



Hello there,

The last couple of regular season fixtures are almost upon us, Auskick Gala Day was run last weekend, and planning for finals is well advanced. It seems like a good time to send through the pre-Finals Newsletter for West Coast Junior Football Club. I hope that you have all thoroughly enjoyed this year's football.

WCJFC in Finals

At the time of writing, our West Coast/Wembley Year 9 team is undefeated and two games clear at the top of the ladder. West Coast White is hanging on to fourth spot in the Year 8 competition with a game and percentage in hand, and both Year 7 teams are alive in one of the tightest possible competitions, where percentage and 'the luck of the draw' could decide ladder positions from first to seventh. Best wishes to all for a strong finish to the regular season and a stunningly brilliant finals campaign.

Gala Day

Any time a day of junior football involves a couple of thousand participants, sale of 1800 sausages, sun shine, and dancing on the field, you just know that you are on to a winner! Such was Auskick Gala Day last Sunday, run each year by a small committee at WCJFC for the benefit of all Pre-primary to Year 3 footballers in the Claremont district. Feedback has been universally positive. A special thanks to Tash Hawksley as Organiser-in-Chief, and to Anuj Patel, Justin Dyson, and Mark and Liane Kelly for their contributions. Thanks also to the Organizing Committee, Astrid Williams, Paula Eley, Daryl Kroschel, Flick Panegyres, Cath Brennan, and Geoff and Lynette Moffet. The Club is very grateful indeed for the support of our sponsors, identified below, and we encourage you all to support them for supporting us all.

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Wind-Up Days and Trophy Presentations – *Save the Date!*

Auskick

Auskickers will hold their wind-up day this coming Sunday 21 Aug 16 at 08.45 am (for a 09.00 am start).

Years 4-9

Organising a wind-up that suits all of the remaining year groups has in past years proved extraordinarily difficult, particularly given that some teams will be playing finals whilst others will have reached the end of their season. We have decided on a date of Sunday 11 Sep 16 with events starting at 4.00 pm. We will have a bar, food vans, kids' activities, participation awards for Years 4 to 6 and formal trophy presentations for players in Years 7 to 9. Note that, in order to help build out team unity, awards and trophies will be held until the day rather than being handed out early.

Further details will be circulated shortly.

Jackets and Bags

At the start of the season, I advised that significant Club funds (not from 2016 registration fees) had been committed to buying Club jackets and bags for players in Years 4 and up. The original due date from our supplier, BLK, was May 16; the final delivery date turned out to be Aug 16. To issue the gear now would mean having it in the cupboard over the summer months, during which time our players will be busy growing out of it! As such, the Committee has decided to hold the issue of the gear until the beginning of next season (with the exception of our Year 7s travelling on the annual representative trip to Melbourne). On behalf of the Committee, my apologies.

Shorts, Socks, Merchandising

In recent years, we have relied on Sports Specialists at Floreat Forum for provision of Club shorts and socks, and our merchandising has been ad hoc. Since that the provision of merchandise for players and supporters, and uniforms for coaches, managers and officials, might be made more efficient and reliable. We expect contracts to be signed and orders placed in the off-season. Please note: we are in need of someone to take on the role of Coordinator – Merchandising and

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Uniforms to help settle the contracting, ordering, and procure-to-pay arrangements, and to do a little advertising amongst our members. If you are interested, do please advise a Committee member, or send a note to president@wcjfc.com

Year 7 Trip

Each year, parents of Year 7 players have the option of organising a football-focused trip, traditionally to Melbourne. The Club will contribute \$500 per team (i.e. not per year group) towards the cost. This year's visit will see a combined WCJFC White and Red team play a game against East Malvern Knights, tour the MCG and its wonderful museum, watch two AFL matches live (one at the 'G' and one at Etihad Stadium), view training sessions by Collingwood and Essendon, and tour the Pies' and Bombers' facilities. Sincere thanks to the organising Committee. For those parents of Year 6 kids for whom too much footy is barely enough, it is time to start organising!

Youth Team Representation and Playing Pathways

Regrettably, having started with a squad of 35, our Year 10 team folded during the course of the year due to PSA football, a few injuries, and the conflicting demands of study and other activities. We are very concerned that participation numbers for all clubs across the District fall dramatically at about this time, and that some of our loyal members—particularly those at Shenton College, Churchlands, and John XXII, and those from private schools not participating in school football—are left with nowhere to play, and the Club without players. At the same time, we have a great opportunity: we have a strong and growing relationship with West Coast Amateur Football Club, which has a strong Colts program and a number of senior teams, including one in Amateur A-grade. We are working with the 'Ammos' (and potentially with some other junior Clubs) to provide a clear and strong pathway from Auskick all the way through to senior footy. Stand-by for developments in the off-season: we want to avoid if possible 'banging together' amalgamated teams close to the start of next season.

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Current Projects

The Committee deliberately avoided taking on any major capital project this year, and has been working on a range of initiatives to make Season 2017 run smoothly and systematically, to improve the understanding by coaches, players and parents of the parts that they have to play, and to clarify our systems, policies, and procedures. Projects currently in work:

- Improve equipment management procedures
- Design and implement coach development process
- Develop a Year 8 to 12 retention and development strategy so that the Club is represented in senior years, and players are prepared for senior football
- Develop a Football Operations Manual, including role profiles and succession plans for key positions at both Team and Committee level
- Develop and implement a policy for allocating players to teams, with a view to minimising dispute and ensuring an equitable spread of talent
- Compile and implement a comprehensive annual calendar of activities
- Develop and implement a standardised procedure for Auskick Gala Day (incorporating policies about the engagement of paid assistance)
- Formalise and implement a model for attracting and retaining sponsorship support

The 2016-2018 Strategic Plan incorporating these projects will be released shortly.

My sincere thanks to our Committee. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to run the Club successfully is extraordinary, and I greatly appreciate your help, counsel, enthusiasm, and good humour. To Martin Fowles, who is leaving us this year after many eons of loyal and valuable service, a big thank you on behalf of the entire Club: your efforts have been extraordinary.

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Finally ...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our Club, to invite you to the Wind-Up Day on 11 Sep 16, to encourage you back to City Beach Oval and McLean Park for Season 2017, and to urge any of you who might be able to help our Club move forward to let me know so that you might join our delightful team of volunteers.

And of course, best wishes and good luck to all players, coaches, officials, and supporters on the run towards a flag.

Regards,

Cliff



Cliff Stagoll
President

West Coast Junior Football Club

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