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FOOTBALL SOUTH COAST

YEAR IN REVIEW

2021





FOOTBALL JUNIORS

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(Pictured above – Junior Players across our competitions)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome and Happy New 2022 Year.

It was again a very difficult and challenging 2021 Football Season, but also more importantly another year for us all having to live with COVID and its variants circling every aspect of our lives.

But as many of our family ancestors before us did over the last 120 plus years who faced many life threatening and global conflicts as well as epidemic challenges, we all once again pulled together, protected our family and loved ones and adapted to the environment that we faced.

Football and all sport is a great health positive distraction that adds great value to our lives when times are so tough, challenging and fearful. The FSC Board see that it is critical that we provide all of our communities with structured sports programs and competitions in these difficult times and that is why the FSC Board of Directors, its Management and staff take that responsibility seriously and highly important.

So, with that main principle and focus of the FSC Board and Management and our staff through our fabulous Member Clubs, rolled-out Season 2021 and as a group, we were able to get underway with restrictions, making it another difficult season for everyone.

Again, as I said last year at this time, I know how hard it was for all our Member Clubs with lots of uncertainty with financial challenges, getting players and our referees safely on the field to play in competitions and creating safe practices for having our fabulous supporters to attend grounds.

But you - our Member Clubs - and my team at FSC did it again – and you did it so well. Your focus on your players, referees and your supporters was fantastic and responsible.

I congratulate you all for your hard-earned efforts and hard work in making Season 2021 happen, albeit it did come to an abrupt halt. This highlighted to us that playing football for our community is our primary responsibility for the good mental health of our football and the wider community and we all achieved that.

Well done and thank you everyone – I was so proud of our FSC Board, all our Member Clubs, our Referees and our FSC Management, Administration Team and our FSC Councils.

So let me now focus on 2022, as 2021 is behind us.

As announced in 2020, FSC Board of Directors and the whole team, never stop trying to get better as we want to be the best Football Association for our Member Clubs in NSW and with that as you are all aware, the FSC Board's Organisation Structural Review (initiated and announced in August 2020) is now in full roll-out mode, some elements have been completed and the other stages are progressing well.

The FSC Director changes have occurred, a new Football Council has been created (Community League Football Council) and significant changes have been identified to the roles and responsibilities between FSC Board, Management, staff and Councils. Each Football Council now has an allocated Independent Director assigned to enhance and assist with direct Board communication to Councils and Members Clubs. This will ensure we all continue to have the key focus on growing our game – particularly for the girls and women's game - and this FSC Organisational Structural Review is all based on defining our focus simply on "Strategy" – simply meaning we will concentrate on - "How we do and how we will do things in Football".

Your 2022 Football Councils, some with their new 2022 Councillors, include a couple of new Head of Councils (Men's Premiership Football Council) and we welcome the new Community League Football Council. We will continue to communicate with every Member Club as this FSC Organisational Structural Review progresses and its next stages are rolled-out. It is a new and exciting time for our Association and for our game as we "reset football for the next 10-years" after the birth and great start to FSC over the last 12-years of operations.

Of course, we all know the success of FSC, our Member Clubs and our competitions still creates many challenges for FSC Directors, and our priorities remain the same for 2022. This includes to present and obtain government (all levels) support for our Member Clubs to improve our club facilities with; lighting, gender and all-abilities appropriate change rooms (includes both Male/Female Referees), usage of grounds through proper drainage systems, car parking at grounds and allocation for usage and access to more playing fields for our registered players.

It's important that we all together as a Football Community tackle the enormous challenge to meet the "football supply demands" on our sport. We are the biggest sport by far with a growing number of females now playing our sport. We must get the real backing and the proper financial support from all 3-levels of government. We have all had enough hearing from Governments that they "need to be equally fair in funding allocation with all sports" ... well no – I do not agree with this political principle as in reality I believe funding and support should be performance based and funding should be based on the size of the sport and calculated on the number of registered players.

We have close to 14,000 players, next closest sport to us has almost 3,000 players.... so, our view is that it's only fair that football in this region gets a proportionate amount of funding based on player numbers. That is, we should get 3 times the funding that other sport receives not equal allocation... \$1M to other smaller sports for facilities means football should receive \$3M for our Member Club's facilities as we have so many more registered players. It is my greatest frustration and my constant gripe with all governments when I lobby and present FSC applications.

On another fabulous achievement, as many of you were involved recently, the FSC new 3-year Strategic Plan (2022 – 2025) has now been completed. This was achieved after a fully consulted engagement process with Football Councils. I am now pleased to announce the new 3-year Strategic Plan will shortly be distributed and posted on our Web Site as consulted with all our Member Clubs and Councils. It is a great strategic piece of work and document that brings a modern and current reality to FSC's approach and sets the priorities for football going forward over the next 3-years. Thank you to everyone that participated and was involved with its formation.

So, as I welcome you to the 2022 Season, on behalf of my Board of Directors and our hard-working CEO Ann-Marie Balliana and her highly professional and hard-working team and our Football Councils, I hope you all enjoy an uninterrupted and safe Season of Football in 2022. I hope that you and your families, experience great fun times in football but more importantly I wish you all great health, safe and long periods of happiness and many great lasting memories this coming football year.

Finally, as always, thank you all for your great support with our decisions and our leadership of football – it is a tough gig but as Directors, I assure you we take the responsibility that you as Member Clubs give us for the leadership of football seriously and we strongly protect our game and we always have the best interests of the whole game in our hearts and minds with everything we do. We also thank you for being part of our very large passionate and engaged football family. The FSC Board of Directors, our CEO, the Football Council Members, our Management Team and our staff are dedicated to working with our Member Clubs and all of our stakeholders. Remember that we are here to work with you to ensure football continues to be a key part of our lives and local community, and we want to provide a fantastic experience for all involved in our football game as a sport.

Best Regards and have a great year,

Eddy De Gabriele – Chairman Football South Coast





(Pictured above: Photo's from the 2021 FSC Season Launch)

The 2021 FSC Board

Eddy De Gabriele
Chair
Independent Director



Milco Stojanovski
Deputy Chair
Independent Director



Ann-Marie Balliana
CEO and MD
Independent Director



Martin Rowney
Independent Director



Bruce Whalan
Independent Director



Joe Seco
Elected Director – Junior's



Emi Skopal
Elected Director – Women's



Frank Gigliotti
Elected Director – Men's



Rex Leighton
Director – Referee's



Theo Papakosmas
Director – Representative and
Development



CEO's REPORT

The 2021 Season started on a positive note. After a very hard 2020 and a huge effort by our clubs and volunteers, we had significant growth in 2021 with an increase of 1200 registered players. This was the biggest year of growth that we have seen in many years.

After a strong start to the season across all of our competitions, the impacts of COVID meant that for a second year in a row our season was disrupted. After a huge effort in 2020 by everyone involved to get the season underway (and some competitions having as many rounds as they would have pre COVID), despite all of our efforts and planning, as well all know, there was no opportunity to recover the season.

In many respects 2021 was so much tougher than 2020, and for a second year in a row community sport was a casualty of COVID. Not only were competitions impacted but many of our junior development programs such as School Holiday Clinics, our Skills Training Program with Sydney FC and our Pre SAP, SAP and Youth Development programs. Summer Football was also cancelled in 2021, however we have been fortunate to plan an 8-week competition which kicked off in mid-January 2022.

The disruption to community sport for the second year emphasised why it's such an important part of our lives. Connecting the community with friends, providing an outlet for our youth and all the mental and physical benefits this entails is something that can never be underestimated. Together, the football family provides a huge service to the community and our region, and this is something we should all be proud to be part of.

Despite the impacts of COVID, there were many highlights during the year. Our Pre-Season competitions across the Men's Premiership and Women's were held, we celebrated 100 Years of Women in Football and of course enjoyed the Matildas and Olyroo's performing in the Olympics. I was also very happy with Italy becoming European Champions!

We also kicked off a partnership with Aces Tennis and Leisure Centre which will host our 5-A-Side Competitions with a brand-new FIFA quality surface and continued our partnerships with MCCI and the Disability Trust to ensure football remains accessible and an inclusive sport for many members of our community. It was also a privilege to host Aspect in their Walk-a-thon at Ian McLennan Park to assist in their fundraising.

During this year it was also important that the football family worked together with our Member Clubs to ease the financial strain of impacted sponsorships and as a result the following assistance was provided to clubs; reduced capitation and insurance costs, ground hire fee reductions and waiving of other FSC fees applicable to competitions.

Football South Coast comprises of many individuals that are part of our organisation from the Board, Football Councils, Judiciary Panels and competition sub-committees. Our fantastic FSC Staff work with each of these stakeholders to deliver competitions and programs for the many registered players in this region and ensure that the largest community sport in this region provides the many social and economic benefits this sport offers.

I would also like to thank the FSC Board and our Football Councils for their support and assistance over the year in such challenging circumstances. There is so much work that goes behind the scenes for any sporting association, and football in the region is very lucky to have so many dedicated people involved.

In terms of sponsorship and corporate support, especially in such a challenging year, we once again thank the wonderful organisations that support football in the Illawarra. These included IMB Bank, The Illawarra Mercury, Legea, Fryer Barry Orthodontists, Figtree Physio, Villa D'Oro, The Fraternity Club, Peoplecare, Fuji Xerox, Sportzology, Guzman Y Gomez, RMB Lawyers, KPMG, South Coast Floor Coverings, Dapto Leagues Club, MM Kembla, Wollongong Printing and Mojo Building Designs. In 2021 we also welcomed Cubitt's Granny Flats and Home Extensions.

Community Programs and Support

FSC takes pride in the many programs we run to support the community and our local clubs. Despite COVID interrupting much of our normal season, the following is a summary of the programs we continued to run in 2021.

Female Come and Try Day

This is becoming a key part of our calendar, and enables young female players to attend a free clinic including training sessions and games. In 2021, we had 60 participants involved in the event. Growing our female playing base is a great opportunity for football especially with the Women's World Cup just around the corner in 2023.



(Pictured above – Action from the IMB Bank Female Gala Day hosted at Ian McLennan Park, Kembla Grange)

Community FC

Football South Coast and Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) jointly run the Community FC program which has been soaring for the last few years. The program provides newly arrived communities with the opportunity to play football in the Illawarra area through weekly training sessions and connecting these players to local clubs. In 2021, MCCI were presented with the FSC Community Partner Award and we thank them for the contribution they are making to our region through connecting members of the community with football.



(Pictured above: CEO of Football South Coast, Ann-Marie Balliana presenting Allyson Pazos and Steve Hancox from MCCI with the Community Partner Award at the 2021 Season Launch)

Cancer Council – The Bally Head Shave

In September, six awesome individuals agreed to shave their heads to raise money for the Cancer Council. Jordan Murray, Bobby Mazevski, Scott Kell, Steve Carlson, Martin Rowney and Joshua Tidswell (pictured below) collectively raised close to \$11,500 for the Cancer Council and more importantly to raise awareness for Men's Cancer. Due to the challenges of COVID we held an online shave event and we can't thank the participants enough for their time and commitment to this cause. We also sincerely thank everyone that donated to the event.



Women's Competition Charity Round – headspace

The FSC Women's Competition held a Charity Round in May to raise funds for headspace. In addition to this, funds were raised at the 100 Years of Women in Football Celebration. headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds. headspace helps young people with mental health, physical health, alcohol and other drug services, and work and study support. Funds raised will go to local initiatives to provide support to young local members of our community.



Sydney FC Partnership

In recent years, Sydney FC has strengthened its partnership with FSC. We have renewed our partnership for another 3 years and this will include Girls Only and School programs.

The focus of our partnership will be to provide additional development opportunities as well as promoting participation and encouraging more juniors in the region to try and play football.

In addition over 150 FSC players had the experience of activations (Player Mascots, Ball Kids, Half Time Heros, and the Champions March Past) at the Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets game.



Wellington Phoenix

It was important to look for any silver lining in 2021 and one of these was the presence of Wellington Phoenix in the region. Due to the impacts of COVID, the Men's team based themselves in Wollongong for training with games held at WIN Stadium. Football South Coast was more than happy to provide support to the club through providing volunteers on game days and assisting the club in any way possible. It was fantastic to see FSC staff member, Bobby Mazeveski awarded the Wellington Phoenix Volunteer of the Year for all of his support to the club on game days.

It was also great to work together on community engagement activities including the attendance of players at junior clubs and having our players be part of game day activations such as mascots and half time small sided games. A key highlight was also having some of the players attend a session with our Community FC players, who were given apparel and boots.



In what has been a busy 2021, we look forward to the season ahead, and wish all of our clubs, volunteers, players, coaches and referee's a wonderful 2022 football season.

Ann-Marie Balliana
Chief Executive Officer of Football South Coast

COUNCIL MEMBERS

2021

JUNIOR COUNCIL

Head of Council: Joe Seco
Deputy Head: David Swan
Deputy Head: Leigh Blanch
Member Protection Officer: Danielle Foster
Council Member: Reg Moran
Council Member: Ian Dewey
Council Member: Allyson Giustiniani
Council Member: Giovanni Del Turco

MENS COUNCIL

Head of Council: Frank Gigliotti
Council Member: Steven Naylor
Council Member: Kevin Wiseman
Council Member: Lou Cvetkovski
Council Member: Alan Maidman
Council Member: Bob Hennessy
Council Member: Alex Viselli

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Head of Council: Emi Skopal
Deputy Head of Council: Cath Lear
Council Member: Sandy Depers
Council Member: Gemma Crighton
Council Member: Leigh Blanch
Council Member: Brad Walter

REFEREE COUNCIL

Head of Council: Rex Leighton
Council Member: Leigh Blanch
Council Member: Paul Flemming
Council Member: Robert Robertson

COMMUNITY LEAGUE SUB-COMMITTEE

Committee Member: Alex Viselli
Committee Member: Danny Gades
Committee Member: Rob Belsito
Committee Member: Adrian Arciuli

2022

JUNIOR COUNCIL

Head of Council: Joe Seco
Council Member: David Swan
Council Member: Leigh Blanch
Council Member: Danielle Foster
Council Member: Reg Moran
Council Member: Ian Dewey
Council Member: Allyson Giustiniani
Council Member: Giovanni Del Turco

MENS PREMIERSHIP COUNCIL

Head of Council: Bob Hennessy
Council Member: Steven Naylor
Council Member: Dylan Arvela
Council Member: Alan Maidman
Council Member: Lindsay Hodda
Council Member: Peter Vrtkovski

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Head of Council: Emi Skopal
Council Member: Sandy Depers
Council Member: Gemma Crighton
Council Member: Leigh Blanch
Council Member: Brad Walter
Council Member: Hayley Walkinshaw

REFEREE COUNCIL

Head of Council: Rex Leighton
Council Member: Leigh Blanch
Council Member: Paul Flemming
Council Member: Robert Robertson
Council Member: Ryan O'Sullivan

COMMUNITY LEAGUE COUNCIL

Head of Council: Alex Viselli
Council Member: Danny Gades
Council Member: Rob Belsito
Council Member: Adrian Arciuli
Council Member: Roger Carter
Council Member: Ralph Harrison

JUNIOR COMPETITION

HEAD OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL COUNCIL REPORT

2021 proved to be another tough season for our Association due to a second year of disruption caused by the pandemic. However, we weathered the storm and did as much as we could to keep our young players playing football when various restrictions permitted.

Huge thanks go to all our passionate and dedicated FSC team members who once again showed that by working together while adjusting to COVID19 guidelines - we are prepared for any challenge that can be thrown at us.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow Junior Councillors for their contribution of many hours of planning, coordination and review that delivered playing time to our Juniors. The Councillors contribution this season made it possible to achieve a level of success in this shortened season. Junior Council's efforts were made worthwhile by the fact that our 2021 junior player numbers remained high despite the pandemic.

I take this chance to extend my sincere thanks to our supportive FSC Junior Competition Coordinator, Mr David Ware, for his outstanding management of all our competitions.

We are privileged that our major sponsor IMB Bank and our other valued sponsors maintained their obligation to support Junior Football. Their support and generous resources made a positive difference in delivering football to our young players.

Our appreciation is also extended to the clubs who hosted rounds of the FNSW State Cup prior to its cancellation. It was very satisfying to have several FSC junior clubs remaining in this important competition at the Quarter Final round - a great achievement!

I would like to acknowledge the support of Junior Councillor Leigh Blanch and Paul Flemming from the Referees Coordination Council, for their continual commitment to the growth and development of our young referees this challenging season.

On behalf of the Junior Council, I wish you all and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to a full season and building on our relationship.

With the focus on participation let us move forward together in developing and strengthening the skill levels of young players. Here is to a bigger and better season in 2022. Bring it on!

JOE SECO

HEAD OF JUNIOR COUNCIL



(Pictured above; Players from Albion Park Junior Soccer Club participating in the Sydney FC Game Day experience)



(Pictured above; Players from Figtree FC after one of their games)

MENS COMPETITIONS

HEAD OF MEN'S FOOTBALL COUNCIL REPORT

I am very honoured to present the annual report once again as Head of Football South Coast Men's Council. I would like to thank all the Clubs for their support and their cooperation in working together through COVID19 and the lockdowns.

The 2021 season started with the preseason Fraternity Cup. The introduction of the top 4 Community Leagues teams in the preseason competition was a huge success with all four giving a good account of themselves.

The season started on time however unfortunately in July 2021 after the COVID 19 pandemic started to spiral out of control, subsequent lockdowns were introduced by Government seeing the postponement of all competitions. At that point, we still had faith we could have some sort of season and started to make plans on restarting the season, however with lockdowns being extended, we were left without any choice but to abandon all 2021 competitions.

I would like to thank all the Clubs, volunteers, and match officials for embracing the season and doing their best in these trying times. I would also like to thank the players and coaches for their commitment.

Mr sincere thank you to Bobby Mazeveski (FSC Competition Coordinator) for all the work he does. It was a real pleasure to work closely with Bobby over the last few years.

The MFC commenced one on one meetings with all IPL and IDL Clubs in 2021 and I would like to thank all Clubs for their cooperation and contributions to these meetings. The MFC will draw up a summary of these meetings in the first term of 2022.

The 2021 Community League Season suffered the same fate as all other competitions with the season ending prematurely and abandoned. 2022 will see the Community League have its own Council and I wish Alex Viselli and the rest of the Council the best of luck.



(Pictured above - Community League teams playing in the 2021 All Age and Masters Competitions)

A big thank you to the Referees and their Council for being supportive of all competitions and I would like to acknowledge the Match Review Committee for its tireless work. Also, an appreciation for all FSC staff for their commitment to football in our region.

I am very excited and proud that the Fraternity Club has committed to sponsoring the IPL for the 2022 season with naming rights.

I must commend the MFC for all the work they have done through 2021 and would like to thank them for their support. I would like to acknowledge Kevin Wiseman and Lou Cvetkovski for their tireless work on the MFC and wish them well for the future.

A special thank you to my fellow councillors, Kevin Wiseman (Deputy Head of MFC), Steven Naylor, Lou Cvetkovski, Allan Maidman, Bob Hennessy and Alex Viselli. I wish Bob Hennessy all the very best as the new Head of Council. I am sure he will do a fantastic job. It was a real pleasure to serve on the MFC and I look forward to working with you all in my new capacity.

I would like to wish all Clubs a successful 2022.

Yours in sport.

Frank Gigliotti
Head of Men's Football Council



(Pictured above; District League Clubs: Back Row; Fernhill Foxes, Shell Cove FC, Helensburgh Thistles, Oak Flats FC. Front Row: Unanderra Hearts FC, Balgownie Rangers FC, Warilla Wanderers FC, Berkeley FC, Picton Rangers FC, UOW FC and Thirroul FC. Absent: Kiama Quarriers FC).



(Pictured above - Premier League Clubs Left to Right: Wollongong Olympic FC, Corrimal Rangers FC, Coniston FC, Woonona Sharks FC, South Coast United FC, Port Kembla FC, Bellambi Rosellas FC, Albion Park White Eagles FC, Tarrawanna FC, Cringila Lions FC, Bulli FC and Wollongong United FC)



(Pictured above; Bulli FC First Grade team celebrating their Fraternity Club win at Ian McLennan Park. Bull FC were victorious beating District League Club, Shell Cove FC)



(Pictured above; Community League team, Dandaloo FC edged out Port Kembla Pumas in the Peter Webster Cup – All Age Competition)



(Pictured above; Community League team, Russell Vale were winners over Coledale Waves in the Peter Webster Cup –Masters Competition)

WOMEN'S COMPETITION

HEAD OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COUNCIL REPORT

The Women's Council would like to thank its 2021 sponsors The Grange who sponsored the All-Age Women's competitions, as well as MM Kembla who sponsored the Women's Youth League.

After a tumultuous 2020 with the season having to be cut short, all were ready and raring to go for 2021. The season kicked off with our pre-season Bonnie Lassie Cup and Plate tournament hosted at Ian McLennan Park. The group stages were well contested by all teams and the first Sunday was very successful, made in part by having almost a full contingent of referees available to cover every match. With 24 teams competing across both competitions, it was once again a very successful tournament with UOWFC taking home the Bonnie Lassie Cup. Due to wet weather, the knock-out stage of the Plate competition was postponed and held in the first week of June with UOWFC also taking out the Plate competition. We thank the Referee Council and the staff at Ian McLennan for assisting the Women's Council with the successful completion of the 2021 Bonnie Lassie Cup.

The Women's Council and our respective clubs held another successful Charity Round in May this year with many teams raising money in support of Wollongong HeadSpace.

As part of the local development of our goalkeepers, we once again continued to offer goalkeeper training for all clubs. As always, we are grateful to have Belinda Barter coach these sessions and appreciate her continued commitment to women's football in the region.

With COVID-19 taking hold again across the state, and lockdowns hampering any community sport the decision was made to abandon the season in mid-September as training or games could not re-commence. Unfortunately, there were therefore no League Champions declared, and no Final Series was held.

In a positive step for the Women's Competition however, 2021 saw the first year with ten Over 30s teams. The Women's Council would like to commend clubs on their persistence to form teams for this competition and we hope you will all be back in 2022.

In what was a year like none other, the Women's Council wanted to celebrate with the whole football community and brought together in a very tight timeline a "Celebration of 100 Years of Women's Football". This was kindly hosted by our sponsors, The Grange and supported by a multitude of businesses including @howedidyoumakethat, Australian Professional Leagues, Dapto Leagues Club, Fernwood Shellharbour, Level Up with Jess, MM Kembla, Naked Wines, Sydney FC, The Grange and Villa D'oro. The night also doubled as a fundraiser for Wollongong HeadSpace with just under \$2,300 raised. The Women's Council would also like to thank Ann -Marie and the FSC staff who assisted the Women's Council in bringing the night together as well as our wonderful Life Members and guest speakers – Amy Duggan, Katherine McDonough, Matt Whalan, Daniel Naumovski, Gemma Lewis, Danika Matos and Delfina Dimovski.

I want to thank the Women's Council for their continued efforts given the tumultuous times, and Leigh Blanch for stepping onto the Women's Council when we were needing to share the workload. Furthermore, the Women's Council have foregone their honorariums again this year and will look to utilise this for women's football initiatives in 2022.

As we move forward into 2022, we will be seeking club input for our Women's Strategy which will shape the female football pathways and competition structure in the years to come. Lastly, the Women's Council would like to thank Cath Lear for all the work they have done with both the Women's Council, FSC Board, and various local clubs. Cath joined the Women's Council in 2015 and has been an integral part of our Council and will be very much missed. We wish Cath all the best for 2022 and a safe and well-deserved holiday!

Emi Skopal

Head of Women's Football



(Pictured above: Players representing 2021 Women's teams across all Divisions)



(Pictured above: UOW FC celebrating their Bonnie Lassie Cup win over Albion Park)



(Pictured above: Albion Park and Woonona in action during 2021)

REFEREES

HEAD OF REFEREE COUNCIL REPORT

It will be said throughout this report of Football South Coast that 2021 was another almost as bad as 2020 which was a year like no other due to the issues associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. This year was also dramatically affected.

FSC referees were again impacted by a significant shortage of referees for the growing number of games and competitions at the senior level – both men and women. We were very pleased with the significant numbers of new referees we attract each year in the younger age groups for junior games. In a total membership of just over 340, over 300 of those are less than 18 years of age.

Whilst it has always been hard to attract people to refereeing, it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract people of a mature age (over 25) to begin a career that could give them enormous satisfaction for many years. One of the prime causes of that is the rapidly increasing competitions for players in older age groups. Many ex-players have turned to refereeing in the past when their playing career finished but now that playing career is never ending.

Nevertheless, once again our Members' efforts during last year were magnificent. Many doubled up of a weekend consistently as well as doing mid-week games. We were significantly short in the senior ranks but those who participated deserve much more credit than what has been given to them by many in the game.

Sadly, the competitions ended before any final series games which are looked forward to by referees as much as players.

We continue to see some outstanding young potential referees coming through the juniors through a well-structured Development Program from which many progress through to the Football NSW Referee Development Program. We are deeply indebted to Paul Flemming along with Leigh Blanch for the amount of time they commit to the development of junior referees and their movement through the Development Program.

During this year, we implemented a mentoring program for those transitioning into senior football, something that can be a daunting task for younger adult referees. We are hoping to build significantly on this.

We also have a very dedicated group of older members who continue to perform at a high level. They too are deserving of credit for their LONG COMMITMENT to the game.

IFAB, the International Board responsible for the Laws of the Game are creating confusion with constant changes to the way in which some Laws are to be interpreted and officiated, in particular, hand ball, offside and some other interpretations around judgement on fouls and sanctions.

We have done our best to ensure our members are fully informed of these interpretations and once again we were very fortunate to have Strebre Delovski at our annual pre-season seminar to explain these interpretation changes to members.

I have mentioned Paul Flemming and Leigh Blanch and their work with juniors above, however, I should also acknowledge the contributions of Rob Robertson the Men's Referees' Co-Ordinator, Phil Torpy our Coach and I must again make mention of Leigh who took on the additional role of Women's Co-Ordinator when Dennis Makin stood down to enable a return to active refereeing.

It would be remiss of me not to also mention:

- the contributions of Junior Club Referees' Coordinators who assist us immensely in the development and protecting the welfare of those Junior Referees
- Staff in the FSC office, in our case Jas Pearce who assisted the referees in a very professional way before her departure but also the others who work very hard to ensure we all get to enjoy our participation.

We have not yet been able to celebrate our individual award winners for 2021 and will be doing so at our Seminar in February.

We have many challenges in front of us, particularly in attracting people with enough character to have a go. We have worked hard as a Council to develop a rolling three year business plan with a number of initiatives we hope will improve all aspects of FSC Referees.

To all those who refereed last year a very, very big thank you and look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Rex Leighton Head of Council



(Pictured above; Referees in action during the 2021 Season)

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT

Association Development Programs

Flare Football Program and In Club Coaching Program

COVID-19 continues to challenge not only our sport but all sporting codes across Australia. The year started positively with football being played across the Illawarra, however it wasn't long before the second wave of the pandemic closed all community sport activity in June resulting in the cancellation of the 2021 season.

As in 2020 our In-Club Coaching Program was severely impacted by the June Lockdown and subsequent cancellation of the season. The continued pressures our association clubs faced to get players playing in a COVID safe way meant that as in 2020 In-Club Coaching Programs was suspended. The hope I think we all share is that in 2022 we can start to provide clubs and their junior players the opportunity for further football development opportunities.

Flare Football School Holiday Clinics

Our 2021 school holiday clinic schedule was heavily impacted due to the pandemic again this year. We enjoyed a very successful January Holiday Clinic in partnership with Sydney FC and our April school holidays clinics were also a success with our junior players excited to be participating in the school holidays activities again having experienced disappointment with cancellations of these programs the previous year. Despite the positive start to the school holiday calendar, the second wave of the pandemic was to ensure that no further holiday clinics would take place in 2021 with both the July and September clinics cancelled as we returned to lockdown.

Sydney FC Partnership

Despite COVID disruptions, our partnership with Sydney FC continues to be strong. Sydney FC continued to deliver programs across the region prior to the cancellation of the season, school holiday clinics were delivered in January and April and the ever-popular Skills Training Program continued to thrive. We welcome Domenico Tripodi to our region, Domenico was appointed the Sydney FC Football Development Officer to the Illawarra early in the year taking over the great work seen by his predecessor Enzo Sansone. Domenico and I look forward to working closely together throughout 2022 to bring new and exciting football development opportunities to our region's young players.



Development Programs

FSC Pre-SAP and SAP Development programs continued throughout 2021 despite the COVID interruptions. The program continues to target 7-8 year old's (Pre SAP-Development Program) and 9-12 year old's (SAP Development Program) with the aim to deliver Skill Acquisition style training sessions to supplement the players club training. Both programs also providing a platform for players to be identified for the 2022 representative Skill Acquisition Program. Despite the extended lock down period between June and October, we were able to make up and deliver all sessions lost due to the lockdown by running the program 2 nights a week right up to Christmas which was a great outcome for the players involved. I would like to thank all the parents and players for their patience and flexibility throughout the year as we navigated our way back to playing.

Coach Education

Football South Coast continues to deliver Community Coach Education courses for our region's coaches. In an area of the game that is vital for the future development of our region's players we were very fortunate that coach education courses remained largely uninterrupted due the lockdown.

We were fortunate enough to have delivered several courses early in the year which was a positive outcome given how much time was spent in lockdown. In total we delivered 7 Mini-Roo's Coaching Certificates, 1 Skills Training Certificate and 3 Senior Licence Certificates.

In the Mini-Roo's, space we also introduced online zoom workshops for those interested in understanding more about Mini-Roo's football and how to effectively coach these age groups. Moving into 2022 we will be continuing to offer this online based learning opportunity as an alternative way to provide coach education for coaches, team managers and parents to access.

In 2022, we are very excited to roll out a formal Club Coaching Co-Ordinator (CCC) Program. This program is designed to improve the overall experience and player, parent and coach has in the Mini-Roo's area of our sport. By working closely with clubs nominated club coaching co-ordinators, the program intends to mentor, upskill and develop the CCC understanding of players in Mini-Roo's age groups and their knowledge of coach education. This will allow each club to develop and support their respective clubs Mini-Roo's players and coaches more effectively. The nominated CCC's will be supported and mentored throughout 2022 by myself and I'm looking forward to creating a positive learning environment for all those involved.



(Pictured above: Attendees from the Minirooms Coaching Course conducted prior to the commencement of the 2021 Season)

I think we can all agree that in 2021 we never thought we would experience the challenges faced by COVID like we saw in 2020. This however wasn't to be the case, having the football season cancelled I think we can all agree was extremely disappointing and shattering for everyone involved.

Despite the disappointment and as we begin to come out of lockdown, I sense within the football community a real buzz and excitement for 2022. It's very exciting to drive past football grounds seeing young players training, watching parents kicking a ball in the park with their children and being home watching live football on our TV screens with spectators in the stadium. It reinforces my belief that despite the challenges of the last two years, football is returning and will return in 2022 stronger for the experiences it has had to endure.

I would like to thank everyone in the football community for their continued dedication to our sport and I wish you all a safe and happy return to football in 2022.

Jonathan Forster

FSC Football Development Manager



SOUTH COAST FLAME FC

Football South Coast has delivered representative programs since its inception and prior to this under the Illawarra Junior Football Association banner. FNSW competitions and programs such as the Skill Acquisition Program (SAP), Association Youth League (AYL) and Girls Conference League (GCL) have been part of Football South Coast for many years. One of FSC's key strategies is to continue and promote player and coaching pathways which was why South Coast Flame FC was created.

South Coast Flame FC continues to deliver representative programs since being created in 2017 to provide an additional pathway into representative football. In 2021, South Coast Flame competed in the FNSW Girls and Mixed Skills Acquisition Program, FNSW Girls Conference League Program, FNSW National Premier League 2 Boys Competition, FNSW Men's National Premier League and the FSC Women's All Age Division 1 Competition.



Skills Acquisition Program

The 2021 Mixed and Girls Skill Acquisition Programs made a very positive start to 2021 prior to the season being suspended in June and subsequently cancelled. This season saw a number of new players join the program from association football and every player new and old deserve a huge amount of credit for their attitude and application to their learning. As we entered lockdown, the program continued online with weekly practical sessions conducted by our coaching staff on zoom. Although there is no substitute for training on the field and playing games, these online practical sessions ensured that players continued to learn the vital ball mastery and core skill techniques whilst ensuring the players remained healthy both physically and mentally.

Girls Conference League

Following on from previous seasons, our Girls Conference League squads continued to make great strides in the FNSW Girls Conference League Competition. Our squads set the standard across all the age groups for other clubs within the competition to reach. The squads, as a result of lockdown, took their training online where the players were provided a comprehensive training program that involved, strength and conditioning, individual technical development and tactical analysis tasks to ensure all our players continued their football development throughout the second wave of the COVID pandemic.

In 2022, our youth girl's squads will be competing in the FNSW Girls Youth League One competition, recognition and reward for the hard work carried out in the Girls Conference League over previous seasons. The club and players look forward to testing themselves in this higher level of football and it's exciting to see continued development of female players.

Boys NPL Youth

Similar to that of our youth girls squads, the youth boys teams made a very exciting start to the 2021 season prior to June's lockdown. Finishing second in their pool after the first round of competition games behind the Emerging Jets, the youth squads ensured that they would be competing in the new FNSW Youth League 2 Competition for 2022. During lockdown, the players were given a comprehensive home training program that included strength and conditioning, individual technical development, and tactical analysis tasks on a weekly basis.

Senior Women's

Created this year to complete the female player pathway, the all-age women's squad competed in the FSC All Age Women's League 1 Competition. Going into this season, the young squad with an average age of just 17, were looking forward to testing themselves against the region's strongest clubs. After a slow start acclimatising to this increased level of football, the young squad soon started to showcase their talent putting in some excellent performances, playing a very exciting brand of football that was acknowledged by all opposition clubs. It was unfortunate that the COVID lockdown halted the squad's progression however, prior to this, it demonstrated that the young talented group of players are more than ready to step into representative football in 2022 having been accepted into the FNSW League 1 Women's Competition.

Senior Men's

Prior to the COVID lockdown and cancellation of the 2021 season, the senior men competed in the FNSW National Premier League 4 Competition. It proved to be a challenging season with results not going the way they had hoped. Despite the results, the club was very proud to field a very young side and those players undoubtedly learnt a great deal from the experience. As the club moves into 2022, the squad will be competing in the FNSW League 3 Men's competition and is very encouraged with the squad that has been assembled. Recruitment has been excellent across the U18s, U20s and First Grade squads which will add strength and depth to a core group of players that have been with the club for several years having come through junior and youth pathways.

Special acknowledgement to all the coaching staff who have adapted to the COVID situation. They have shown great flexibility and creativity to ensure all our players have been able to continue their football development online and from home, they have also shown great empathy towards our players to ensure the health and welfare of the players both physically and mentally has been maintained in what has been an extremely challenging time.



LIFE MEMBERS

Many individuals give countless hours of their time, unquestioned loyalty and a dedicated service to the game of Football. Without these wonderful and dedicated people, our beautiful global game of football cannot and could not have prospered and would not have provided that basic enjoyment to our community, of a simple game of football every week.

Prior to unification the Illawarra Referee Association (IFRA) the Illawarra Women's Football Association (IWFA), the Illawarra Junior Football Association (IJFA) and the Illawarra Football Association (IFA) honoured some wonderful contributors of the game:

IFRA

1923 W. CUNNINGHAM *
 1923 S. E. COPE *
 1932 Tom SIMMONS *
 1932 Jack SCOTT *
 1947 Andy DAVIDSON *
 1952 Jim SEATH *
 1958 George RICHARDSON *
 1960 Peter BANKS *
 1960 Dave MEREDITH *
 1960 Bob BROWN *
 1961 Jim VICKERY *
 1964 Albert ROBINSON *
 1964 Jack SIMPSON *
 1966 Doug HAYMAN
 1968 Jack STIFF
 1969 Tom SCOTT *
 1970 John CRAIG *
 1974 Vince MASTERS *
 1977 Phil CLARKE
 1980 Barry SCOTT *
 1984 George NAYLOR *
 1987 Robert ROBERTSON
 1988 Phil TORPY
 1990 Peter GRAHAM
 1994 Mike SHEDDEN
 1997 Les PARKER *
 1998 Rex LEIGHTON
 2001 Eddy UITTERLINDEN
 2008 Stephan JAROS
 2011 Phil HOLT

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

2001 Phil MURPHY *
 2006 Mario MASTROIANNI *

IFA

1941 James HOOD *
 1944 Frank POSITTI *
 1944 John POSITTI *
 1944 Les ISEDALE *
 1944 A 'Bert' BAMPTON*
 1945 Frank ISEDALE *
 1945 Pat SKERITT *
 1945 Harry SKERITT *
 1963 Gordon LEWIS
 1964 Neville ARROWSMITH
 1966 J 'Jock' SMITH *
 1968 J 'Jock' HAMILTON *
 1971 Peter BANKS *
 1974 A 'Tony' McDONALD
 1975 Helmut VOGEL *
 1978 Barry SCOTT *
 1984 Harry BROWN
 1985 Frank
 SHUTTLEWORTH *
 1987 George NAYLOR *
 1992 Neil KEMP*
 1994 John WALKER
 1995 Mavis NAYLOR
 2002 Emilio GIGLIOTTI
 2004 Otto BADER*
 2005 Peter DENT
 2006 Alan WALTON *
 2008 Paul MAHANIDIS

IWFA

1990 Phyllis KNIGHT *
 1995 Joan HUDSON
 1995 Dot REED-
 STEPHENSON
 1999- Rod RODERICK
 2005 Carol LEWISTON
 2010 Jenny SHELTON
 2012 Jody CONFORD
 Margot NAYLOR
 Susan REED STEPHENSON

IJFA

RJ BUCHANNAN *
 RF POSITTI *
 WJ GAVIN *
 WJ DALY *
 C SHIPTON *
 RM TOWNSON *
 Judy MASTERS *
 A DAVIDSON *
 John POSITTI *
 1977 Laurie LAMB *
 1977 Frank POSITTI *
 1977 FJ ETHERINGTON
 1977 AJ BURROWS*
 1977 RG NEWELL
 1977 EG RING *
 1977 GB ROBSON *
 1977 A DAVIDSON *
 1977 N DAVIDSON
 1977 DV HAYMAN
 1977 WH SIMPSON *
 1977 D THOMAS *
 1977 AG STYLES
 1977 GL EDWARDS *
 1978 Harold MOORES
 1978 Neil KEMP
 1979 Joe EVRY
 1980 Bruce PLEASANT *
 1981 Jan MAUGHAN
 1985 Bob MAUGHAN
 1985 Florence
 STEPHENSON
 Pre1994 Richard SMART
 1994 Joan HUDSON
 1995 David COWIE
 1996 Vicki TIDSWELL
 1997 John MUNRO
 1998 David WARE
 2000 Sheila MORRIS
 2000 John WHIDDETT
 2008 Jimmy NOLAN
 2008 Dawn POWER *

Football South Coast

2015 – Eddy De Gabriele
 2015 – Claude Cuda
 2015 – Milco Stojanoski
 2016 – David Swan
 2016 – Bruce Cunningham
 2017 – Tom Clark
 2019 – Sandy Depers
 2020 – Joe Seco

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION TO FOOTBALL RECIPIENTS

Life Membership

At the 2021 Season Launch, Joe Seco was awarded FSC Life Membership for his involvement as a player, administrator, coach and volunteer for over 40 years. Some of Joe's achievements and positions include:

- Played as a Junior in the Illawarra Junior Football Association Competitions
- Represented Illawarra in Representative teams.
- Played local Club football for many years and then coached both junior and senior football, and also coached State Title teams
- Involvement with junior and senior club football committees for a number of years including holding executive club positions
- Member of the Illawarra Junior Football Association Committee and was also on the South Coast Wolves Board
- Convenor of all junior development programs across FSC and has been part of the Junior Council since the inception of Football South Coast

Joe works tirelessly for the game, is always willing to assist and is a good friend to many in our football family. He has been involved as a player, coach, club committee member and also FSC Board Member so understands every facet of the game with his involvement in football.



(Pictured above: FSC Chair Eddy De Gabriele, presenting the Life Membership Award to Joe Seco at the 2021 Season Launch)

Contribution to Football Award Recipients – FSC Season Launch

Each year at the FSC Season Launch, each Football Council awards a Contribution to Football Award to individuals involved in football for a minimum of 10 years and who have been a key and visible contributor to the football community in the Illawarra.



At the 2021 Season Launch the Contribution to Football Award Recipients were:

Junior Football Council

Mike Emin (Kiama Junior Football Club)

Goran Stankovic (Warilla Wanderers Junior Football Club)

Women's Football Council

Kendall Williams (Coniston FC)

Megan Waud

Men's Football Council

Donna Cunningham (Bellambi Rosellas FC)

Referee's Football Council

Greg Reid



(Pictured above Left - Head of the Women's Football Council, Emi Skopal presenting to Jess Cruikshank, who accepted the award on behalf of Megan Waud
Pictured above Right - Head of the Junior Football Council Joe Seco presenting the award to Mike Emin)



(Pictured above Left - Head of the Junior Football Council, Joe Seco presenting to Anna Mendes, who accepted the award on behalf of Goran Stankovic)
Pictured above Right - Head of the Women's Football Council Emi Skopal presenting the award to Kendall Williams)



(Pictured above Left; Head of the Referee Coordination Council, Rex Leighton presenting an award to Greg Reid
Pictured above Right; Head of the Men's Football Council, Frank Gigliotti presenting the award to Donna Cunningham)

100 Years of Women In Football

On 2 December 2021, a function was held at The Grange to celebrate 100 Years of Women's Football. It was a fantastic night to hear from a range of guest speakers and share some memories and history associated with football in the region.



Pictured Above:

Photos from the Celebrating 100 Years of Women in Football Function held at the Grange.

Pictured Right: Amy Duggan, former Matilda, commentator and current FA Board Member was the Keynote Speaker at the event.





(Pictured above: Photos of panel speakers and guests at the function)





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Illawarra District League

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Junior Competition Naming Partner

Summer Football Naming Partner



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Women's Competition

Naming Partner



Pre Season Cup

Naming Partner



Women's Youth League

Naming Partner



Community Partner



Function Partner



Community Partner



Medical Partner



Ball Supplier

Shellharbour Private Hospital

Fracture Clinic Partner



Apparel Partner



Function Partner

Grand Final Naming Partner



Physio Partner



Community Partner



Community League

Naming Partner



Referee Development Partner



Printing Partner



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Photo credit to Pedro Garcia, Kiah Hufton, and Graham Brown