maintain an optimistic outlook, and contribute to a constructive atmosphere that fosters growth and development for everyone involved.

They consistently invest time, effort, and resources into the club's activities, whether it's through active participation, volunteering, or other contributions.

The "Club Person of the Year" award recognizes an individual who not only excels in these areas individually but also embodies the synergy of these qualities to create a strong and vibrant community within the Greensborough Junior Football Club. This person plays a significant role in maintaining the club's culture, values, and sense of unity.

This is awarded annually to the Junior Football Coach that the executive considers the most outstanding for that year. A shield is displayed in the Clubrooms and the awarded recipient is presented with a trophy on Presentation day.

Previous Winners

| Year | Awarded to: |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 2023 | Helen Giannakos |
| | |

Little Lion Award

The Little Lion Award is for our younger club members. It is rewarded to those who show incredible efforts made for the club and/or their team. Overcome any adversities they may face on or off the field. They support their team and show great team spirit. They genuinely, love the GJFC, express GJFC values and is a general Club all-rounder

This is awarded annually to the Junior Football Club member between U9-U12 that the executive considers the most outstanding for that year. A shield is displayed in the Clubrooms and the awarded recipient is presented with a trophy on Presentation day.

Previous Winners

| Year | Awarded to: |
|------|----------------|
| 2022 | Ryder Edmonds |
| 2023 | Hamish Beadles |

8. Sponsors for 2023

| GJFC sponsorship for 2023 | Contact | Package | Total \$ |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Kate Thwaites | Anna Gay | Custom | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Finwell Group | Adam Carmody | Gold + Merch | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Bonmall Earthmoving | Kate Bonazza | Gold + Merch | \$ 3,000.00 |
| All Weather Blinds | Steve Middleton | Merch + Stubbies | \$ 1,800.00 |
| Johns Lyng Group | Scott Didier/ Sheridan Pantas | Custom | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Fat Jaks Buggers | Jack Altinarda | Gold + Merch + stubbie | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Jellis Craig Real Estate | Brett Sparks | Gold | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Darren Jones Real Estate | Darren Jones / Lynn | Gold | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Shambrook Family Chiropractic | Joel Shambrook | Gold | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Harcourts | Andrew DeSanto | Gold | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Diamond Valley Auto care | Jeff Buchannan / Ash Garraway | Custom + vouchers | \$ 500.00 |
| Ball Magnets | Scott Didier | Custom | \$ 2,500.00 |
| My Real estate Finance | Matt Tully | Gold | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Bendigo bank | Ali Hussein | Custom | \$ 2,000.00 |
| GJFC sponsorship for 2023 | Contact | Package | Total |
| <u>Family Business Sponsorship</u> | | | |
| Beam Logistics | Scott Devers | Family Business | \$ 210.00 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Fluent Finance | Adam & Trish Turco | Family Business | \$ 210.00 |
| Diamond Driver | Katrina Mauldon | Family Business | \$ 210.00 |
| SND Building Group Pty Ltd | Darren Rigoni | Family Business | \$ 210.00 |
| BGL Group | Daniel Tramontana | Family Business | \$ 210.00 |
| Mike Does it | Michael Goulimis | Family Business | \$ 210.00 |
| <u>Game Day BOG sponsor</u> | | | |
| Davinci Pizza's | Matt Elia | 252 med pizza @ \$15 Voucher | |
| <u>Water Bottle sponsor</u> | | | |
| Clark Finance Group | Tabetha Gibson | Water Bottle Sponsor | \$ 500.00 |
| <u>Polo shirt sponsor.</u> | | | |
| SF Building Service | Matt Fleming | Polo sponsor | \$ 3,000.00 |
| <u>Coffee van sponsor</u> | | | |
| Espresso Mobile Café | Garry Moore | Coffee van | \$ 1,500.00 |
| <u>Other Sponsors</u> | | | |
| Mouth Guard Man | | | \$ 500.00 |
| Dynamic Footy Skills | | | \$ 622.00 |

Thank you to our valuable Sponsors in 2023

9. Presidents Report

Another season has come to a close. It was relatively smooth, with a few curve balls thrown in, which is to be expected. The administration side of the Club really kicks into gear in February, when there is plenty of planning to be done for the upcoming season. It is a rarity that between that time and the end of August that you have a day off from club matters. At times it can be daunting and unrelenting, yet it continually satisfies when you can see the end result of your work.

Overall, most tasks that we set out to achieve were completed. On the flip side I was disappointed that Banyule Council reneged on their \$1.5 million pledge to upgrade the clubrooms, a project that has now been pushed back 12 months to allow for additional funding to be secured. It would have been ideal to have had the official opening of the new rooms coinciding with our 60th Anniversary but it wasn't to be.

Greensborough RSL donated money five years ago to fund a new scoreboard. The donation covers approximately two thirds of the cost and the Club will cover the remainder. This has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and now it needs to wait until we have new clubrooms or we face paying for the trenches and electrical work twice.

Much has been achieved in my three years at the helm;

- The Club has been re-structured to a better, more efficient business model. The committee that I inherited had many people on it with their own agendas. It was toxic and they were weeded out within the first 18 months. Now the committee is unified and the place runs smoothly.
- Teams have grown to 14 with 310 players along with 176 registered to the Glen Katherine Auskick program, which is run at Anthony Beale.
- We are financial, with enough money in the bank to cover some new projects, whilst continuing to run the Club at a profit.
- Our sponsorship base is strong and the sponsors remain loyal to the Club. The medium-term future of the Club is secure.

The greatest disappointment in this time is the failure to establish a girls' team. We were only a couple of players shy from getting two teams up and running this season until one of our own members decided to send a friendship group to another Club and the entire summer of planning fell over. Banyule Council has data that shows a dip in girls' participation in team sport of all codes since the Covid-19 pandemic so if you don't already have an established girls' team you have a fight on your hands to form a side.

Recommendations -

- The Club moves from the outdated Outlook email to something more secure such as Gmail. We have been hacked twice in two years with the scammers becoming better at what they are doing.
- Committee members embrace the implementation of TidyHQ, which will streamline the running of the Club.
- Committee members need to be rostered to assist with match day set up, pack up and the match day manager role. It can't be expected to be left to the executive each week.
- More parents from the younger age groups are targeted to join the committee.
- Somebody volunteers to make the establishment of a girls team their project. It needs plenty of time devoted to it.
- More emphasis is placed on the mental health and wellbeing of our members. Our Club Chaplain Greg Shambrook is always more than happy to speak to anyone who may be struggling. Our players could utilise the services of our not for profit partner headspace Greensborough.

- We maintain a strong relationship with the GFC. The relationship must work both ways so we need to ensure that they are meeting our requests such as mandatory attendance at On the Couch, joint training sessions and more.

Appreciation -

Until anyone walks in our shoes I believe nobody has any comprehension of the amount of work that the Executive does. All executive members have a tireless work ethic and are driven by one common motivator - to ensure our kids have a good environment to enjoy and play their football.

Vice President Marc Vangelista has been my wingman for the past three years and has been a rock of support for me. Marc this year has marked the grounds, completed match day set up and pack up, is on the refurbishment sub-committee plus attended Clubroom refurbishment meetings with Council and architects as well as his on-field roles as Under 14 coach and Under 19 assistant coach.

Secretary Carly Walsh came on board in April last year and with no handover done had to find her feet quickly. Carly is efficient and gets the job done with no fuss, communicating with various stakeholders at all times of the day and night, whenever there is spare time really. I needed somebody dependable who could step into the role and I haven't had to stress because I knew that Carly would get the job done. Carly is also Under 12 Team Manager, works during the day and runs the family home so I'm amazed that she found the time to help out. I will be forever grateful for what Carly has contributed to the Club.

Treasurer Kerriann Sigley is arguably the busiest person I know. Treasury takes considerable time to stay on top of and before the season begins Kerriann is also our Registrations Officer. Not only that, Kerriann has paid employment plus assists in helping run a family business as well as keeping the Sigley family in line. Kerriann was awarded Life Membership of the GJFC this season and nobody was more deserving of this award.

Football Director Brett Cook joined the executive this year and eased into this role with minimum fuss. Pre-season Brett took coaching applications and appointed all of the coaches then had to arrange training times for all 14 teams. On top of this we had requests from the Women's, Men's and Under 19s to use Anthony Beale for some pre-season dates. This is logistically a nightmare and somehow Brett was able to keep all parties pleased. We had a number of first-time coaches so education and communication was the key, both of which are Brett's strong suits.

Assistant Secretary Kate Bonazza took minutes at committee meetings and distributed them promptly to ensure that action items were being followed up.

Assistant Treasurer Melissa Halley processed payments with Kerriann and ensured that all bills were paid on time. Pauline Lavendar lent her expertise to Kerriann and Melissa behind the scenes.

Stuart Lavendar was in charge of sponsorship again and encouraged a record number of sponsors to come on board and support the GJFC. Stuart has played a big part in ensuring the Club has recorded a healthy profit in each of the past three seasons. Stuart was always available to lend a hand with anything that was required to be done around the Club.

Melinda Munro organised prizes and made them into packs to be raffled at On the Couch as well as arranging the club trophies and updating of honour boards.

Simon Harding was our Council Liaison, which took up a lot of time, as well as refurbishment sub-committee and member of the 60th Anniversary sub-committee, which have met a number of times to get things underway for next season.

First time committee member Nadine McClintock took on the merchandise role, ensuring that orders were processed and merchandise was distributed and sold in an efficient timeframe.

Ari Bitzilis joined the committee and was our Communications Manager. Ari kept and families and supporters up to date with news and information from the club via email and our various social media platforms.

Scott Devers was our Team Manager Co-Ordinator and ensured that information from committee meetings was distributed to the Team Managers clearly. Scott was also our Glen Katherine Auskick Liaison and ensured that the lines of communication between both parties were clear.

Nicola Harwood ran a tight ship as Canteen Manager, keeping track of stock levels, match day staff rostering - even enlisting her Mum to help on multiple days! Thanks for all of your hard work over the past two seasons.

Marie Bonanno looked after our first aid kits, ensuring all of the stock wasn't out of date and ordering new stock when required.

Craig Dimech once again marked the grounds. This is a big task, especially when both ovals are marked for the first time.

Anthony Gasparini, Kaine Plummer and Dean Howitt were always available to lend a hand with anything that was required to be done around the Club.

Jodie Hogg and Nicole Phillips cleaned the clubrooms and they were always spotless at the beginning of a new week.

All of the players should be proud of how they carry themselves and represent the GJFC. Whilst grand final day was disappointing when we didn't record any wins, everyone took it on the chin, accepted it and moved on, which is something I cannot say about some of our rival Clubs who are hellbent on premierships, regardless of the fallout from those on the outskirts of teams who are not perceived to be "up to it". This is what separates us from the rest and that's what I like most about our Club, that we give everyone a go, no matter what their ability level is. I hope this doesn't change.

Thanks -

It goes without saying that I couldn't do this job without the love and support of my wife Lauren as well as Liam and Darcy. Thanks for your understanding over the past three years as to why I have been absent so often, especially after hours and on Sundays. You haven't seen much of me during football season because of my Club

commitments but it was something that I was passionate about and I have achieved most of what I set out to do.

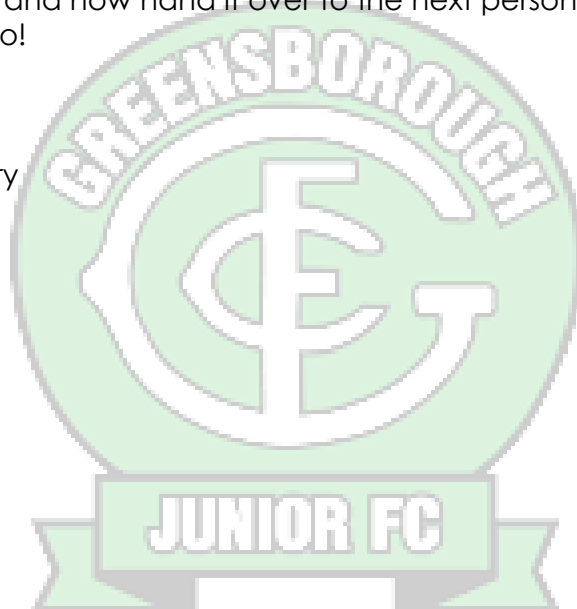
I had the honour of being awarded a Life Membership of the GJFC. Whilst this is a nice acknowledgement of my contribution to the Club, I didn't join the committee for personal accolades, I joined to give my boys a good environment to play in at a great Club.

I have been proud to tell anyone that I am President over the past three seasons and the positives of the job far outweigh the negatives. This season I didn't have any trouble from any of our 310 players and that is something that they should be proud of. I really enjoyed the interaction with players from all age groups who were always keen to tell me how their game went. Plenty were comfortable enough to tell me without being asked and I loved that.

I think the mark of any job is leaving it in a better position than you found it. I think that I have done that and now hand it over to the next person who is up for the challenge. Up the Boro!

#allmylife

Andrew "Teddy" Cleary
President



10. Treasurer Report

To the 2023 GJFC players, parents, committee, and members,

On behalf of the 2023 GJFC Treasurer, I wish to formally close the 2023 season with the following statement.

It is pleasing to report a net profit for the club of \$72,144.17 after expenses and all outgoings. This is an excellent result which has seen significant contributions from the following areas within our club.

In 2023, One area we focused on improving this year was to ensure all off field and player expenses incurred by the club on a yearly basis are covered fully by our registration fees which would leave the profit from Sponsorship, Canteen, and Bar Sales available to spend on upgrades and improvements around the club and improving the experience for our players at GJFC.

This year has seen continued dedication from our sponsorship coordinator which has seen \$46,780.

contribution to our club from our sponsors, some generous repeat sponsors and many new sponsors have come onboard in 2023. Thank you for your continued support to all our sponsors.

The canteen saw a sizable increase in profit with orders being tracked and reduced amount of stock on hand. Running the canteen with paid staff for the whole season still saw the canteen make a sizable profit of \$23,775.91. Thank you to our hardworking canteen manager and staff.

Income including major Income areas.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Total trading income | \$243,945.12 |
| 2. Canteen sales | \$54,210.24 |
| 3. Registration income | \$82,690.30 |
| 4. Total merchandise sales | \$29,260.24 |

Expenses including major expense areas.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Total cost of sales | \$94,982.16 |
| 2. Total operating expenses | \$76,818.79 |
| 3. Club photos | \$6,040.00 |
| 4. Medic and medic supplies | \$8,082.97 |
| 5. Events | \$7,285.38 |

Due to the expectation of renovations starting at the end of the season, some money previously allocated to purchases such as a trophy wall display were put on hold. Ongoing plans are working towards the new scoreboard on the bottom oval and relocation of the bottom scoreboard to the top oval. During the season the club has purchased a new drinks fridge, an update for the kitchen incorporating a new sink and glass washer. The Medic service has continued throughout the 2023 season.

10.1 Profit and Loss Season 2023

Greensborough Junior Football Club Inc

For the 13 months ended 30 September 2023

SEP 2022-SEP 2023

Trading Income

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bar sales | 11,986.00 |
| Canteen sales | 54,210.30 |
| Fundraising Sales | 6,111.23 |
| Grant income | 1,908.80 |
| Merchandise sales | 29,260.24 |
| On the Couch Sales | 9,414.50 |
| Other Revenue | 372.65 |
| Registrations 2023 no team allocated | 315.00 |
| Sponsorship income | 46,780.00 |
| U17 Player Sponsorship | 1,800.00 |
| Under 10 rego | 9,945.00 |
| Under 11 rego | 13,545.00 |
| Under 12 Rego | 7,880.00 |
| Under 13 Rego | 14,995.00 |
| Under 14 rego | 7,110.00 |
| Under 15 rego | 7,615.00 |
| Under 17 Greenlow | (548.60) |
| Under 17 rego | 5,710.00 |
| Under 9 rego | 15,535.00 |
| Total Trading Income | 243,945.12 |

Cost of Sales

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Bar Cost of Goods Sold | 5,810.09 |
| Canteen Cost of Goods Sold | 24,663.99 |
| Merchandise Cost of Goods Sold | 23,685.67 |
| NFNL Expenses | 28,069.29 |
| On the Couch - Cost of Goods | 11,023.12 |
| U17 Associated cost | 1,730.00 |
| Total Cost of Sales | 94,982.16 |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Gross Profit | 148,962.96 |
|---------------------|-------------------|

Operating Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Advertising | 602.00 |
| Awards | 5,847.10 |
| Bank Fees | 212.40 |
| Cleaning | 4,119.00 |
| Consulting & Accounting | 2,499.20 |
| Donations | 2,520.00 |
| Events & Entertainment | 7,285.38 |
| Fundraising Expenses | 1,381.84 |
| General Expenses | (475.86) |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Insurance | 1,251.45 |
| Light, Power, Heating | 3,456.28 |
| Medic and Medical Supplies | 8,082.97 |
| Merchant Fees | 2,213.39 |
| Office Expenses | 435.85 |
| Photos | 6,040.00 |
| Rent & Ground Hire | 7,640.40 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 6,629.57 |
| Sponsorship Expenses | 2,854.50 |
| Subscriptions, Licence & Registration Fees | 2,005.60 |
| Team Manager Expense | 5,798.32 |
| Telephone & Internet | 280.00 |
| Training & Guest Speakers | 368.00 |
| Wages and Salaries | 5,770.40 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 76,818.79 |

Net Profit**72,144.17****10.2 Balance Sheet 2023**

Balance Sheet

Greensborough Junior Football Club Inc As at 30 September 2023

30 SEP 2023

Assets

Bank

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Club statement account | 135,677.62 |
| Statement account | 127.74 |
| Total Bank | 135,805.36 |

Current Assets

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Accounts Receivable | 3,000.00 |
| Total Current Assets | 3,000.00 |

Fixed Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Canteen Equipment | 2,400.40 |
| Football Equipment | 5,929.36 |
| Gym Equipment | 10,000.00 |
| Medical Equipment | 1,609.70 |
| Plant And Equipment | 15,897.18 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 35,836.64 |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Total Assets | 174,642.00 |
|---------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Net Assets | 174,642.00 |
|-------------------|-------------------|

Equity

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Current Year Earnings | 70,563.91 |
| Retained Earnings | 104,078.09 |
| Total Equity | 174,642.00 |

11. Football Director/Coach Coordinator Report

2023 started with the process of producing a Team Selection Policy, in previous years there had not been any official mechanism to move players from one team to another in a particular age group. Although the policy was completed and in place well before the season started, the policy was not activated due to communicating and working with the coaches of those age groups where we had multiple teams, we came to a mutual agreeance of final squads. I believe in 2024, the policy will be activated and obviously can be reviewed at the end of that season to and make decisions accordingly for future years.

Player numbers at the club were 300 plus with 4 x U9, 2 x U10, 2 x U11, 1 x U12, 2 x U13, 1 x U14, 1 x U15 and 1 x U17 teams. In a couple of those age groups, notably U10 and U11, the numbers were on the light side and we will need to attract more players next year to ensure we can field two teams in each (U11 and U12 for season 2024). On the flip side some other age groups had an abundance of players meaning rostering players to miss games – it would be great if we could increase numbers in those age groups to be able register another team so all players can play every week.

The NFNL changed the grading process to provisional grading in 2023 which meant all teams played grading games in one division and adjustments were made after the grading period finished. For a number of our age groups, the league grading both in the provisional stage and after grading games were completed didn't quite hit the mark. Two of our U9 teams and one of our U11 teams found themselves in divisions higher than the current development level of the players in those teams presenting challenges for the coaches due to a number of heavy defeats. The coaches of these teams did a terrific job in keeping the morale of the players up and did their best to keep the season enjoyable whilst still ensuring each group developed during the year.

Due to their success from season 2022, our 2023 U12 and U14 teams also progressed into higher divisions and although they found the going tough in the early part of the season, both of these teams developed and improved their competitiveness significantly to notch a number of wins in the back half of the season – the future looks bright for both of these age groups.

Our U11 Green, both U13 teams, U15 and U17 all progressed into finals with U11, U15 and U17 all making it into Grand Finals. However, unfortunately no premiers for GJFC in 2023. Although we'd obviously like to add to premierships to the club's tally, it's still a significant achievement for any team to make it into a GF – it shows our player development is on the right track.

Hats off to all our coaches and assistant coaches for their time and effort for season 2023, I feel they all have done a fantastic job from a football development point of view while providing an enjoyable environment for players of all age groups.

In season 2024 I would like to see more scope for coach development to help our coaches deliver the best possible environment for all of our players to thrive and grow. The club also needs to start advertising for players, especially girls as soon as possible to ensure the GJFC continues to provide opportunities for as many children as possible to play this great game.

Brett Cook - GJFC Football Director

Sporting Achievements

Ladders for finals contenders (no finals for U9-U10):
U11 White – Finished 7th 2W 7L 1D

U11 Green – Grand Final Runner Up
 U12 – Finished 7th, 4W 10L
 U13 White – Prelim Finished 3rd 10W 4L
 U13 Green – Semi Finished 3rd 8W 4L
 U14 – Finished 5th 2W 11L 1D
 U15 – Grand Final Runner Up
 U17.5 – Grand Final Runner Up

NFNL League Nominations & Awards

Taj Sigley U13 – Best & Fairest Red Division **4th Place**
 Marcus Turco U14 - Best & Fairest Red Division **Equal 5th Place**
 Kobi Gibson U14 – Boys Representative Player Award U14
 Banjo Walsh U15 – Best & Fairest Red Division **3rd Place**
 Lachlan Clark U17.5 – Best & Fairest Red Division **Equal 3rd Place**

Under 14 NFNL Representative players

Jeremy Potter (train on)
 Kobi Gibson (U15 GJFC)

Under 15 NFNL Representative players

Banjo Walsh
 Cash Hoath
 James Harding

Player Registrations Season 2023 – Total

| AGE GROUP | No. of Players & Teams |
|------------|------------------------|
| Under 9 | 60 and 4 teams |
| Under 10 | 44 and 2 teams |
| Under 11 | 26 and 2 teams |
| Under 12 | 28 and 1 team |
| Under 13 | 49 and 2 teams |
| Under 14 | 25 and 1 team |
| Under 15 | 24 And 1 team |
| Under 16 | No Under 16 for 2023 |
| Under 17.5 | 26 and 1 team |

12. Coaches and Coaches Reports 2023

| Team | Coach |
|---------------|---------------|
| Under 9 Black | Damien Toomey |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Under 9 Green | Matt Fleming |
| Under 9 White | Steve Paterson |
| Under 9 Silver | Daniel Kelly |
| Under 10 Green | Brent (Jigs) McPherson |
| Under 10 White | Jarrold Hill |
| Under 11 White | Simon Jones |
| Under 11 Green | Anthony Gasparini |
| Under 12 Green | Wombat Walsh |
| Under 13 White | Daniel Keenan |
| Under 13 Green | Paul Sigley |
| Under 14 | Marc Vangelista |
| Under 15 | Brett Cook |
| Under 17.5 | Damian Hannam |

Thank you for your efforts this year.

Under 9 Black, Red Division – Coach Damien Toomey



2023 Under 9 black was a very young team of bottom age players and a few top age players.

We started the year with the aim to develop all the kids with the basics of handballing, kicking and marking and to have some understand of game sense. The year was full of challenges with many games against top age teams. The boys and girls learned the skill of perseverance and finding success in the style of play that we used and not necessarily on the score.

Each of the kids improved their own game and it was great to see them challenging themselves and trying new skills.

My assistant coaches for the year Rosco, Richo and Mick were invaluable in the work they did with all the kids.

It's great to see young people gaining more male role models in their lives. I had a very supportive parent group and we all were disappointed when the season ended.

I hope the kids had an enjoyable year as I know I did
Damien Toomey

Under 9 Green, Blue Division – Coach Matt Fleming



Preseason was underway and the excitement was in the air with plenty of enthusiasm from all the boys as they applied themselves and threw everything into training. There was plenty of chatter about who will be in who's team and once the teams were finalised and read out, we couldn't have been happier with our champion team.

The coaching group had been confirmed, team manager confirmed even our weekly lollies provider for half time had already been arranged, and we were well placed for a successful year ahead.

After a solid preseason for our U9 green team there was plenty of optimism for the year ahead. We were fortunate that majority of our players consisted of top age U9 boys so they were well aware of what to expect, the rules around playing U9 and a year of development already under their belts.

With preseason completed it was time for jumper presentation and the boys were pumped to learn of their jumper number so they can align it to the corresponding player from the team they barrack for. It was a sign of things to come that our head coach was unavailable for jumper presentation (away on the first of many golf trips for the year), so the responsibility was handed over to the assistants to fill the big void left by our head coach.

It was obvious early in the season that this group of boys were not only talented but also hungry for success and had the ability to back up that passion to ensure plenty of victories ahead for the 2023 season.

The season started well with a close win against a strong opposition with our boys coming from behind in the last quarter to pinch an early win. That winning feeling became infectious with our boys only dropping two games for the year and getting plenty of practice singing the mighty borough team song.

Our training standards were strong for the year and each week we tried to implement a new skill/drill to keep the boys on their toes and not only develop their skills but also their game awareness and where to position themselves within certain scenarios within a game.

Towards the end of the year with our team growing in confidence every week, instead of our head coach being on the field with the boys Gabby decided to stand on the sidelines and let the boys play with confidence and make their own decisions on the field.

Overall it was a great year for the U9 green team with plenty of support from the parents to help out on game day and also provide plenty of positive feedback to the coaching group on how they were coaching the kids. We were very lucky to have the kids we had for the year and if every year could be like 2023 then it would be an enjoyable and successful year.

Already looking forward to what 2024 brings for the mighty Borough junior football club.

Go the Slime.

2023 Highlights

1. Every player kicking at least 1 goal for the year
2. Belting out the team song after many victories
3. Seeing the boys play as a team and linking well from defence to offence
4. Watching players grow in confidence each week
5. Playing against the other Borough U9 team and all players linking arms and singing the team song in the rain after the match
6. Watching the boys take hangers on the ruck bag. (they would do this for the whole session if we allowed it)

Regards, Matt Fleming

Under 9 Silver, Silver Division – Coach Daniel Kelly



What a great year it has been for the U9 Silver team.

At the beginning of the season, the coaches agreed that we had two aims for the year - 1) create a fun learning environment for the kids, and 2) ensure they left us as better footballers. We're genuinely proud to say that we believe we achieved those two things.

In late summer we inherited a group of mostly Auskick kids and us coaches were complete novices, too. By mid-winter we could see the Silvers embracing their strengths and continuing to work on their development areas. That was probably the time the coaches found our groove too!

I could write 200 words on every single player in 2023 because there is a story of persistence, resilience, frustration and vindication for every Silver.

There are some inspiring story arcs for Silvers who, in March, could not run and kick who were doing this regularly during match days in July. Or Silvers who didn't know how to handball but unlocked a whole new level of their game by learning this across the season. And there are a number of Silvers who didn't know how to help their team until we told them what we thought they were good at. The moment they realised they were an important cog in the Silver machine, I am certain I saw their enjoyment of the game increase.

Of course, we also inherited some Silvers with some very solid skills too - our task was to give them the confidence to be their best, ensure they bring others into the game, and to trust their football instincts.

It's not about winning, but of course it helps validate the kid's confidence in themselves. We only won three games for the season but we lost four by under a goal and generally had more scoring shots. If the core of this team remains together in U9's next season, they'll be a formidable top age outfit.

Thank you to Trav, Shane, Joel and Dan with the coaching duties across the season. We all tried and learned relentlessly across the season and you were a consistent source of support and ideas. I'll miss our coaches chat group across the summer, although I might just throw up a few formation suggestions to help ease the withdrawal symptoms.

A big thank you to Matt as well. I think the only role that is as stressful as the senior coach's job on game day is the Team Manager. This was a new world for Matt, like the rest of us, and he kept us organised and straight, often without the limelight or recognition. Thank you also to Dee for being our first aid rep and the brains behind the most popular award for the season ('dirtiest player').

Thank you to all the parents who stood in the cold and rain on a Thursday evening and Sunday morning to support our Silvers and volunteered to escort the umpire, be goal umpire, provide the lollies and everything else. I know the kids stood a little taller wearing the GJFC jumper in front of their parents.

And a special shout out to Tooms, who does so much for the U9 group generally with training on a Thursday night, and to our other U9 senior coaches - Matt and Steve - for our quiet chats and tips on how to get the best out of the kids. We also would have been lost without Scott Devers' guidance on all things process and logistics, and Footy Director Brett Cook's general rev ups to keep us in line.

Also, to the club and the GJFC community. We came because our son wanted to play junior footy and six months later we leave having a whole new group of friends and a second home at Anthony Beale. That takes effort on behalf of the club to create that environment and they do it well, so credit to the Prez, Andrew Cleary, for enabling that.

But most of all, thanks to our Silvers. You've taught us so much about ourselves, the joy of seeing someone learn and grow, what we take for granted as adults, and how to communicate clearly with you and hold your attention (this one is still very much a work in progress).

It's been an honour and a privilege, and I can't wait to see you play in 2024.

Daniel



Under 9 White, Blue Division – Coach Steven Paterson



I firstly just want to say a big thank you to all the parents. The hard work of all dedicated mums and dads, giving up their Sunday morning sleep ins, standing in the freezing cold, cheering us on from the sidelines. A big thanks to the assistant coaches Ben, Darren, Shaun and Clint for helping out week in week out at training and game days. The players learnt a lot from you and thank you for your support.

Thank you to Scotty for being the best team manager in the league and making my life as a coach so much easier. Thanks to Mark for his role as umpire escort and Daniel as goal umpire. Thanks to Tanya who was definitely one of the players favourite helpers, for organising the lollies and oranges. Also, a big shout out to Damien Toomey for all of his help and support throughout the season. Our players learnt so much from you over the year.

Our team was made up mainly of top age players with a sprinkling of bottom age players and we had a great season together. We were recognised by the league for our early season form and were elevated to the top division. The remainder of the season was super challenging but the boys took each of their opponents head on and never dropped their heads.

We worked on the basic's week in week out, and throughout the season we just got better and better. The players now have a great grasp on how the game is played and a really good base level of skills to develop from.

We earnt a special win in the second last round against Diamond Creek, playing our best footy for the year, and they couldn't wipe the smiles off their faces.

During most games, the opposition coaches often made comments about how well the Greensborough boys tackled and went in for the contested ball. I am really proud of everything the boys have learned and accomplished this season. We may not have won a lot of games but we showed a lot of heart and character.

They have been an amazing group of kids to coach and to watch grow this season. I wish all of the kids all the best for next season, some in under 10's and others getting another go at under 9's. Thanks, Under 9 White. Go Boro!

Under 10 Green, Blue Division – Coach Brent McPherson



I believe this 2023 season in under 10's was a success.

To get ourselves ready for a big season of U10's footy we played two practice matches, one against Yarrambat and one against Diamond Creek. Both close Games where we came away with a win but more importantly got used to our new team mates and started bonding with them.

With the help of lots of assistant coaches and a few senior players coming to training, we started working on our individual skills, using both sides of the body and started learning how we wanted to play our style of footy.

Games through the year ran really well. My team manager Brad, did an excellent job. The challenging part each week from my point of view was starting the year with 15 players in our team and relying on top ups from u9's and the other u10 team but most weeks we were able to get a full team. We did have 1 game where we were down to 12 players. Despite this our players banded together really well, didn't complain about it at all and just concentrated on playing footy. While other teams got frustrated when things weren't going their way, our team never lost their cool and won 12 games from 14 rounds.

The skills that the under 10's are showing are fantastic. We had multiple players kick goals with their non-preferred foot which was amazing.

We have a rule that whenever anybody in our team kicks a goal everybody gets over to them to celebrate, it really gets the boys going. We also had an objective to get every kid in the team a goal which happened by Round 11 and was certainly the highlight. Before that game we had 3 players left to kick their first goal for the year and by half time we had done it. There wasn't a dry eye around the ground as all the parents were so proud of the kids. Little Jasper who has only played a handful of games somehow managed to mark the ball in

the goal square and kick his first goal with pretty much his first ever kick in a game and it was truly inspiring.

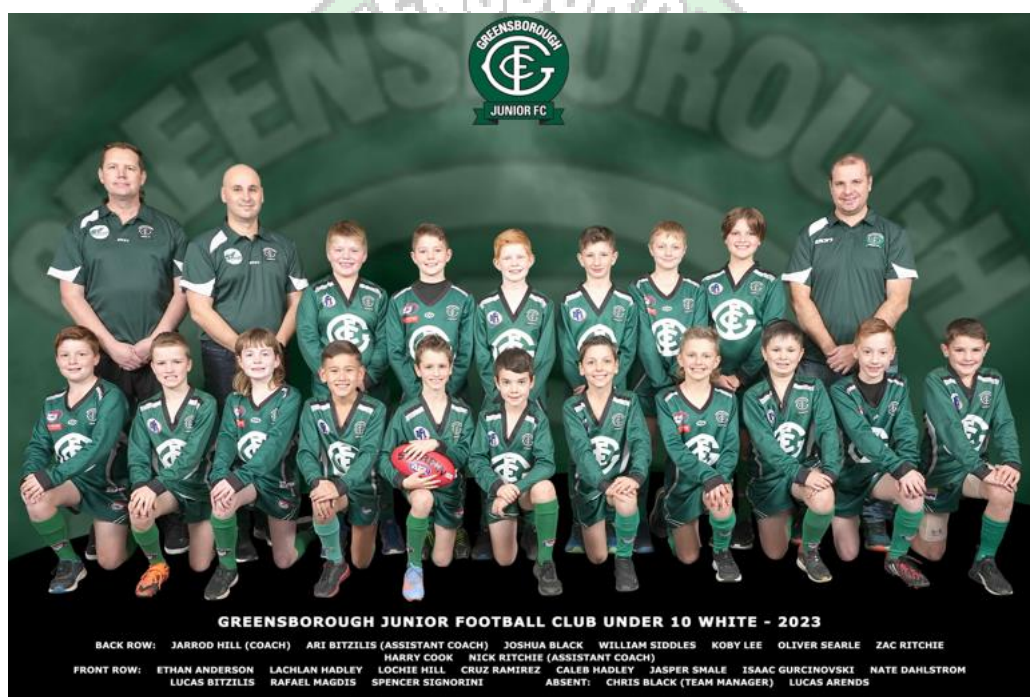
We played the year with lots of individual and team success. The improvement from the start of the year to the end was fantastic considering the kids only train once a week and only played 14 games. The highlight from a team perspective was what we do to protect the person with the ball. Shephard. Being a team that generally is first to the ball you need protecting from opposing tacklers and our team is great at doing that. It's what really set us apart from the teams we played against.

The other focus from the first training session we had was creating a closeness between all our team mates. A bond. We did lots of activities during the year to create the special connection that great teams have. We have a great team here.

Go Boro.

Jigs.

Under 10 White, Red Division Coach Jarrod Hill



Lockie, Raf, Caleb, Lockie, Josh, Harry, Isaac, Cruz, Lucas, Nate, Spencer, Koby, Zac, Jasper, Ollie, Will, Ethan, Lucas A

At the start of the year there was a focus on having fun and improving the skills of each player. The team undertook various different training drills to improve these skills each week.

On match day the emphasis was to play tough fair football whilst respecting each other and the opposition.

Although we don't keep scores in under 10s football the team had a very good record and played some outstanding football. 10 W 3L 1D

Over the course of the year it became clear that the skills of each player improved greatly.

Each quarter the team would change zones to make sure they had a fair go in each position across the ground.

Some particular highlights of the year were playing against Montmorency in a night game where our team played extremely well and won the game. Playing a third game against Eltham and winning our final game.

We had our awards night and the following players won awards; Lockie, Josh, Koby, Jasper, Spencer, Cruz and Nate. These were close awards with a number of players also very capable of winning awards on the night.

I am extremely proud of the team and expect them all to go on to become great footballers. It was an absolute honour and privilege to coach these players and I'd like to say a special thanks to all the parents and kids who helped the team throughout the year.

Jarrold Hill, Coach

Under 11 Green, Blue Division – Coach Anthony Gasparini



First of all, the thank you list....

Thank you to the club, sponsors, committee, game day staff and volunteers that make a local club tick. Thanks to all the parents / care givers for committing to the season, and helping out with the game day roles.

A big thank you to my assistant coaches who make life easier come game day:

Brad – assistant coach. He helped out with rotations, match ups, taking groups at the breaks to reiterate game plans and always remained positive.

Tarry – trainer and assistant coach. Always prioritised the health of the kids and provided me with a quick assessment of injuries which helped with rotations and game planning. He also

took groups during game day breaks to maintain game plans and again always remained positive.

Rowey – runner and assistant coach. One of the most important roles as he is basically the coach on the ground. He sees and hears things the coaches can't, and always came back to the bench with suggestions based on his observations. He too took game day groups during breaks. Again, a very positive influence on the boys.

Kaine, the Team Manager, thank you very much for keeping us up to date with game day info, training, club news, awards and everything else behind the scenes! The kids thank you for the ¾ time lollies too!

To the U11 Green team boys – thank you! I had an absolute ball coaching you this year. You are a talented group that has gelled really well as a team. I have loved watching the footy IQ of the boys increase this year. Their ability to adapt on the ground themselves has been a big reason why the team was able to reach the GF. We have a game plan and structures in place, and they all know what to do. Their set ups around the stoppages has been a highlight, as has the ability to identify when to switch the play & run from behind. I hope all the boys enjoyed their season and developed both as players and young men. They play the game hard, but fair. They are also respectful, which is the Boro values.

The season

We managed to finish with a regular season record of 11-3. The three games we lost were: round 4 to Eltham Black by 17 points, round 8 to Eltham Red by 8 points, round 12 to Yarrambat Brown by 32 points.

We also managed to beat all of those teams during the season. We avenged our round 4 loss to Eltham Black in round 11, beating them by 16 points. We avenged the loss to Eltham Red by beating them in the Prelim final by 6 points! We had beaten Yarrambat Brown by 1 point earlier in the season in round 5, an absolute thriller on Mother's Day at home. Beating every team in the competition shows how talented our group is, and that they definitely deserved to make the Grand Final in the top division – NFNL U11 Blue division. All the boys should be extremely proud of their effort and their season, because the coaching staff certainly is!

We had some team rules for the season. We concentrated on not kicking across goal in our backline, unless someone was clear by a country mile. The second rule was to quickly get back off the mark, and look for a switch. The third rule was when the ball is in dispute, get numbers to the ball. Once we win the ball, protect the ball carrier and lengthen & widen – get to space. I think they did a great job of playing to these rules.

When we talk about success as a team, it isn't all about the results and finals. I take great pride in the development I have seen in many areas, including skill, hardness at the ball, footy IQ, down to being in the right spot in a zone. The boys have come a long way.

Going back to the improvement piece... I look at our performance against Eltham Red when they beat us at home in round 8. They beat us 3.4.22 to 2.2.14. Even though it was only 8 points, they beat us all over the ground, especially in the second half. When you compare their performance in that game to what they brought in the Prelim final...that is the improvement I speak of. We beat them in the prelim 4.4.28 to 3.4.22. It is how they won that game that shows their improvement as a team. Defence held up time and time again. The mids lifted and ran the game out really well. We used the ball wisely – lowering the eyes and using the 'fat side' of the ground rather than bombing it in. They finished the game stronger, and looked like the team that would win. Confidence coupled with their skill and their want to win. That is the difference from start to finish of the season for this team. Development as players and in maturity as a team.

Finals

Semi - We finished third on the ladder and played Yarrambat Gold in the 3 v 4. The game was at Mernda which is a very big ground for U11's. We dominated the game from start to finish, beating them 8.6.54 to 0.3.3.

Prelim – Yarrambat Brown finished top and won straight through to the GF. We faced Eltham Red who finished 2nd, and had beaten us in our only clash earlier in the season. The boys were pumped and really came out to play. It was a bit of an arm wrestle, but they held their nerve and were the better team on the day coming away with the 4.4.28 to 3.4.22 win. They thoroughly deserved to make the GF.

Grand Final – Yarrambat Brown were the best side all year. Although we beat them by a point in round 5, they tore us apart in round 12 to beat us 8.9.57 to 4.1.25. We did not hit the scoreboard until the 3rd quarter, so knew it was going to be a tough encounter in the GF. Unfortunately, we didn't turn up on the day. The much bigger southern oval at Mernda also did not work in our favour. Yarrambat were everywhere and we had no answer for them, going down 3.11.29 to our 0.2.2. It was a disappointing end to the season, but as I mentioned, it was an extremely good effort to make the GF in the top division.

****A quick thank you to the 3 x U11 White players that helped us out this season too, Arun Bhandari, Flynn Henry and Lachie Wilson. The boys integrated into our team really well, picking up the game plan and style, and had an impact too. The three boys filled in starting round 12, as they needed to play 3 games to qualify for finals. The reason for this move was in the first 11 games of the season: we had a full team of our 22 players in 1 game and we either had no bench or 1 on the bench in 6 games**

Noting our team strength is 22, in the semi-final we played with 24 players. In the prelim and grand final, we had 23 players (only 1 extra). For comparison, the opposition fielded 27 players in the GF. For our boys to make it that far, with depleted numbers, is a great effort.

Some stats for the year:

Our greatest winning margin was against Whittlesea where we beat them 68-0 in round 2. Our highest score was against Monty in round 14 when we kicked 10.12.72 to their 3.8.26. 13 of our listed 22 players played in every game. 9 different players were awarded the team best on ground. 17 out of our 22 listed players kicked a goal during the season. This is a really good indication of how balanced our team is when moving players around position wise.

Awards

Leading Goal Kicker Lachlan 'The Bull' Luke, Most improved Leo Carson-Gueli, Coach's award Aaron Edwards, Perseverance award Ryder Edmonds. Best & Fairest: Equal third with 179 votes Flynn Toomey & Aiden Rowe, Second with 224 votes Archie Gasparini, First with 289 votes Luca Havern.

The voting was shared amongst the parents and coaching staff with 5 people voting each round. Each person gave votes to the top 6 players on the ground in their eyes. 20 out of the 22 listed players received votes! Again, a great sign of the team balance.

In conclusion, I think it was a great season. I am very impressed with their development, willingness to listen and learn, and the way they put it into practice during games. I enjoyed my experience as coach. Thank you everyone, and hope all the boys return for more good footy next year!

Up the Boro!!!

Under 11 White, Red Division – Coach Simon Jones



Success this year was not measured by the scoreboard. We may not have won many games however this does not mean we didn't have a successful year.

We started off with most of the same players as last year, a couple of additions to the team early on in the season and a coach change 5 weeks in.

We measured our success in a few ways. First and most was the spirit if the boys as the season went on. losing games can be difficult and turn people away but these boys stayed together as a group and stayed committed.

Our first game was a draw, we were feeling quite upbeat. The grading games after that were a little different with one loss by over 100 points. Despite being beaten by strong teams, we stayed in the same division which was probably a class above where we needed to be.

That said, we came up against some strong teams and only fell short by very small margins, usually with one quarter letting us down causing us to concede a few goals.

Skills continued to improve each week and we drove the same message as last season which was to focus on your own contribution. Don't worry about the things you can't influence and keep being the best you. This was something the boys generally adopted and it showed by minimal complaints about umpires, oppositions and team mates. It also showed by how much each of them improved as the year went on.

The highlight of the year was the game against Montmorency in Round 12, everything and everyone switched on to get the team the biggest win we have achieved (76 to 8). One to remember for sure, each aspect of the game was played perfectly and the team was humming. Although we didn't replicate that again, it was amazing to be a part of and proved to the team that they are very competitive when they put their minds to it.

I'd like to call out another positive from the team, with the change of coaches early on, travel and other commitments meant that the coaching role needed to be shared a bit this year. Parents stepped up to assist and take key roles and the boys worked well with all the changes. This also comes with a massive thanks to all those who helped out this year.

Dave Marsh, Anthony Grillo and Trav McKellar, this year was not possible without you. Parents helping out each week with all the tasks – a huge thanks to you all for just jumping in and doing it.

Definitely looking forward to seeing how this group goes in 2024.

Under 12, Blue Division – Wayne Wombat Walsh



Season 2023 – The challenge of competing.

Our preseason started late November last year with a focus of improving our skill set. At this age I believe young players have the will and desire to run and are naturally fit enough to compete, so we concentrated on improving our skills. I always stress to our group that simply showing up to training and kicking the footy a few times won't be of great benefit to improving. To improve any skill, be it sporting or other, you need to be constantly practising away from the regular training or learning sessions available. So, it was pleasing to see that we had approximately 15-20 players at these early sessions eager to improve.

School holidays passed quickly and by late January we were back at training. As 11- and 12-year-old boys I can say as a group we would generally switch on and focus on the drills provided. Being that the majority of last year's team had returned we weren't required to go through the expectations that the coaching group place on the group. With that, our "experienced" group welcomed our first crop of new players EJ, Will G and Zach to the group.

After training enthusiastically through February and March early April was to be our first game. After the success of our Under 11 year, we knew we were going to be challenged by stronger, talented and very competitive teams. At this point with 25 players on our list we knew the juggle we had ahead. Then practically on the eve of the season starting we had another 3 players enquire on the possibility of joining our squad. After a few restless nights and many conversations with our coaching team we could see only positive outcomes for accepting Parker, Jimmy and Aiden into our group.

Having 28 players meant we needed to roster off 4 players each week along with having 6 players on the bench. This presents so many challenges to not only the coaching group but also to the players. Boys don't want to be missing out on games, they also don't want to be sitting on the bench missing out on game time. I firmly believe the players learning comes from being out on the ground competing, and I think our results early in the season showed this as being a challenge. To the players credit they all accepted that this is what we will have for the season, and the importance of being part of a team far outweighs any personal wants or needs. At no point through the season was I personally questioned by a single parent regarding their son's game time, and only once was I approached by a player requesting more ground time, credit to both parents and players for accepting our predicament and understanding our 'team first' approach.

The season was challenging, as it should be moving up a division. At the halfway point of the season and not having sung our theme song after 7 games, we needed to keep the group positive. And to their credit they never wavered from the want and desire of competing. Pleasingly round 8 saw our first win of the year quickly followed up in round 10 by beating last year's premiers of this division by 2 points. This was the fourth time we had played Yarrambat over the last 2 years, and they had beaten us by 80, 49 and 23 points, so this win was extremely special. If we were to measure growth simply by margins, then this would provide a positive outcome. Another 2 wins over Whittlesea and Mernda in the last round meant we had turned a 0 from 7 start to the season to a 4 from 7 in the last half. As a measure of success, I don't believe the win/loss column has any great benefit at such a young age, we simply see the enjoyment on our players faces, together as a team. As a group we had improved all aspects of our game, but in my opinion the single biggest improvement came from the willingness to compete and treat every contest as a challenge. We have been challenged in many areas this season, and as a coach I couldn't be prouder of our team's effort and 'never give up' attitude.

This year we also got to celebrate some milestones with a few of the boys celebrating 50 games. Congratulations to Thomas, Jobe, Jedda, Harry, Paxton, Howey and Harfy. There'll be a shortage on green crepe paper next April, as we have quite a few more finishing 2023 season on 49 games!

Overall, our season has been a huge success, and this only happens with a great team on and off the field, a huge thank you to the following;

- * Our assistant coach Adrian has been a really positive mentor to our players, he is so invested on improving every single player and creates terrific relationships with them. Mate, you made my job so much easier, and I couldn't be more appreciative of what you have done with our group and what you have taught me, thank you.
- * Messages to players need to be consistent, and Aaron has gone beyond the role of runner by always being at training ensuring the players form a relationship with him. AA Ron, you have been a huge contributor to our group and our players have benefited with your voice.
- * Matt Fleming, when available to be an assistant, water carrier, runner, at training or whatever role we could find to have you involved. Many hands make light work, many eyes see different things as we as coaches can't see everything, thanks for your help Matty.

Woof, woof, thank you "Diamond Dogs"

* Jacinta our 'sometimes, whenever called on, nothings too hard, filling in the blanks helping TM', thank you.

* President Teddy, your Executive Committee and all committee volunteers, our under 12 group thank you all for enabling our children to run out on the ground each week and safely play the game we love.

* Finally, my Team Manager which you all would know is my wife, Carly. The work you do to make this team work, to make my role as coach the only role I need to concentrate on, to make each parent's game day role clear and concise, to consistently communicate to the parent group informing them of everything, to keep our coaching group grounded and focused on providing a safe and fun environment, to do whatever is needed every week. On behalf of our families, thank you.

My time coaching this team has been filled with life lasting memories which I will forever cherish. The satisfaction of being able to positively affect people's lives is truly rewarding.

Wombat

All My Life



Under 13, Green Red Division – Paul Sigley



After finishing the 2022 season with a narrow loss in the Grand Final, the NFNL graded our team into the Blue division for the 2023 season. After 4 losses in Blue, we were re-graded to the Red division, which was a better fit as our team consisted of mainly the same boys from the 2022 season.

We welcomed some new players to GJFC and into our team Caden, Byron, Riley and Abhi, we headed into the season with 25 players.

We continued with our coaching team, Coach Paul Sigley, Assistant coach John Naish and Team Manager Ben Graham.

After being re-graded to Red, we needed to win most games to qualify in the final 4.

We had an excellent season winning 8 out of the 10 remaining games in Red against Diamond Creek, Research, West Preston, Laurimar just losing narrowly once each to West Preston and Diamond Creek

We ended up finishing 3rd on the ladder behind West Preston and Diamond Creek.

The first final was played against Research in Panton Hill and it was a tight game all day with the NFNL introducing time on the game came down to the last few minutes. Every player put in a tremendous effort, but we went down by 5 points.

Awards:

Best and Fairest: 1st Taj Sigley, 2nd Noah Lanyon, 3rd Charlie Nagy. Most improved Ben Strachan, Archie Cunningham. Most consistent, Will Naish. Coaches award -Max Rawlinson, Logan Toussaint. Team Player of the Year -Ben Mason

Special mention to Noah Lanyon who was the leading goal kicker in the red division. Also, to Taj Sigley who came 4th in the NFNL league best and fairest.

Thank- you, to all the boys, I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching all of you and watching you grow as people and footballers.

I have been extremely lucky to be part of this team and appreciate all the support over the years from our tremendous families.

Thank you, to all the support I have received from the Executive committee over my years coaching for GJFC.

Under 13, White Blue Division – Daniel Keenan



Preparations for the 2023 season kicked off in November 2022 with four weeks of open training sessions for the entire under 13 age group at St Helena College. This provided an excellent opportunity for players that were available to join their team mates for a kick and a catch up before Christmas. Attendance and enthusiasm were high, and each training session included a combination of fitness and motor skill activities, ball handling drills and games, with the training block concluding with pizza and drinks to celebrate the end of the year.

The official kick off to the pre-season began in late January and during the early part of the year, we had to make the most of every opportunity to train due to uncertainty around ground availability. Not to be deterred, many of the boys took the opportunity to build on their fitness and ball skills as the season fast approached.

With a single practice match planned against Yarrambat, we approached St Marys JFC in an attempt to secure a second game and fortunately, they were able to accommodate our request and our first official practice match took place at Greensborough College on a perfect Sunday morning. The performance of the team during this practice game generated real excitement for the team for the season ahead with great ball movement and team work on display.

As the commencement of the season approached, we collectively formulated a set of values that would guide our behaviours both on and off the field.
Effort, Persistence, Respect and Camaraderie

The boys had already begun to create a team culture amongst themselves with the rallying call of "What are we?... Family", which would be used throughout the year at the conclusion of training sessions or before taking the field.

Our goal setting for the year, focused around breaking the season into blocks.

Grading Games

Regular Season Round 5-9

Regular Season Round 10-14

Finals

The aim was to first win enough grading games to secure a position in the Blue division and in each of the regular season blocks win enough games to secure a finals position. As we progressed through the season, the result of each block would help us set or re-adjust our goals in subsequent blocks based on how the season was travelling.

After a successful preseason period, we entered the grading phase of the year prepared for a positive start, subsequently winning each of our four grading games, including a win against eventual premiers, Montmorency and a breakthrough win against Yarrambat.

The good form continued in rounds 5-8 with hard fought wins against South Morang and Montmorency. The result of these games in particular highlighting the team's never give in attitude and desire to find a way to win despite strong play from opposition teams.

Our first loss for the season came in Round 9 when we faced Yarrambat at their home ground. Although the final score was not what we had hoped, the game provided a great learning opportunity for the team and helped spark a renewed focus on the style of play and pattern of ball movement required to compete with many of the physically larger opposition sides.

The final block of the regular season, (rounds 10-14) saw the team challenged with injuries, illness, unavailability of players and form fluctuations. As expected with sporting teams, particularly those during the development phases, the consistency of output from the team is bound to be variable over the course of the season. This period saw an unexpected loss to Eltham, a dominant performance against South Morang and a hard-fought loss against Montmorency over the space of three rounds.

The terrific start to the season meant that despite the unexpected loss to Eltham, we entered the 14th and final round of the home and away season knowing that with a victory, the team could still finish second on the ladder and earn a double chance during the finals. Facing Yarrambat, with the winner to finish second, the boys gave it their all for the entire four quarters. Leading by 3 points, with the ball in Yarrambat's forward half and under 30 seconds remaining, an unlucky 25m penalty allowed Yarrambat a come from behind victory. Despite the loss, we highlighted that sometimes you can do everything right and not get the result you desired. The game served to reinforce a sense of belief amongst the team that we could beat any team in the competition if our effort and game style was executed to its best.

Finishing third at the conclusion of the home and away season, we were fixtured to play Eltham in the 1st Semi Final. A victory would see us progress to the preliminary final the following week. Training over the preceding months had focussed on a number of key aspects. Win the ball and break away from congestion with handball, look to switch the ball at every opportunity and move the ball fast and to space, honouring the loose or leading player.

In the 1st Semi Final, the boys executed this style of play to near perfection with the team dominating field play and setting up many opportunities to score, winning by a margin of 52

points. During the preliminary final the following week against Yarrambat, the result unfortunately went the other way. Yarrambat took advantage of their size advantage around the ground to dominate the contested ball and field position. Their pressure didn't allow us to execute our game style and at the conclusion of the game, our season had come to an end.

While the final result was not one we'd hoped for, there were many positives to come from the season. The fitness, skill development and football IQ continued to develop throughout the year and the team showed great mateship in their care for and behaviour towards each other. The boys faced their challenges as a team and were recognised by their opposition as a team that shows great effort and never gives in, qualities that will allow them to make the most of many opportunities in their sporting and non-sporting futures.

Award Winners:

1st Best and Fairest - Ryan Harding

2nd Best and Fairest - Tyler Flottl

3rd Best and Fairest - Koda Keenan

Consistency Award - Zach Yacoub

Determination Award - Jack Toomey

Team Values Award - Ben Grant

Leading Goalkicker (equal first in NFNL U13 Blue) - Mitch Campbell



Under 14, Red Division – Marc Vangelista



The conclusion of the Under 14 season marks the end of a developmental year filled with progress, learning, and notable accomplishments. Over the course of the year, our team demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to improvement, resulting in a season that holds several positives for both players and coaching staff.

The season was marked by significant growth and development among the team members. Players showcased an increasing understanding of the game's intricacies, tactical awareness, and improved individual skills. Throughout the training sessions and matches, the team displayed an impressive work ethic, an eagerness to learn, and a sense of 'togetherness' that fostered a positive team spirit.

We are particularly proud of the teamwork and communication exhibited on and off the field.

As with any season, there were moments of challenge and missed opportunity. A few closely contested matches did not fall in our favour, which highlighted areas where further growth and refinement are needed. These experiences, however, serve as valuable learning opportunities for the team. They underscore the significance of maintaining focus under pressure and the importance of seizing key moments during matches.

This season was undeniably a developmental year, focused on nurturing skills, building confidence, and instilling a passion for the game. The coaching staff is pleased to see how players have evolved over the course of the season, both in terms of technical abilities and overall sportsmanship. The progress made is a testament to the players' dedication and perseverance.

While this season might have seen some missed opportunities, we firmly believe that these experiences will contribute to our growth in the future. The lessons learned from the closely contested games and the commitment shown by the players will undoubtedly serve as the foundation for a stronger season ahead. The coaching staff is excited about the potential the team possesses and is committed to working even harder to help each player reach their fullest potential.

In conclusion, the Under 14s year has been marked by numerous positives and growth. As we reflect on the season, we are proud of the progress made, the lessons learned, and the unity

that has been fostered within the team. With a collective focus on improvement, teamwork, and a determination to learn from both victories and setbacks, we are confident that the next season will see our team rise to new heights.

Marc Vangelista

Under 15, Red Division – Brett Cook



Our U15 group started the year with some solid goals around training, the first being to improve the overall fitness of the group, starting pre-Christmas with a strength and conditioning program. In February, this transitioned to a running and body strength program (push ups, sit ups, squat jumps, wrestling etc) which was completed every session until the season started. We also continued a modified running program throughout the year on most sessions.

The second goal was to focus on improving our basic skills and football craft. We achieved a vast improvement from the whole group, especially those newer to football and early in their skill development.

From a playing point of view, the team was presented with a number of challenges early, first of all provisional grading in Blue division. The coaching group believed that although our group was out of its depth, it was a challenge that we could attack head on, however, we struggled to get enough practice matches due to ground availability and went into the season with only one practice match under our belt and were underdone in this area.

The second challenge is we began the season with a bye, meaning the boys had a lack of continuity in playing games week in and week out. At the end of the grading period, we had a bye and three losses meaning we were put back into Red division – although this was disappointing for a number of our players who have high aspirations, it was the correct level for the group as a whole.

Moving back into Red presented the next challenge, we had zero point and another bye on the horizon meaning the task set for us was 7 wins from 9 games to have a chance at participating in finals.

We lost a game to Whittlesea in round 6 putting even more pressure on ourselves - I'm very proud to report that after this shaky start, the 7 from 9 wins became a reality, winning 4 from the last five games placing us third on the ladder. Our first two finals games were terrific, accounting for Eltham and Whittlesea fairly comfortably giving our boys the opportunity to play in a Grand Final.

Grand final day didn't pan out as we hoped, but all in all I couldn't be prouder of the group.

This U15 side showed great resilience and perseverance throughout the whole year, meeting each challenge with enthusiasm and effort. The improvement in their football is clearly measurable, and the growth in maturity, work ethic and camaraderie is palpable.

A huge thank you to Jade as team manager, my coaching crew Matthew Bell, Matt Munding and Simon Harding for their hard work throughout the year. I'd also like to thank the parents who volunteered their time for all the roles needed to allow our boys to play footy – special mention to Tabitha who was the medic for every game.

I'd also like to thank the parent group as a whole for their support and trust in myself and all the coaches to lead this group of young men.

Cheers

Brett Cook



Under 17.5, Red Division – Coach: Damian Hannam



The Under 17s year got off to an interesting start with a change of coach, and a raft of new players from the Bundoora Park Thunderbolts, Diamond Creek and Bundoora Bulls. In fact, 10 of the 27 on the list were new to the club. They all settled in together really well though, and we started the year with a huge win over Diamond Creek. It was a terrific confidence booster for the boys, many of whom hadn't experienced many wins in the past few seasons.

For the first half of the season we easily beat the "bottom" sides, but just fell short against the other teams we thought we'd be fighting it out against for the premiership. We lost by 8 points to Kilmore, 1 point to South Morang and 5 points to Research. At this stage a premiership was nowhere near our considerations. Simply making finals was the goal. A 4 goal win over Kilmore at home started the belief and was followed by a 4 goal loss to South Morang. We were 36 points down at ¼ time in that game though as the visitors jumped us with the wind, so dragging it back to 4 goals was a mini-win.

We continued to refine a game plan around running, using the open side of the ground and working hard around the contest to free up a man on the outside. That resulted in a month of sensational footy. We beat Research at their ground in our best complete footy performance of the year, putting ourselves in the box seat for not only just a finals berth, but a double chance by finishing second. We headed out to Kilmore and had a bit of a nervous start. By ¾ time we were 11 points down and that when the real character of the boys shone through. They dug deep to get over the line by 2 points, and second spot was ours.

The second-semi pitted us against South Morang. They had won every game in 2022, except the Grand Final, and were promoted. After the grading they were brought back down and proceeded to win every game for season 2023 as well. The opening 15 minutes was as good as any period of footy we'd played all year and we piled on 4 goals to 1. The rest of the game was a tough, hard encounter where we simply didn't give them an inch. There wasn't a fingernail left at Eltham Central Reserve when the siren sounded and we had prevailed over the best team in the comp and advanced to the Grand Final. It was personally as good a feeling as I've had in footy, and I was so happy to see how elated the boys, the parents and supporters were with the win. Coming from last in 2022 to a Grand Final in 2023 was quite the achievement. There was still one hurdle to overcome though, and it was always likely to be South Morang we would meet again a fortnight later.

It was a picture-perfect day and the crowd was absolutely enormous. The boys weren't overawed at all leading at ¼ time, and tied at the half. Unfortunately, the pace and quality of the South Morang side got the better of us in the third quarter, where they kicked 5 goals to none. We battled hard, but couldn't combat their speed and ball movement. We fought right to the very end but lost by that 5 goal margin. Disappointed as we all were, the reality is that we'd made such great strides we couldn't be anything but proud of the team.

Ethan Ferris took out the Best & Fairest by a single vote from Jake Bohan. Both made a significant contribution all year, with Ethan clearly the dominant ruckman in the division, and Jake making the transition from CHB to bullocking midfielder. Lachie Clark rounded out the top 3, also deservingly earning himself an invite to the NFNL Presentation Night. Ethan Edwards finished runner up in the goalkicking in the division also, after making a move from the wing down forward.

I'd like to thank Daniel, Matt and Michael for their assistance in the coaches box all year. Helen, Tash and Chloe were a great help in the Team Manager and Trainer roles, and the likes of Paul, Reno, Simon, Shane and all the parents that helped through the year. We wouldn't have got to where we did without their help. Special mention to Mark Smith and Mark Vangelista for their help in the finals, but also as a great link between the juniors and the Under 19s. Hopefully many of our boys can make the transition across in 2024.

Damian Hannam

Under 17.5 Coach

2023



13. Club Theme Song

*All my life I wanted to be a Boro Boy/Girl
A Boro boy/girl I always wanted to be.*

*We are the premiers of the
Northern Football League,
The best team,
The top team,
We really are the side.*

*We do our best to show the rest ability,
We make the ball the object every time,
And if you want to mix it,
We've got the boys/girls to fix it.
We are the mighty Boro every time.*

UP THE BORO!



Final report 12th September 2023

Accepted by the 2023 Greensborough Junior Football Club Executive