

St. Kilda City Junior Football Club

The 'Peanut Farm' Reserve Blessington St, St.Kilda
PO Box 1489, St.Kilda South, VIC 3182



St Kilda City Junior Football Club **President's Report 2006**

It is with pleasure that I submit the President's report for 2006. 2006 saw further rapid growth for the St Kilda City JFC (SKCJFC), fielding 9 teams in the Moorabbin Saints Junior Football League. This year we had some great on field successes, notably;

The U13s made it all the way through to the Grand Final, a great effort and
The U10 Reds making it through to the final of the Lightening Premierships.

These were great efforts amongst a year of highs and lows on the field

Club Committee

I would like to thank the Committee of the St Kilda City Junior Football Club for all of their efforts and hard work in ensuring the smooth running of the JFC. This year we have continued to focus on particular areas and tasks and the results are there for all to see. We now have very good systems in place for the organisation of our football equipment, including the club guernseys, our finances and our player registration systems.

A number of current committee members have elected not to continue in their roles for 2007, feeling that they have 'done their bit' and that it is timely for others to take the Club to the next level. On behalf of all involved at the Club I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for their time and hard work in making this Club such a success.

Finances:

Craig Harris took over as Treasurer in 2006 and has continued to ensure that the Club operates with sound fiscal management. We finish the year slightly ahead of last year which means that the Club continues to maintain its strong financial position.

Teams:

In 2006 the Club fielded 9 teams in the MSJFL competition. We started out 2006 recognising that the U12s and U13s would need good support for these teams to survive, having had such lean seasons in 2005. Unfortunately we lost a number of potential 2006 U12s to South Melbourne, thus further denting our chances of building a strong team. The results for the year matched this predicament and the U12s fought hard to win a game. It is a testament to all involved with the U12s this year, especially the players, that the team stayed together and kept fighting. We owe it to these players to ensure that in 2007 the Club does all that it can to support this team and provide a strong list of players. Happily the U13s shrugged off their blues from the previous year and had a 'gut buster' of a season under some very focussed and disciplined coaching from Jim Woods and smashed their way into the Grand Final.

It was a big step forward for the Club to suddenly field 2 teams in both the U9s and U10s this year. This was something that we had talked about, but still thought was some way off. Graham Crocket had other ideas and, along with others, worked hard to make sure that we were able to co-ordinate two lists for each of these year levels. In the end it worked very smoothly, with all four teams having a great season. Much credit for making this possible goes to the parents who were prepared to step into new coaching and team management roles very quickly. Thanks Bernadette, John, Oskar etc.

The U11s continued to flourish under the coaching prowess of our only female coach, Jane Reynolds. Their teamwork and football skills really developed this year. Jane has mentioned that she has reached a point in her football knowledge where it might be best for someone else to take the team into 2007 as the U12s (at the time of writing the St Kilda FC coaching position is still to be filled for 2007 following Grant Thomas' departure and I suspect that Jane might just be positioning herself in the market should the call come). But we do sincerely thank Jane for her time and hard work in coaching the team over the last couple of years.

The U14s had another solid year under Luke Jobling. Luke was undecided as to whether to coach in 2006 and the boys certainly benefited from his decision to keep going. They expect you back in 2007 Luke!

Finally the U15s. The team came together again under the watchful eye of coach Sammy Dagher. They had moved up a division this year and unfortunately found it hard to make their mark on the ladder against some tough competition. This was probably a consolidation year for the U15s and they will be back with a vengeance as the U16s in 2007.

Registrations:

Gino Dompietro continued to do a fantastic job with registrations for the Club in 2006. We registered over 200 players this season which is a great milestone for the Club. At current growth rates in registrations Gino will be running some very complex spreadsheets in a couple of years. We also managed to reduce our non-paying registrations again this year. This is always a difficult area for the Club as we try to strike a balance between maximum participation and maintaining a healthy, financially stable entity. Gino does a great job of making sure that we maintain this balance and manage to include players who might not be able to meet the registration fees.

Football operations:

Football operations were again managed by Greg Miller in 2006. Greg manages to ensure that the Club continues to have enough guernseys for all of the teams and mostly in the right sizes. Greg also ensures that we have the necessary equipment for the teams and their support crews. Most of this work happens behind the scenes and we only notice it when something goes astray. This is the way we like it to happen; thanks Greg.

Fund raising:

This year we held our third Winter Solstice fund raiser at the Elwood Sailing Club. Again this event was very successful in raising funds for the JFC. We decided against holding an auction this year, holding a raffle instead. Peter Carrodus organises fund raising for the Club and, with the assistance of a very supportive sub-committee and enthusiastic ticket selling parents, produced an outstanding result for the Club.

Sponsorship: Again we completed another year without a major sponsor for the JFC. Hopefully this is something that we will make better progress on in coming years. On a brighter note the U11s found an anonymous sponsor who provided the team with track suits, caps and sports bags. These added a very professional image to the team. In addition to the outfits this sponsor very generously donated \$3,000 to the JFC to promote junior football. The Committee in 2007 will have the responsibility for ensuring that these funds are used to develop junior footballers at the Club. These funds were presented to the Club by Michael Roberts, a former St Kilda FC player. It was an added bonus to have Michael come to the Club to present this very generous donation. As the donor of these funds does not wish to have public recognition the only way to acknowledge this generosity is to say thank you from the Club and all its members.

Web site:

For the past couple of years we have run the JFC website from a free Victorian government service – MC2. In 2006 we established our own website at www.stkildacityjfc.com.au. The flexibility of having our own site means that we can now post a wide range of materials and communications for Club information.

As part of the new website we introduced weekly match reports for the teams. These are written by the coach, or manager and posted under each team's page. There was a varying hit rate with match reports, with regular postings from the U11s, U13s and U15s. Special mention must go to Jim Harrington of the U15s who regularly posts very detailed and funny match reports. Hopefully in 2007 we can increase the practice of regular match reports for all teams as they can provide useful feedback and coaching tips for the players.

League participation:

St Kilda City JFC continues to have strong relationships with the MSJFL. These are maintained by the Club Secretary, Susan Buchanan. Susan does a great job of attending all the league meetings and making sure that we are kept up to date on rule changes etc. Thanks Susan.

In the final list of on field reports for the season from the MSJFL it is pleasing to note that St Kilda City JFC did not have one official reporting for the season. Given the number of players and teams we now have this is a great result and shows the level of sportsmanship being displayed on the field by the kids and off the field by the parents. This sort of result can only enhance the reputation of the Club.

Coaching, Managing and Parental support:

The smooth running of the Club and the organising of all the matches each week is only possible with input from the parents of the players. This happens in varying degrees with some parents taking on a number of roles at the Club, including both Committee and team management, or coaching roles. These and other parents put in a fantastic effort each season and we thank you all for your support and participation. In addition to these there are many roles to be filled from goal umpire, runner, trainer etc and it is a tough part of the Team Manager's job to make sure that all these roles are filled each week. Somehow they do it and it all comes together. Thanks to all who put in their time each week to do these roles and to make sure that the matches go ahead smoothly.

St Kilda City Sports Club:

We made some progress in 2006 in our efforts to try to get better alignment between the St Kilda City Seniors, the Sharks (women's teams) and the JFC. The JFC Committee wrote to these groups outlining how we thought the St Kilda City Sports Club could operate better by having greater integration between the various users of the Club, not least of which would be the operation of the canteen to the benefit of all Club users. In response to this approach we did hold a meeting of representatives. Helene Agius from the City of Port Philip Sports and Recreation department attended the meeting. The Seniors and the Women's representatives agreed to consider the issues put forward by the JFC and it is hoped that we will continue to make progress in this area. Our aim is to achieve an outcome where the facilities of the St Kilda Sports Club are run for the benefit of all users, including the operation of the canteen and the cleaning of the Clubhouse and surrounding areas, so that the junior players are not faced with cleaning up broken glass and food scraps early on a Sunday morning to make the field safe for our players and visiting teams. The JFC forms by far the largest user group at the St Kilda City Sports Club and all indications are that the JFC will continue to grow. It is therefore imperative that the JFC take a more involved position in the running and of the Sports Club. This issue is one that will need to be progressed in 2007.

On a personal note I have decided not to nominate for the role of President in 2007. I have enjoyed my three years in the role and it has been a privilege to work with some very committed people and to see the JFC grow into such a great football club for young players. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members for all their support and hard work and to wish the incoming JFC Committee all the best for 2007 and beyond.

Jeremy Cattell
President
St Kilda City Junior Football Club.