

President's Report 2022

Past Summer and Winter seasons had very similar amounts of Open and Junior Teams. This summer is looking lighter on the Open side, and bigger in the juniors side.

The club runs well from season to season. But there are always challenges.

Requests to join specific teams are making some team selections tricky and some teams do not have enough players and other teams too many. Requests to be with specific friends tops the list.

We set some priorities for team selections last summer:

1. Existing team members first (86 including 2 players that were winter "fillins")
2. Returning players from last summer (22) mostly in two teams, 1 x U13 1x U15
3. Completely new players. So far running at 28, including 16 U8s

Trying to select teams that have junior members all of an appropriate level of ability for the team is another significant challenge. We certainly try to do this, but teams can end up with a span of ability bigger than we would like.

As a community club I don't like to see us turn anyone away who wants to play netball, this does call for a level of tolerance while players have time to reach the level of some of their team mates.

The role of the coach is critical here. Focus should firstly be on the development of skills by whichever means the coaches have available to them: their own knowledge, external resources, and mentoring from inside or outside the club.

Girls up to the end of their U13 playing years are still growing and developing, and therefore player development should take in the playing of a range of positions for each player.

Over focus on winning alone stifles player development. Winning should be the bonus that comes from good skill and positional development within the team.

As a club we try to book in coaching development opportunities each year. I love to see the range of personality styles amongst our coaches and how they interact with their teams.

We are so very lucky to have coaches with such passion for the task, and I thank them all for their dedication and efforts this year.

Equally offering some player development sessions to U11&U13s was well attended.

Umpires has been an especially large challenge due to losing 1 senior umpire from the city courts doing two games and then Emily away on teaching placement for a chunk of winter, meant I was fully focused on umpiring much of the time.

Variable numbers of home court games from as few as 4 to 8 was a huge challenge, and a weekly headache.

Having connections with other clubs and the umpires at other clubs is a big advantage, without generosity and good will we would not have got through.

Each season finding and retaining umpires is a challenge.

My most heartfelt thanks to our suburban umpires: Trish Cain, Emily Craft, Belinda Curtain, Shirley MacKenzie, Felicity Lush, Kass Storr, Piper Drawwater, Caitlin Grech, Evie O'Connor, Kelsey Wundke, and Tricia Howard. And to our city umpires: Lorraine Natt, Mark Walker and Sam Hutchinson.

SAUCNA was forced into a new player database, this has had pros and cons. Setting all the teams up in the database is more specialised but reasonably quick (when you remember how). It also enables fees to be collected at the time of registration, and application for a sports voucher is integrated into the registration form, saving further time. One downside is all the annoying NA and NSA questions that have to be asked and answered, and we are limited in the way we can ask questions. But we are improving.

Teams can now do their own score entering and team selection for each game, reducing the workload for the club. We still must monitor this for completeness otherwise fines will occur. Unfortunately, all historical playing information was lost with the old database and we have had to start with a clean slate.

After what seems like an eternity we have also signed a lease agreement with the City of Port Adelaide and Enfield Council, this streamlines our booking system for winter, and gives us the rights to the clubrooms for the storage of all our equipment without the risk of a booking giving another club the full use of the clubrooms, requiring us to move our possessions out.

It does mean we are fully responsible for the low grade maintenance at the club, but not big issues like the sewage overflowing as it did semi-final day! I have managed to get a few extra things fixed before or at the time of signing the agreement.

My many thanks to our committee and club members who help at short notice frequently. Thankfully, much of the COVID obligations have ended, and it's nice to have a little less paperwork to do.

Big thanks to Claire who does so much for this club, you are a huge asset to us all, not least of which the bookwork, which is impeccable. Jodie who has bravely put her hand up for the Secretary role and has had the experience of my random brain patterns. I have tried to get everything we need to do annually into an organised spreadsheet to help us all keep focused and so we don't fall behind. Huge thanks to Jodie for taking on the photos and doing such a great job.

To the selectors: Tricia, Amy, Tash, Emily, Paige and Erin, great work!

Judith Lukas
President