

## **September News from the Chairman's desk.**

As our season winds down I wish to congratulate not only the winners but everyone associated with all our competitions.

To the juniors from the under 6's right through to the ageing but still dedicated over 35's and beyond, thank you all for being part of our extended Football family.

As we approach the season final match, being our Premier League Grand Final. I would encourage as many of you as possible to come on out to the Port Macquarie regional stadium on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September where we will be hosting not only the 1<sup>st</sup> and reserve grade Grand Finals but also the combined Northern and Southern Under17/18 youth Grand Final to determine the best team in the entire Zone for the first time ever.

This Grand Final promises to be more of a gala/celebration of our game and our Zone with activities for the children, special events, alcohol free zones and a variety of food and entertainment as well as the opportunity to see some of best local players in action.

We are trying to showcase our game to the entire area and to combat the perception that despite ours being the Worlds' number one participant sport we have a product that is as good if not better than the other sports in our area that receive far more attention and media coverage.

Adults will be still only \$5.00 entry with FREE admission to all children and youths Under 18.

*Please support this day so we can improve and build on this vision moving into the future.*

I also had the pleasure of presenting our new "Premiers Plate" to Wallis Lake for winning the points table for the season and like the A- League and other global competitions we are recognizing a season's effort as well as Grand Final winners.

This is also an initiative we have rolled out for all competitive teams in recognizing the Premiers on the points table as well as the respective Grand Final champions.

As per our revised competition rules the winners of the points table for the season will be called “Premiers” (not minor premiers...nothing minor about a seasons effort!) and the Grand Final winners will be known as the “Champions”.

We have recently set up a standing committee to oversee and run the National Premier League and Women’s Premier League teams for next season and in to the future.

With the help and guidance of the administration of Football Mid North Coast, this gives the parents and supporters and players in the Elite ranks a genuine opportunity to have a say in their children’s future and the direction and support of these teams.

It also has the benefit of freeing up many of our paid staff and volunteers to focus on “community football “providing better time management for all our competitions.

My thanks to all of those that have chosen to be involved.

I have promised, if fortunate enough to be re- elected as your Chairman for 2017, that I will lead a campaign for better facilities and fields and the like for our game of Football.

For too many years we have been the “poor cousins” of other sports despite our large player base and numbers of potential voters in both council areas and State and Federal electorates.

It is time we drew a “line in the sand!”

That is my personal commitment to all of you.

Bruce our General Manager and myself have been fortunate enough to meet with a representative sample of clubs from the smallest to the largest from both areas of our Zone to get feedback and input in to our upcoming Strategic Plan as part of this boards promise to be inclusive and transparent and not simply come up with ideas in the “back office”.

We are currently in the process of consulting with Northern NSW Football and select members of our board in order to finalize this plan to have a clear vision for the next 5 years and a firm direction as we move forward.

To continue to grow our game, our membership and our infrastructure, in order to not only supply a better product but for the greater enjoyment for everyone.

We have in place immediate plans to improve the education of our coaches from Grass Roots through to Premier league, to have visits by High performance clinics and coaches and referees and guest appearances from high profile Football personalities throughout next season.

We are subsidizing many courses and funding some in their entirety.

We also plan to run a senior Referee's course before the end of the year and I would be hopeful that many of our older players may invest some time back in to the game they have loved and been able to play in and return the favor and spend just some of their time helping to "be out in the middle" or "on the lines" for the next generation of players.

This course will be FREE of charge.

The date for this course has been set for Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> at Laurieton Services Club 10.00 a.m.

Please contact the office for more information or to book your spot.

We are desperately short of senior Referees and also plan to invest more energy next season in mentoring and coaching our Junior and newer Referees.

Without good Referees the game is not able to be played at an enjoyable standard, relatively trouble free and structured.

(Yes I know there is no such thing as a good Referee!! Ha ha)

We are also planning to devote office hours to assist clubs with grant applications and set up a Grant Working Party in order to get the best return to our member clubs from any available funds on offer by Government and private institutions.

All this and more is being implemented or planned already for next season and beyond.

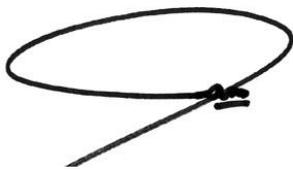
As with all seasons there are always things we could do better and none of us live in a perfect world.

The important thing for me is that we are surrounded by people who care about our game and our children and the future of Football and for that reason we continue to try to deliver on our promises and do our best every day.

My thanks as always to the dedicated team in our office and to my fellow directors.

Once again good luck to all those teams that may still be involved in Finals Football at the time of writing this and thank you to all of you that have been part of season 2016!

Yours in Football

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a short vertical stroke.

Mike Parsons