



the FARPOST

ISSUE 10 June 2017



Prez Sez

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Jono Ross)

In this year's first edition of The Far Post, it gives me great pleasure to welcome players, parents, and supporters to the 2017 football season.

In modern times, Old Boys has become the largest and most successful football club in Southland. At the junior level, we bolster the greatest number of teams. With the tireless Gary Pilsworth at the helm, the junior ranks continue to swell to unprecedented levels. The ably-coached teams regularly notch victories to occupy the top of their tables. Coached by Greig Evans and playing in the Dunedin league, the well-travelled Youth Team has thrived against quality opposition and has secured a number of victories.

In senior football, Old Boys is well represented by four teams, with some teams already claiming silverware. Early on, Division 1 scooped its first trophy by winning the pre-season tournament. More recently, Division 2 Black maintained an unbeaten

record to re-claim the first round trophy. Meanwhile, the premiere side, coached and managed by Reuben Lindsay and Grant Yorkstone respectively, is locked in a three-team race for supremacy in the Donald Gray league.

At the management level, the committee continues to efficiently run the club to ensure subs are paid, teams have kit, and players' pursuit of the beautiful game is properly served. In my first year as President, I acknowledge the voluntary efforts of the many, both on the committee and otherwise, who enhance this club.

Looking ahead, the Club will host its annual Quiz night on Wednesday 2 August. It will be great to see you there and, as always, the quiz master's decision is final.

Finally if you want to get in touch with myself or any of the Committee our details are available on the Clubs website along with up to date news and events: www.oldboysafc.co.nz or check us out on Facebook.

Cheers Jono

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Quiz
Night
Wed 2 August

GET YOUR ONLINE KICK

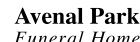


Keep up to speed with the what's happening on and off the field with our new website.

www.oldboysafc.co.nz



The MIGHTY Old Boys' Black win DIV 2 Championship for the 5th time in 7 seasons with hard fought draw against Southland.



THE TRANSFER WINDOW

For the 3rd time in as many years we have a change in Coach for the Donald Gray team. After a successful return to the helm last season Scott MacKenzie steps down to focus on his remaining days as a Div 1 player while his better half Ange who did a stellar job managing last year has been recruited as the Club's Secretary.

Into the fray outgoing President Reuben Lindsay and long-time member and sponsor Grant Yorkstone take the reins. Reuben comes in having spent the last six years coaching junior teams and working with the Youth Academy last season. For Grant it's a return to the football scene after a few years in the background. Both are relishing the challenges that Coaching provides.

Gordon Lamont once again manages the Division One squad which has a fresh faced look to it.

Nathan is back running the cutter for the Black team and Chris 'Casper' Thomas is back managing the Red team.

Lakers HOT **Donald Gray Premier Team** (Reuben Lindsay)

With the new Coaching team on board and a long preseason training program undertaken expectations for the preseason trophy were high. The advent of the Southland team did mean we were missing several key players from the squad this year including two-time golden boot winner Atain Haley and indestructible defender Joel Fletcher. We also said goodbye for now to long time Club Member Scott Kiddey as he moved to Queenstown and Henry Smith to Dunedin. Evergreen Jeremy Dix also decided it was time to be put out to pasture. Stepping up from the successful Division One team were Ethan, Jared, Jordy and Hayden.

Close losses to the Southland team in preseason friendlies also had the team feeling it was headed in the right direction. A comfortable opening round win over new kids on the block Winton was followed by losses to Gore and Queens Park. A lack of player continuity owing to unavailability certainly didn't help things as Div 1 players were frequently called into duty. So no preseason trophy for the team this year as we failed to make the final.

The Donald Gray Cup has been lengthened this year to give competitors more matches and as we go to print we have just started the second of three rounds. Old Boys has a six win one loss record from seven matches played. Currently second on the table to Gore who are one point ahead. Gore, ourselves and Queens Park shape as the title contenders.

Since starting Joel has returned to the fray but Goalkeeper Mitchell Fowler has departed for work in Dunedin. The squad is looking much more settled and the coaching team have confirmed the style and positional approach that they want to take to matches.

We look forward to the rest of the season.



Emotive Design/Kelly Property Services

Division 2 Black Team (Nathan Findlay)

This season has started well for the black team. After a big win in the first game against Western we met the defending champions Thistle and delivered a fine performance to win 2-0. that win put us in the driving seat for the title as both teams have remained unbeaten since then. The squad has been able to field a very settled line up which has resulted in some consistent performances. We are benefitting from the addition of several younger players into the mix and there have been some stand out games from players like Andrew Elder, Andrew Gibbs, Nathan Cook and Jordan Duncan. this weekend sees us play Southend Green as the final hurdle to an unbeaten round and likely title all going well. Seems there is plenty of life yet in some of the old legs in this squad!

UPDATE!!! The unbeatable BLACK held on the record their 5th Championship in 7 seasons.



Steve Oliver Financial Services

Division 2 Red Team

(Chris Thomas)

It's very much business as usual for the Steve Oliver Financial Services Div II Red team this season with a solid first round nearing an end. There has been the usual rotation of players with some moving on to other pursuits and some new blood coming in. This season we've welcomed some youth to the team with Matthew Conner and Jason Stevens returning to Invercargill and Taine Conner also joining the team. The return of the experienced Mark Bell when not on Southland Sharks duties has also been welcome. With two rounds left to play a spot in the top half of the draw looks likely with the team looking to build and lift performance for the second round. The second clash with the Black Team to reverse the result of the first round is highly anticipated.

Jeff Walker Cleland Murdoch

Division 1 Team (Gordon Lamont)

The Jeff Walker & Cleland Murdoch sponsored Division 1 team have had a significant change in playing personnel since their clean sweep of silverware in 2016. A number of our players from 2016 have stepped up to the Donald Gray squad for this season. Coming into the Division 1 squad from our Junior grade teams are a significant number of 16-17 year olds experiencing their first year of Senior mens' football. So one of our primary goals for this season is to give these young players a playing environment in which they're encouraged to play some attractive football and to hopefully learn from the experience to be able to step up to the Donald Gray squad in the near future. A few of our players (Mike, Ben, Alex, Finlay) have already had some time playing with the Donald Gray squad, so this is promising. The morale in the squad is good, with the banter between the players (often with Will at the heart of it) always a laugh. On top of this, it would always be nice to win some silverware along the way. And, our Division 1 squad got off to a successful start by winning the Pre-Season Cup with a convincing 4-1 win over Queens Park. In Division 1, we have had some convincing wins over Thistle (twice), Winton-Western, Queens Park (twice) and a win by default over Waihopai. Our one loss was a disappointing 6-5 loss away to Gore. Gore have won all their games so far, so (at the time of writing) sit 3 points ahead of us on the table. Our next game is at home to Gore, so hopefully we can reverse the result from earlier and go level with them on points.

Juniors



It's great to see the continued expansion in participation rates of our junior programmes. We have achieved this by providing pathways for our members to achieve to their maximum potential as players and coaches.

Each Monday in the football season our thriving First Kicks programme at Surrey Park provides football oriented fun and development to nearly 50 boys and girls aged between 4 and 6 years old.

We now have well over 300 young footballers from as far as Stewart Island representing the club in more than 15 teams competing in Southland Football competitions from 7th to 15th/16th grade. Our Youth Academy programme that competes in the Dunedin Youth League also offers additional opportunities to develop our promising young 14 and 15 year old stars of the future.

As a result of our coaches and players hard work, many are now being selected for Football South Regional and Federation Talent Centres and NZ Football National Talent Centres - a first step to U17 World Cups; a pathway currently being followed by Old Boys' junior prodigy Xavier Muriel Burnett.

As a club we pride ourselves on the way we continue to reduce the barriers to junior participation. In the way our committed coaches and their players are provided with the appropriate equipment and safe state of the art coaching facilities. It's also great to see our amazing coaches taking full advantage of the development opportunities made available to them.

This extremely 'healthy state of affairs' in the Junior Programme however would not be possible without the tireless dedication of our wonderful coaches and managers, the tireless work of our committee members and volunteers, a great group of parent's and caregivers and our amazing young players!



Xavier
Muriel
Burnett

2017 JUNIOR TEAMS AND COACHES

Grade	Team	Coach
5th/6th	First Kicks	Chris Thomas
7th/8th	Fun Football	Frank O'Boyle
9th	Jets	Steve Oliver
9th	Madrid	Andy Doherty
10th	Tigers	Gary Pilsworth
10th	Pumas	Jared Cuff
10th	Roar	Grant Wilkin
10th	Falcons	Tim Kennett
10th	Falcons	Sander Meijer
11th	Crusaders	Ian Thomson
11th	Comets	Bryan Stout
11th	Thunder	Andrew Elder & Mark Bell
12th	Knights	Theo White
12th	Phoenix	Jordan Peipi
13th/14th	United	Bruce McCrone
13th/14th	Stormers	Gavin Hawke & Damian Pirini
13th/14th	Glory	Scott Faithful & Gary Pilsworth
15th/16th	Speedsters	Warren Miller
Youth	Southland	Greig Evans



Don't forget to join the Club Facebook page as cancellation notices and other important junior information is communicated here.

Waverley Park, St Andrew Street, Invercargill Phone: 03 217 6011

www.oldboysafc.co.nz

Designed by
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