

Old Carey Grammarians FC
2012 AGM
Wednesday 28th November 2012
Bulleen Club Rooms
Presidents Report

History could reveal season 2012 potentially as the corner stone to future A grade success. In 2012 the senior coaching staff had to dig deep from within our list, utilising 48 players by season's end. Despite mounting injuries the seniors improved on their 2011 6th finish by finishing 5th in 2012. Things could have been better had we nailed the win at home late in the season v Old Scotch. That loss enabled Scotch to cement its place in the top 4 and resulting in them playing finals and not us.

The club fielded 4 teams in 2012 with our new team, the 3rds doing reasonably well in their 1st season. Sadly the entry of this team (mandatory under VAFA rules) meant the death of our Club 18 team. Under VAFA rules clubs in Premier are not allowed to field a Club 18 team without fielding a 3rds team. Whilst our numbers were reasonable we simply didn't have sufficient to field both 3rds and clubbies. Special mention must go to 3rds coach, Ian England who did a stellar job in managing his squad, Ian was very proud of his playing group's commitment and passion.

With good retention of 2011 playing list and the inclusion of the Yze brothers our 2012 squad was looking good, preseason was solid with regular good numbers at Bulleen. Only one change in our coaching staff, Michael Ericson assuming the role as U19 coach. Phil Smith stepped up into the senior TM role and Alan Fotheringham took over mid-season as 2nds TM. On the subject of U19's it certainly was a very difficult season for Michael. Despite a good number of players the squad suffered multiply injuries resulting in a forfeit late in the season. Michael's task was made more difficult by virtue of our inability to provide a TM; despite this Michael did a great job and is to be commended on his commitment. We cannot allow this to happen again as the Unders are a vital part of our club and it's critical that we ensure their first experience at our club is a positive one and they return to become the future of our club both on and off field.

The hard work continued in the 2011/2012 off season as we prepared for our 2nd season in the VAFA's Premier Division. While Trevor and his fellow coaches trained the boys, the committee went about its own recruiting in the form of sponsors; signing Michael Roach Financial Solutions as well as Sapa Hills Vietnamese Restaurant (thanks Peter Jones), these two sponsorships together with the ongoing involvement of EXTOL Lubricants underpinned our sponsorship program. The club's football budget was expected to further grow with continued emphasis on player welfare, fitness and injury management. We retained the services of Peak Physio in the form of a dedicated physio to be at training one night a week and attend all senior games on the weekend. Furthermore, we enlisted the services of new trainers thereby allowing Rachael to focus on managing her team to ensure we would have sufficient coverage at all times. Other items of expenditure included footballs, training bibs, rub down tables and new sponsored training tops (thanks Mike Ramsay) to be used for 2 seasons.

As reported earlier, our seniors finished 5th having been in the top 4 contention to R16. This was an improvement of 2011 but a waste based on talent and effort, whilst injuries didn't help we were in a position to play finals and blew it. Pleasingly our defensive game improved and we were able to contain opposition forwards by comparison to 2011. I am sure both coaches and players know they underachieved and had the ability to play finals had they been able to convert some close losses to wins. Again several games were won and lost by small margins, certainly our opening game of the season away to St Bedes was one that we let slip, so too the R16 home clash v Scotch. We can be proud of pushing Collegians at home mid-season, going down by 1 point hurt, and time will tell if we have learnt.

Looking to the 2nds it was a challenge for all, the large number of players called on to play seniors made selection difficult. Jon and his team had to make regular selection changes as players moved btwn the 2nds and the seniors, despite this there were some encouraging individual efforts especially from the younger boys that gave us a glimpse of our future.

The club was also very fortunate to have VFL players, Jordy Easton, Luke Crozier, Sam Cust, Carl Peterson and Michael Thompson on release occasionally and play senior football. We hope to see these boys at some stage when their VFL careers are done. Adem Yze also was able to play several games upon release from Hawthorn FC, joined by older brother Damien both boys were wonderful additions to the club always providing advice and guidance. Time permitting we hope to have them both back again in 2013. Adem won the VAFA goal of the year in his stellar game v Trinity where he kicked 5 last quarter goals to get us over the line, whilst Damien shared the VAFA goal kicking with a bag of 56 goals, a sensational effort.

Other notable achievements included the selection of players in the various VAFA representative teams including Cam Howat captaining the VAFA senior team to victory over the EFL in the pre-season. We had 5 Carey players in that team, with Jules Rowe winning the best on ground award and Lachie McQueen Miscamble awarded the spirit of the VAFA award.

Off field we maintained our commitment to provide home lunches to our loyal supporters and sponsors. Our Enewsletter, the Schiller Report, was produced weekly ensuring we continue to communicate with our growing database (950) and importantly provide weekly reviews, information, business to business opportunities and the opportunity for player mentoring. We made further changes to the club's website as well as regular tweets from our club twitter login, we now have 140 followers! The players partied hard and enjoyed several functions including a mid-season ball as well as the B&F celebration at Southbank. The combined opening address by Cam Howat and Tom Evans at the B&F was wonderful with plenty of challenges for us all to contemplate over summer.

Sadly 2 great servants of the club will not be part of our 2013 campaign.

- Senior coach, Trevor Rowe made the decision at the end of the season to retire. After some considerable deliberation Trevor decided to call it a day. Basically it was a time issue, managing his work, young family and well-being (back) as well as being the sole senior coach had become increasingly difficult. Whilst I had extensive discussions with Trevor about doing a joint coaching role in 2013 along similar lines to Collegians and Old Scotch, in the end Trevor decided it is time that he stepped aside. The discussions have been honest and open and I am proud to say we have parted company with our relations intact. Trevor wants the very best for the club and will always be a member of our club in whatever capacity he sees fit and we will always be indebted to his commitment, passions, integrity and leadership.
- Our senior captain, Tom Evans has, for the moment retired and aims to spend time overseas in 2013. Tom has been a wonderful leader at Carey and an inspiration to the playing group. His leadership, commitment and professionalism will be sadly missed, so too his on field presents.

The retirement of Trevor allowed us to undertake an extensive search for the best possible coach to take over. We advertised nationally, including advertisements in the SANFL and WAFL as well as EFL, NFL and the VAFA. We had a number of enquiries and settled on 6 quality applicants to interview. All seasoned coaches, two being former AFL players. Ultimately we appointed Steve Cochrane to the role as Senior Coach.

Steve has a rich football history, his playing days included 5 years at Richmond FC before being picked up by Geelong FC in a mid-season draft, this was then followed a short stint at Frankston FC in the VFL. Beyond the AFL/VFL Steve played many games in the EFL with both

Vermont FC and the Blackburn FC, including 5 premierships with one as captain, a B&F and leading goal kicker.

Upon retirement Steve turned his attention to coaching, initially an assistant coach at the Coburg Tigers in the VFL as midfield coach under Jade Rawlings before returning to Blackburn FC and serving a 3 year stint as its senior coach in the EFL's Division I competition. Steve will be joined by 3 support staff, Paul Breen, Craig Swift and Paul Hogan; all are very keen to get our 2013 pre-season underway. Professionally Steve works as an executive at Car Sales and is married with 2 young children.

Again much work was done in connecting with our sponsors, with Michael Cooke heading this up. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous support of our Major Sponsors and Panther Club Members throughout season 2012. I know I speak on behalf of the players, coaching staff and committee in stating how appreciative we are of their support.

The club is indebted to the tireless work undertaken by both Michael Cooke as Vice President and Craig Wallace as Treasurer and the support provided by Sam Hassett as Secretary. Special mention must go to both David Arthur and Rowan Reid for their support behind the bar on Thursday nights and at our home games, so too Rob Smithwick, Russell Morris, Peter Jones and Mike Ramsay. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment of the club's entire coaching department, headed up by Trevor Rowe; the same must be said of Rachael, her team and John Pompei, our physio.

Carey Grammar School in conjunction with the OCGA, have again been great supporters of the club, both in providing facilities as well as administrative support and understanding. Jim and Erin at Bulleen are always obliging and have made our job all the easier at times.

So in closing I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me. Looking to 2013, there is no off season, we are already in training and have in place plans to ensure we make a big impact. We must look beyond surviving, everyone else will be making every effort to improve so too must we.

Season 2013 is not far away and we will have a massive year, stay involved please.



Paul Newton
President, OCGFC