



# **Full Time Report**

---

**2021**

# President's Report

---



It was still 2020 when the 2021 season started for our club. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in November 2020 the newly elected ANUWFC committee, with lots of fresh new faces, met for the first time to plan for the 2021 Season.

It was clear to us the COVID-19 pandemic was not behind us yet, and as we planned for the season, at the front of our minds was the belief we had to maximise our players' time on the fields as much as we could. Little did we know it would be La Niña (and the wet weather it brings) as well as COVID-19 that would cut our 2021 Season short!

In this planning session it was also clear to us we needed to do more for our players off the field, as our member's overall enjoyment and wellbeing remained our focus. We laid out an exciting events calendar and spoke about the feedback we had received in the previous year via the End-of-Year survey (hint: if you still haven't completed the 2021 survey, here's the link: <https://forms.gle/GctNPo5qWXkzZ2WZA>)

For this reason we booked ANU fields to run fun football days for members very early in the year. During January and February, we hosted friendlies, social games, mini games, 'come and have a kick days' etc. We also participated in the Capital Football Pre-Season Competition, taking home the Heather Reid Trophy after an exciting final against Majura FC. We wanted you to feel connected to your club, to your sport, and to your mates throughout summer after a difficult and frustrating year.

## **COACHES**

We were lucky to see the return of some of our amazing coaches from the previous season (Simon Whiting, Richard Wise, Rob Illingworth and Peter Muradzikwa,) but grateful to also attract some new coaching talent to the club: Tom Crossley, Hamish Johnston, William Heggblum, Ashley Cook, Katrina Ribbons, Mischa Rippon, Kartavaya Anand, and Suban Rubasingham. With eight coaches new to the club onboard, I cannot thank Rob, Rich, Peter and Simon enough for the key role they played in mentoring, supporting and advising the newer coaches, especially during the trials period.

I also send a special thanks to Tom for running a couple of coach sessions where he shared some of the knowledge he has acquired over his many years coaching professional football, including the Young Matildas, with us.

## **TRIALS**

At trials this year we had close to 300 players trialling with us to join the club. We tried a new system this year, by which we ran two consecutive trial processes, one for Divisions 1-3, and another for Divisions 4-6. While this system has brought some benefits, such as, improved communication amongst coaches and a shorter trial period; we believe we have not found the best trial system yet.

We will continue to brainstorm in the next couple of months to improve trials in a way that still enables us to have a longer pre-season but causes less stress to all involved, and it is easier to understand so players can make informed choices early in the trial process.

## **SPONSORSHIPS**

I am sure Bronte Hunter, our Treasurer, will talk about our sponsorship figures this year in her report. What she will not tell you was the amazing work she has done developing our sponsorships packages and convincing those businesses to put their money where their mouth is.

We are very lucky to have partnered with some great business, who brought in a much-needed cash influx, which in turn, diminished our reliance on the Summer Soccer Competition funds to keep our club afloat.

For next year we want to expand our sponsorship pool and create stronger partnerships with our sponsors.

## **NEW MERCHANDISE RANGE**

This year, we have also brought to our members a new range of merchandise, including some amaaaaazing long sleeve training shirts and trackies that I am in love with. My big thanks to Nicole O'Donnell and the merchandise sub-committee (Keira, Risa and Claire) for tracking down our suppliers and ensuring coaches and players had their gear available to them by the start of the season.

We have collected a lot of feedback over the past 2 years and wanted to deliver you affordable, warm and quality ANUWFC merch. I hope you are enjoying the new range.

We are due for jersey replacements (hooray!) and we hope to get new (and hopefully sponsored) jerseys to allow us to retire our not-so-loved Umbro blue jerseys for next season.

## **NEW INITIATIVES**

Closer to my heart are two initiatives we started this year: one, was the sports trainer initiative (championed by the wonderful Sophie McGlynn) by which a sport trainer attends a location every Sunday to provide us advice and support with injury prevention and management (including strapping).

The other initiative was, in partnership with ANUFC, the creation of a pool of ANUWFC match officials, who would step in to referee our home games when CF is unable to secure us a match official.

If you would like to become one of our club's referees, please contact the club. It is a paid volunteer arrangement and training can be provided if you are not confident officiating matches. All we require is a basic understanding of the laws of the game to begin with. All equipment (whistle, cards) is provided.

Both initiatives were cut short as the season was also cut short, but I have high hopes for a significant decrease of player injury and recovery times next season, and a substantial increase of the number of matches with a referee.

## **NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE**

The committee has also worked hard this year to place us in a good position for our club to join the National Premier League (NPL). We have so many talented players and with the number of teams in the club we need to expand, and we can only expand up!

Unfortunately, due to several reasons, including the season being cut short with no finals, Capital Football has decided not to open applications for NPL in 2022.



Instead, clubs aiming to join the NPL in 2023, will have to win the State League Women's Division 1 title (amongst other things).

We shook our disappointment off and now we will continue working to strengthen our club's structure to make sure we implement NPL in a way that is respectful of our club's values and culture, financially responsible, and supported by evidence.

It is for this reason that we will be establishing a technical committee and technical director (TD) role in 2022 and will open a nomination process shortly after the new committee comes in. We hope we will inspire some coaching talent from within the club to take on this TD role (hint to the coaches reading this) or we may look to import some new coaching talent in the club. The role focus, supported by a sub-committee, will be to provide support to (particularly new) coaches in the form of advice and mentorship (for example, supporting new coaches during trials, and developing training sessions targeted to each team). The role will sit under the club's committee and Executive and will advise those bodies as needed too.

### **ADVOCACY**

This season ANUWFC nominated 11 teams to the 6 Divisions that form the Capital Football Women's State League (WSL) Competition. We had two teams in each division except for Division 5. That is massive, folks! Our club alone accounts for approximately 20% of all teams in the WSL competition.

It is because of our size that our stakes in the quality of the competition are always higher than for other clubs, especially because we are one out of the only two women's clubs in the ACT. With our history and our size, we have a role to play in the development of female football in the ACT.

We increased our advocacy for female player's access to a quality WSL competition. That involved corresponding and meeting with members of the ACT Legislative Assembly, Capital Football, and hosting and having numerous meetings, phone conversations and late-night Messenger chats with our stakeholders and partners in this quest. I particularly thank Alice, Claire and Coach Rob for working tirelessly this season to make sure our points for equity for female athletes and a quality WSL competition would hit the mark and we could influence at all the levels of the football community. We are not there yet, but I know we are on the right track!

I will be always grateful this season for UC Stars Football Club's support in our petition demanding quality fields for WSL, which was later co-signed by 11 other club presidents.

I am also thankful for strengthening our connections with South Canberra FC who, with UC Stars, joined us in recent correspondence to Capital Football and the Capital Football Board to change the WSL playing system from cluster venues to home and

away. Together, these three clubs represent 33% of the female athletes playing every Sunday in Canberra in the WSL.

We have been committed to advocate for a better competition to you and to other female athletes in the ACT; and we are looking forward to being able to host more home matches at ANU and to have away matches in other quality (read: potholes or mud-trap free) fields in the ACT. I look forward to the day we can come to ANU fields to play for our club and then hang out after, with our supporters, for a barbeque and to watch our clubmates play.

## **MEDIA & COMMUNICATION**

We have strengthened our media presence and communications this year with lots of social media posts from our Facebook and Instagram accounts reaching our followers; and with more communications going directly to you when appropriate via emails. Charlotte Wen has been our website wizard, creating a more attractive and functional website for our club.

We were also very lucky to be on the news this year! Alice McNeill and I appeared on WIN News earlier in the year, with Heather Reid (one of our club's co-founders) to talk about our amazing club's history as the first women's football club in the region. We hope to continue to create a lot of content with the regional media and partner with other clubs and stakeholders to raise our club's profile even more.

I cannot thank Charlotte Wen (and Alice and Josie) enough for the fantastic work putting our media and communications material out to you.



## EVENTS

I thought I would end my report on a positive note and talk about our events. A massive thanks goes to Josie Chantrell and the events team for planning and pulling out so many fabulous events, including our super exciting End of (Spooky) Season Night.

Under the newly created social sub-committee, our club's social calendar has expanded from 3 events a year to 6 events, including the Matildas watch parties at the Hellenic, and the movie night!

I think we are all looking forward a normal 2022 season so we can have all those other great events that had to, unfortunately, be cancelled this year, such as the pub crawl with ANUFC, more movie nights, some outdoorsy events, and more soccer related fun such as social games, friendlies and tournaments.

Overall, the 2021 Committee has done a great job and I feel honoured to have been able to fight the good fight alongside this fabulous group of fierce, generous and smart women. Thank you Alice McNeill, Bronte Hunter, Charlotte Wen, Claire Eaton, Josie Chantrell, Keira Dickson-Watts, Sarah Biggins-Gilchrist, Linley Jenkins, Nicole O'Donnell, Risa Kuroguchi, Rosa Williams and last but not least, Sophie McGlynn.

As we wrap the 2021 Season, I would like to say thank you to all of our members who represented our club with pride, on and off the field. This club is made by you and for you. See you all in 2022!

Kind Regards,

Laura Sant'Ana  
President  
ANU Women's Football Club  
Canberra, 29 October 2021

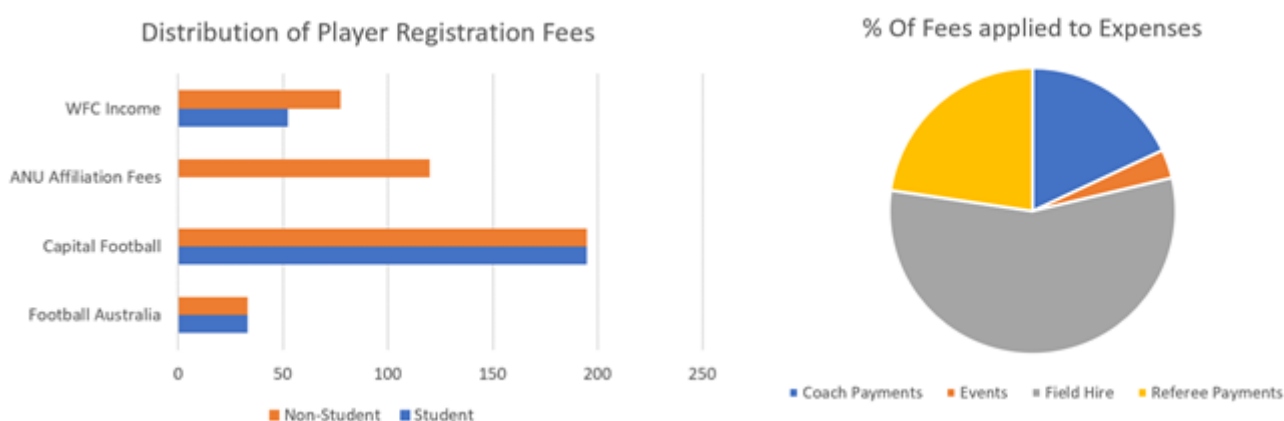


# Treasurer's Report

While 2021 was a year of change and adaptability, the flexibility and cohesion of the club has been something to be proud of. Our players, coaches and committee have banded together to support the club and by continuing to participate in club activities have chosen to create an inclusive atmosphere and financially assist ANUWFC. A big thank you to ANU Sport who have provided more than \$7,500 in grant funding and field hire subsidies, their help allows ANUWFC to keep operating and minimises the registration fees charged by the club. A special shoutout to our sponsors, Hellenic Club, Ford Peterson, Capital Clinic Physiotherapy and Even Playing Fields who have supported ANUWFC through this year by providing event spaces, cash funding and equipment which are invaluable resources to a community club such as ourselves. Hellenic Club have also gone above and beyond to provide weekly player of the match vouchers valued at \$50 for each of our teams.

Our 2021 Season has resulted in ANUWFC incurring an overall loss of \$15,727.46 which is made up of the ANUWFC's winter season incurring a loss of \$42,121.12, and Summer 9's introducing a profit of \$26,393.66 (Women's: \$19,156.80 and Mixed: \$7,236.86). The full year 2021 season profit and loss statement can be shown on the next page.

There have been some discussions during the season of where your registration fees are being spent and by why they are so high. A set proportion of the fees are attributable to Capital Football, Football Australia and ANU Sport (for non-ANU Students) and the remainder to ANUWFC as depicted below. Club income from player registrations is not enough to cover payments for Coach's let alone other costs which is why the club relies upon grants, sponsorship and Summer 9's competitions for additional funding. Please see below a breakdown of expenses that your fees are applied to proportionally.



Looking to the 2022 Season, while we won't be entering in the NPL competition in 2022, we are in a good financial position to sustain the size of our club. Our members and stance in the community is a vital aspect to our culture, future and ability to seek opportunities, so if anyone has connections with local businesses that would like to sponsor ANUWFC, please reach out so that we can continue to build our support network and pursue growth.

# Profit and Loss

## ANU Women's Football Club

For the period 1 October 2020 to 24 October 2021

1 OCT 2020-24 OCT  
2021

### Trading Income

#### Registration Income

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pre-Season Tournament Registration | 300.00            |
| Registrations - ANUWFC             | 12,127.30         |
| Registrations - Mixed Summer 9s    | 54,488.37         |
| Registrations - Women's Summer 9s  | 37,038.00         |
| Registrations Reimbursement        | (1,923.68)        |
| <b>Total Registration Income</b>   | <b>102,029.99</b> |

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Donation Income             | (150.00)          |
| Grant Income                | 7,533.11          |
| Interest Income             | 18.03             |
| Merchandise                 | 7,302.95          |
| Event Tickets               | 1,520.01          |
| Payment Arrangements        | 910.53            |
| Sponsorship Income          | 3,500.00          |
| <b>Total Trading Income</b> | <b>122,664.62</b> |

### Gross Profit

122,664.62

### Operating Expenses

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bank Fees                       | 52.13             |
| Coach Payments                  | 14,300.00         |
| Competition Fees                | 275.00            |
| Equipment                       | 745.50            |
| Events - General Expenses       | 2,573.05          |
| Field Hire                      | 44,478.06         |
| General Expenses                | 1,161.11          |
| Medals                          | 521.60            |
| Merchandise                     | 15,861.85         |
| Organiser Expenses              | 5,485.84          |
| Player Insurance                | 13,870.00         |
| Referee Payments                | 17,997.79         |
| Registration Fees               | 1,332.74          |
| Reimbursements                  | 2,001.76          |
| Share of Profit - ANUFC         | 13,002.87         |
| Subscriptions                   | 690.78            |
| Venue Hire                      | 4,042.00          |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b> | <b>138,392.08</b> |

### Net Profit

(15,727.46)

Bronte Hunter - 2021 ANUWFC Treasurer



# Team 1

## Division One Blue - Rob Illingworth



Another truncated season means that we didn't get to do what we wanted to do this year. Injuries, washouts and Covid all combined to create if anything an even more disrupted season than the last. But the girls pulled through. Under difficult circumstances everyone in the team had to contribute and pull through, and every single player stood up to the occasion and produced when their team needed them to. After an excellent opening couple of weeks to the season, with a good Federation Cup showing and 2 wins, the injuries began to pile up and we went on a poor run of 3 games without a win before the derby. After a disastrous first half, everyone showed what they were made of as a group and came back from 3-0 down to draw 3-3. This seemed to spark the team into life, going on to win our next 4 games, including beating league leaders Weston who we had previously lost to. After some off field complications, and a poor result against ANUO in the second derby, a more comfortable than the scoreline suggested 3-2 win against top 4 hopefuls O'Connor, and an impending grudge match with UC upcoming, the season was finely balanced.

Unfortunately the story ends there. We don't know how we would have gone with the last few games and finals. We don't know if we could have come back and won the tight games coming up to leave us top of the tree. We don't know if those would have been a step too far for a team that for all the heart, all the quality, and all the

resilience shown, struggled to quite pull everything together this year. For me the biggest takeaway is that as a team we faced a lot of new challenges this year, key players missing, through injury, through life commitments, travel restrictions, you name it. And we came through. We did what we had to do, we made finals, we won the games we had to. To my team, I couldn't be happier with how you all applied yourself on the training field and on game day. You should all be proud of what you did under trying circumstances. As the club continues to move upwards in search of higher level football, every one of you has the ability to bring the club on that journey, a role to play in our Div 1/NPL squad.

#### Sheridan (C)

Sheridan this season showed why she is one of our captains. After a great start to the season (3 goals in 2 games) she hurt her knee badly and was out until finals (at best). But she showed up every week to training and games to try and help the team do better, with her demanding standards, and to contribute off the field where she couldn't on the field. Although in many ways it's a year to forget for Sheridan, it solidified her importance to our team, as our "tough love" captain and a person, as well as a player.

#### Linley (C)

A stop start year and new job and uni commitments proved challenging for the usually unflappable "good vibes captain" Linley. Through all the stress she remained a beacon of positivity and fun for a team that sometimes needed a pick me up this year. With a rotating cast of centre backs and midfielders it wasn't a good year for rhythm, but Linley still showed the qualities that make her a top CB in SL1, a powerful presence in the back 4, and comfortable on the ball. If there was one thing she could add to her game it would just be spending more time on the field in CB, learning the patterns of the position, something that this year lacked.

#### Jas (C)

As one of our most consistent players, Jas is the glue in the middle of our team. Moving the ball swiftly, never overcomplicating the game, covering her adventurous teammates, Jas anchors the team with her decision making maturity, showing why she's so important as one of our captains. Unfortunately, due to injuries to other players, she got moved between centre back, a box to box position and her preferred number 6. She showed a lot of promise covering in centre back where her maturity on the ball and defensive nous made her an excellent option back there. Depending on her work next season's planning is up in the air, but should she like to challenge for NPL spots in the future, some extra aggression and more confidence in herself on the ball would solidify her starting spot.

#### Amalia

In her first season of goalkeeping, and her first season of this level of football, Amalia did herself proud. A couple of wobbles in early games gave way to a fantastic

second half of the season. With all the qualities to become a top goalkeeper, height, athleticism and above all bravery, all Amalia needs is time and the same willingness she has shown this year, and her path to the top seems straightforward.

### Alice

Alice's meteoric rise through the divisions at ANU shows no sign of stopping in her second season in Div 1. Making the right back spot her own she continues to improve her calmness on the ball, while becoming more vocal within the team. Her 1v1 defending and defensive work remains top notch, while adding some overlapping runs to her game. The only thing left for her to improve on is her confidence on the ball, trusting her passes into midfield and in the final 3rd.

### Aleka

After a year out, Aleka picked right up where she left off with a series of commanding performances in fullback. Her quality on the ball is undisputed, but her defensive awareness and covering were understatedly excellent all year. With her ability to take on wingers and punish them for not covering her forward runs, and her inability to ever be flustered, we always looked a calmer, more assured team with her in it. She always makes training a more fun place to be, and if she wanted to, she could play in any division.

### Rikke

Battling a heel injury all season, Rikke was a stalwart for us. She played about 3 more games than perhaps was wise with her injury, but in every game she was indispensable at the back, with her tough tackling, assured touch and her astute defensive positioning. Often making attackers look silly as they tried to knock the ball past her and run, Rikke's humour, friendliness and ability will be missed next season, as will Finn and James, part of our travelling support.

### Kate

In her first year playing for us, Kate scored 2 goals in 8 games (with a little holiday in the middle), while playing in both fullback roles and in central midfield. One of the breakout players this season she made herself indispensable to the team, with crisp simple passing and let's call it "cuddly" marking, Kate provided a steel and aggression that our team badly needed. To nail down a starting spot in NPL all she needs is her fitness back, and to stay on her feet.

### Libby

Before leaving us to go to Melbourne, Libby played out of position as a CB for 6 games for us. I can only commend the job she did at 5ft (give or take) dealing with the aerial bombardment we were getting, and generally covering for her injured partners. We didn't always get the results we wanted, but Libby did a great job for us and was sorely missed as a person and a player when she left.

### Talia

Despite my promises to keep her in one position this year, I moved her between CB, sitting midfield and attacking midfield. Oops. In a year where a combination of persistent ankle injuries and a rotating cast of midfield partners kept her from a run of games in her preferred position, Talia still managed to be the best player on the field against Weston and UC, two of the 3 toughest teams in the comp. Her work-rate and quality on the ball are second to none, and on the field she showed that she can drag her team up by herself. In games where our 3 nominal captains were out she was a true leader on the field. Next year I promise you can stay in one position. Hopefully.

### Georgie

Georgie got thrown in at the deep end, and took to it like a duck to water. As midfielders dropped like flies, she leapt at her chance with a series of commanding performances in sitting midfield. With a fantastic touch, the ability to pass and shoot off both feet and strength on the ball, Georgie was a nightmare for opposition midfields. Always looking to play forward occasionally got her into trouble, but she scored 3 goals from deep this year and particularly early in the season carried her more seasoned teammates through tough games. Playing on a better surface where she can move the ball quicker, and a touch more patience in her own half will make her a truly brilliant sitting midfielder.

### Hannah

After a shift last year to striker, a year moving between midfield and striker meant Hannah couldn't build as much rhythm as we all would have liked. Despite that she had an excellent year, clever touches in the midfield and an eye for a pass made her a threat any time she got the ball moving forwards. One of the most talented footballers with the ball at her feet that I've ever seen, and capable of scoring sublime goals (see her 25yd bomb in the Federation Cup), if Hannah could add a selfish streak in front of goal she could score double digits a year easily. Please stop trying to blind nutmeg defenders.

### Lisa

After a sublime performance in the Federation Cup was cut short by injury, Lisa was shifted through multiple positions as her own versatility and the team's injuries combined to kill any momentum we tried to build. On her day she can play any position she wants and still be the best player on the field. Hopefully we can give her the time to make a position her own next season, because with her quality and her intelligence as a footballer, the relationship she develops with the players around her is invaluable.

### Phoebe

A futsal player through and through, Phoebe has great feet, tenacity and fitness. Often driving herself until breaking point, there's no doubting what she will do for the



team. Her 5 goals this year (7 if you include Federation Cup) indicate the goalscoring potential of a player who sometimes seemed to want to dribble away from the goal rather than at it. If she can resist the temptation to try and always beat the defender twice, she has the potential to be a huge threat off the right or left, and also provide a tireless press.

### Ruth

What can we say about Ruth, in the 4 games she played this season she dominated. In CB she was colossal, bringing a wave of calm to an inexperienced backline, up front she dragged opposition CB's all over the place. It's such a shame the season was cut short because she was a delight to watch and for us to play with. With a full preseason and a full season next year (3rd time's a charm) she will be unstoppable.

### Roxie

After a long hiatus from the game, Roxie came back to football with a bang, scoring 12 goals in 11 games. Powerful, fast, an eye for goal, a handle on the ball and an excellent work-rate, she has all the ingredients of a lead the line striker. Fine tuning her decision making and positioning would create a truly unplayable footballer on her day.

### Vanessa

Vanessa came to us from Melbourne in possession of the most valuable assets a player can have, a left foot and blue streaks in her hair. When it turned out she was also an excellent player, and a brilliant team member it made her position in our squad ironclad. Swapping between left back and left wing, Ness showed an eye for goal, tenacity on the ball and a fantastic attitude. Moving into next season, the only thing she can add to her game is variety, as any run of games on the wing will result in goals and assists.

### Shelly

Coming back from a horrible knee injury last year (thanks Mawson), Shelly took a couple of games to trust her legs again, but once she did it was business as usual. As a stalwart of the team in recent years, she quietly went about her business of no frills wing play, get to the by-line, put the ball in the box, beg for an attacker to tap it home. A coach's dream of a player, Shelly always does the simple things right, trains properly, works hard, makes good decisions. For next season, Shelly is another who, with a bit of momentum and a good pre-season will tie down one side of the field and create chance after chance for her team.



# Team 2

## Division One Orange - Thomas Crossley

---



**Match 1.** What an introduction to start my ANUWFC coaching career, a tense 2-2 draw with our uni rivals UC. Congratulations to Alex Freire, Aoibheann Maclochlainn, Clare Molony, Gemma Saliba and Pascale La Hei who made their debut for ANUWFC. Jane Mahar in goals was a highlight after losing our regular number 1 Eleanor Fogarty to injury in preseason. Aoibheann Maclochlainn, now known as 'Bean' was also a highlight in the midfield. It was a pleasure to see the whole team putting into practice all the work they had done in preseason. I knew it would be a privilege to watch this team every week.

**A** narrow 1-0 loss to Weston Creek. Not really a fair result. We just missed too many chances. Clare Molony (as she would all year) was sensational playing in various positions as the team required. Saskia Newman turned on some individual magic that nearly got us the goal we deserved and Claire Eaton fantastic at the back with desperate tackles and interventions.

**Knowing** you are going to win based on having 85% possession doesn't go as easy as you think. A very compact South Canberra had us working overtime in trying to find a way onto the score sheet. Chelsea Rolls, Eliza Baker and Grace Bennett were

superb as a front 3 playing some fantastic combination football to help set up a 1-0 win.

Everything you want in a football game- great team goals, individual skill, and great saves to name just some of what was on display. Probably our most dominant game as the score line indicates. Pascale La Hei at one end scoring a bag of goals and Gemma Saliba as sweeper keeper at the other end made the trip to Mawson a memorable one. 6-1 win v Gungahlin Juventus.

So Cold! That would have been my second thought about this midweek catch up match v O'Connor Knights played at a freezing Gungahlin Oval. Though I never got past my first thought which was how deserved a 3-1 win was given the commitment of the team and the never say die attitude. Great games by Bronte Hunter who played at both ends of the park along with Sophie McGlynn whose return from injury was key to the team performance. Pizza in the change rooms after the victory certainly helped get over the cold.

Edith Fordyce- Croker. Most of ANUWFC know Edith...actually most of Canberra Football do. I wasn't present for this game however every single report I got back went along the lines of....Edith was unstoppable, awesome...scored a double..... Important 3-2 win v Brindabella.

Never change a winning formation. A dominant first half in the first derby of the year saw us up 3-0. So what does the coach do at half time...change the formation. End result 3-3 draw! Lesson learnt. This was a brilliant game of two halves and was enjoyed by many spectators at Willows. Whilst reliable and consistent all year- this was a game where Shayma Taweel and Charlotte Grandy as attacking full backs were on another level. Very impressive performances with and without the ball against a very experienced side.

Second half of the season came quick and so did some similar results. A 2-2 draw with UC, a what might have been 3-1 loss to Weston Creek (special mention to goal of the year in my opinion....a Alex Freire left foot strike from outside the box), a dominant 2-0 win v South Canberra, a back and forth 4-4 draw with Gungahlin Juventus. Oh and of course the superb 2-0 win in the second derby. This was a great team performance and was definitely the highlight of the season. A special mention to Nicole O'Donnell for not only driving all over Canberra to fill in as our Goal Keeper,





though for her incredible double save right on the stroke of half time. Just as important as a goal.

Enjoyed every minute! I hope that is how you all remember season 2021. It certainly has been a remarkable year given everything. A special shout out to the many players that stepped up to fill in over the year, all were immense in your performances and valued on and off the field. The depth of talent in the club is certainly obvious.

Finally, thank you to Sophie McGlynn for stepping in as Assistant Coach when I was away with work and to the many who supported us even when they could not play - Amie Gunawan and Madeleine Dove.

Thank you to all the club, committee and players.





# Team 3

## Division Two Orange - Richard wise



*“There are special moments that come from a shared commitment to play a role while doing it together. That's what you remember, not your stats or your prestige but the relationships and the achievement that you created through a group.”*

Tony Romo

A Team. Such a simple concept. A group of people working together to achieve a goal.

Few remember all those long hours at training. Those crazy and not always successful training drills we tried. Showing up when it's cold and raining and would really rather be at home. Why do you do it? You show up for the Team.

The extra effort you put in during a game. We all know that feeling, you have just sprinted your guts out after the ball or chasing down a player and given it everything you have. Your lungs are screaming that you stop! You are breathing so hard you can barely speak. But you don't because of the Team.

That pain when someone decided that standing on your toe again, was a good idea. “Well no open toed shoes again this summer!” That kick in the shin, that some how managed to find its way to the only spot your shin pads did not cover. You try and shake it off but f\*#k! that hurt. But you continue. Why, for the Team.

Special Moments. These are the moments that make a Special Team. Of which I was lucky

enough to be a part of this season.

After selections I said to the squad if we do not make the finals I would be disappointed. Events out of our control took that option out of our hands, however we Won the only title that was on offer, the League Championship!

A huge thank you to all and my thanks.

| Team             | Played | Win | Draw | Loss | For | Against | GD | Points |
|------------------|--------|-----|------|------|-----|---------|----|--------|
| ANUWFC<br>Orange | 12     | 10  | 1    | 1    | 36  | 13      | 23 | 31     |

A special thanks goes to our friends the “Evil” SL2 Blue squad. The rivalry throughout the season was fantastic. Your efforts pushed us to higher levels of play. Thank you.

We had numerous players fill in over the season and all helped contribute to the great results we had. Thank you all.

Big thank you to the committee who without this Club would not be the same.

Finally a big thank you to Boris. Who took one hell of a punishment during the season and did not once complain!

*“Talent wins games, but Teamwork wins Championships”*

Michael Jordan





# Team 4

## Division Two Blue - Hamish Johnston



As a new member of ANUWFC in 2021 I could not have asked for a much better first experience with the club. From the very first morning trials and trainings in the scorching Canberra sun every member of the club who trialled gave their all, were receptive to feedback and most of all ensured the sessions were enjoyable. This however made deciding the teams, splitting up friendship groups and having to cut players all the more difficult.

Once this had been decided, our motley crew of ANUWFC 4, led by the blind with a first time coach had a little under a month to gel as a team and learn an entirely new tactical system. While the first games were promising in terms of structure and spirit, unfortunately the results were not there, with the team going down 3-0 despite holding the lion's share of position. The team were not disheartened and continued to grow in confidence, through both gaining an understanding for their team members and knowing their role in the system, showing on the score sheet and on the ladder as the team proceeded to play out a 2-2 draw and a pair of wins, 4-2 and 3-0. As this momentum was building however, we were struck down in a number of ways. Firstly, the Sydney lockdown and then by Canberra's supposedly dry winters. Nonetheless, the team and a number of players who helped fill the gaps did not shy away from the adversity and continued to go out every week, try their hardest against strong opposition and grind out a number of draws (a few too many for our liking but points are points). The unfortunately shortened season was reinvigorated

by the slow turning of the weather and some fresh blood being introduced into the team, in the form of recruit Karen thanks to some fantastic agent work by Charlotte to figure out the contract.

This saw the team continue to fight hard through the second half of the season, highlighted by a pair of ANUWFC derby matches to finish the season. Both were hard fought with both teams having many chances, running hard into the dying minutes and showing little mercy for their mates at training. Thus, while we may not have been the ANUWFC Division 3 team ending the season with the silverware, we were happy to generously trade that away for derby match bragging rights in our final game of the season.

A huge thank you to the entire Division 2 crew for putting up with my fresh faced naivety as I came to understand the running of the club and teaching me the ropes along the way. An especially large thanks to ANUWFC 4 for putting up with my constant mid-drill adjustments and rants, the fitness sessions and persistence at employing an unfamiliar system. It was a fantastic season overall despite some ups and downs and I hope you all appreciate the enormity of the task you completed in not only making new friendships with players you had never played with, but then trusting them and supporting them all as fantastic teammates, running out on the park each week in what I felt was an incredibly cohesive unit.





# Team 5

## Division Three Blue - Peter Muradzikwa



It was a good season for our team. We started a little bit slow, scoring about 3 goals in 3 games. This really pushed us to work and come together as a team. Everyone in the team worked hard be it at training or in the games and it was really great to watch the team evolve as the season got going and by turn of the season we were firing on all cylinders.

A special mention to Alyssa, she joined the team after we had lost a few players to injuries and NSW covid lockdowns. Her energy in the centre proved to be our piece of the puzzle. Unfortunately between the rain and ACT lockdown our season was once again cut short. It's unfortunate without finals for 2 years the team and the club have not had any trophies despite some really outstanding performances.

Nevertheless I am grateful that we have used this time to cultivate an atmosphere that is conducive to mateship, long-term friendships and a winning mentality. Something that I am sure will last in the players long after today.



# Team 6

## Division Three Orange - Ash Cook and William Heggblum

**What an absolute unit of a team. All the jokes, banter and sarcasm – we wouldn't have ORGANGE (Orr-gan-jee) any other way.**



We started this year by building a brand-new team with a diverse range of experience and skills, and a new duo of coaches (with Ash's inaugural year of coaching alongside a more experienced Will). This presented some challenges, but within weeks the team looked like they had played together for years. We cannot thank the team enough for being such great people for our first year of coaching together. We are immensely proud of your achievements.

We started the season with big dreams and a bit of a different formation with our first game against South Canberra. Going down 1-0 in the early minutes, drawing 1-1 at half time and struggling against some strong players, the team came together and implemented the plan flawlessly for the second half, sinking in 4 goals to win 5-1. The theme of luring the opposition into a false sense of security and giving the coaches a heart attack was Organge's motto. 2-0 down at half time? No problem for Organge! Our winning ways continued until we came up against second and third of the ladder in the middle of the season. A close loss to Canberra City, and a solid loss to Cooma helped us to see some of our challenges. We set about implementing changes to strengthen the team and play, with some shuffling of positions, new

focusses for improvement, and some new tactics (including a chaotic high-energy midfield).

Not long after this and to our hekin' disapproval, we were faced with some challenges beyond our control. Several games were flooded out. With no way of rescheduling them, we lost some of our 'mojo'. Ann, a player who was injured during pre-season decided she wasn't going to play this year as planned, reducing our squad numbers. To make matters worse, we lost two of our defenders to Sydney for the rest of the season due to the COVID lockdown. Injuries began to plague our squad after turning up week after week, playing and putting their all in. For several games, we had to borrow many players just to get enough players on the field. This caused challenges when playing with a different formation, but they slotted in well. Special thanks to Sophie for being an absolute life-saver by filling in for us before her own game most weeks. Shout out also to Chiara for being extremely versatile, reliable, unstoppable and (hesitantly) willing to play in unpreferred positions on occasion due to the player shortages.

For our second to last game we faced Canberra City again and implemented our new tactics (hello chaotic midfield – they couldn't keep up). We dominated possession and had many opportunities to score, but field conditions and luck weren't on our side. A lucky goal for them early in the game and a signature screamer from Bronte in the last 10 minutes saw the other team shook at our improvement from the last time we faced them. We came away proudly with a 1-1 draw knowing we should have won, but ultimately confident that we could beat them in finals if we put the work in. We played one more game before bracing to reface Cooma with revenge in our sights. Unfortunately, COVID shut the season down before we could show them our improvement. Organge finishes the season in third place, only one point below first. We think this accurately shows your improvement as a team, dedication and the effort you all put in.

| POS | TEAM  | P  | W | FF | D | L | F  | A  | GD | PTS |
|-----|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1   |  Cooma SC 1          | 12 | 9 | 0  | 2 | 1 | 53 | 13 | 40 | 29  |
| 2   |  Canberra City SC 1  | 12 | 9 | 0  | 1 | 2 | 48 | 17 | 31 | 28  |
| 3   |  ANU WFC 6           | 12 | 9 | 0  | 1 | 2 | 29 | 13 | 16 | 28  |
| 4   |  UC Stars Football 4 | 12 | 7 | 0  | 3 | 2 | 27 | 17 | 10 | 24  |



Despite the COVID lockdown, the team continued to show their dedication to the game and comradery. Multiple zoom game nights were held. Three weeks into lockdown, the team attended a distanced tactics session to learn some game theory and tactics, still hopeful the season would return. We decided to encourage skills development whilst the season was on hold with a soccer juggling contest. This encouraged healthy competition with some surprising competitiveness and a lot of commitment. Cara and Zoe put a lot of effort in, but little did they know Chiara was using all 2 hours of permitted COVID exercise to juggle every day to take the win. We loved that some of you shared videos to help and inspire each other.

We are super proud of you all and enjoyed watching you all improve over this season and wish you all the best for the coming years.

| JUGGLING LEADERBOARD |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1                    | Chiara 12 → 54 |
| 2                    | Cara 19 → 31   |
| 3                    | Zoe 8 → 21     |
| 4                    | Sam 7 → 8      |
| 5                    | Lily 2 → 5     |
| 6                    | Kirsten - 4    |



# Team 7

## Division Four White - Katrina Ribbons

---



On the back of a COVID-affected 2020 season, the excitement was palpable as the 2021 season commenced.

Placed in a new division, front of mind for the Strollers was sizing up the competition and ensuring the supplies of strapping tape held up. Kicking around in the back of our minds was fitness levels, hope that muscle memory would kick in for some fancy footwork, and whether a warm up is *really* necessary.

A couple of new additions joined the team, with many familiar faces providing a warm welcome.

The season started strongly, with some close wins and some very not close wins. It took until Round 7 for the Strollers to see their first 'non-win', with a hard-fought draw. At this point we were the only team in the division not to have suffered a loss. Thankfully, season losses were minimal and the moral high-ground was maintained during all of them (which is really all that counts).

Experience often beat youth and hope in our games, with several teams thinking they had our number prior to kick-off. They were quickly shown that these old dogs didn't need new tricks when we had [REDACTED] collective years of experience to draw upon.



Never ones to complain, the Strollers gallantly battled through a wet season, inconsistent and invisible referees, and pitches that looked like they'd been maintained by distracted toddlers with a penchant for muddy holes. The back end of the season saw a few impressive injuries, but no wane in determination, team spirit, or 'supportive' commentary from the sidelines.

Unfortunately our friend Miss Rona reared her ugly head for a second wave, forcing the abandonment of the season before washed out games could be replayed and finals could be contested. At the point of abandonment, the Strollers were fourth on the ladder, a measly four points from first. We were also the only team to have beaten first place, leading us to conclude that an exciting finals series was in store.

#### Season stats:

- Wins: 7 | Draws: 2 | Losses: 2
- Closest win: 5-4 vs Yass
- Biggest blow out: 11-0 win vs Tuggeranong
- Leading goal scorers:  
Sarah Everett (17) and Holly Burke (11)

#### Overall ratings:

- Teamwork: 14/10
- Banter: 12/10
- Fitness by the end of the season: 6/10
- Post-match drinks: 7/10
- 'Robust discussions' with referees: 11/10
- Quality of bruises obtained: 15/10



# Team 8

## Division Four Blue - Simon Whiting



With the turmoil of last season behind us and surviving selections, we came into preseason ready to build on the unfinished business from last season. Sadly our fun fellow Div 4 coach from last season decided to retire (Sundeeep), however, we gained from the club's past with a new Div 4 coach who was barely out of nappies last time he was part of the club (Mischa, son of my club coaching mentor, Clive) as well as the rebirth of the Strollers.

And with the excitement of potentially two sets of Div 4 club derbies, we buddied up with Mischa's team at training throughout preseason so we were both well prepared ... particularly for the anticipated derbies against the high pedigree of the Strollers. Little did we know that the first derby would be, on paper, between us and Mischa's team for the final spot in Div 4 as Capital Football revamped the competition with us just edging out Mischa's team on a countback.

With all that now behind us we looked forward to our first game ... against the Strollers! Our tactics were sorted (youth and speed) and with a fully fit and excited squad we hit the Strollers like a whirlwind, putting three past them before they knew it (though Holly the Menace did pull one back). As we approached the 30-minute

mark, the game had opened up into a thrilling end-to-end full field tournament before our golden boot from last year went down with a kneecap wedged in a sickening unnatural position. And while Ellen played her magical green whistle for the next three hours to dreams of owning a house and a dog while waiting for an Uber to hospital, the great first derby ended in a “to be continued”.

This disappointingly traumatic start to the season rattled us as we struggled through a number of draws against weaker teams while we tried to re-organise our attacking structure now that Josie had lost her striking partner. Eventually draws started to turn to wins with Caitlin stepping up with an exciting hat-trick on her scoring debut. We had our striking pair back and the team re-found their mojo. We won five of the next six games with the one loss to BelSouth being due to some slick set plays by them even though we were the more dominant team.

From a Capital Football perspective the comp would seem balanced - with us putting a combined fourteen goals past UC and Tuggers while Yass put ten past us on an uncharacteristically disorganised day (though their various ex-Premis players probably had a big hand in the result. Bloody Redbacks!).

And as we approached the end of the first round of the season before splitting into the “Cup” and “Plate” groups, and us seeming to be back into our stride, the wash-outs started and other turmoil (such as Kirsten seeming to have caught Havana syndrome) came into play. Still, we did enough to finish in the top half of the ladder and secure a spot in the “Cup” group with the Strollers.

In what had been a long fragmented season, we struggled to regain our form for the first two rounds of the “Cup” with close losses before COVID decided to come into play, locking down the comp and ending the season before we could get started again.

Still we are happy to have had any season at all and there were so many highlights, particularly:

- Training in sleet and gales – the desire of players to play any football at all always meant training sessions were always well attended.
- Caitlin’s hat-trick scoring debut – definitely deserving of the team’s Most Improved award in stepping up from a career defender to ruthless striker and filling the very sad loss of Ellen.
- Strollers derby rematch at AIS – and although we went down 0 -2 (or 3 – 3 on aggregate if we take the first attempt into consideration). The buzz around the team of playing an awesome derby on such a magnificent field at night still makes me smile, particularly the excitement of having world class change rooms with our own spots for our kit and pull-out benches to help us with putting our boots on (very fancy).



From a consistency perspective, Amber was deserving of this year's Players' Player award. Although quiet and unassuming, Amber's tireless efforts in the middle of the field saw her nearly always feature in the top three votes on the day, often taking out top spot. From an opposition perspective, she was like a ninja, silently appearing from nowhere to cut off their attack and quickly transition the ball into our forward line.

Also a big shout out to Josie. From being a sounding board all season, to hosting team tactic nights at her place with her dozens of cats, to making awesome team scrunchies that my daughter wears to bed every night – her commitment to ensuring the best for both team and club is well deserving of Coach's award this season.

And finally a big thank you to Mischa and his team. Being able to train with such a positive coach and wonderful team made for an even more enjoyable season.

Season stats were:

- 5th from 12 teams in regular comp (just behind the Strollers) with 6 wins, 1 draw, 4 losses and 1 washout
- 6th from 6 teams in the Cup with 2 losses and 3 games cancelled due to lockdown
- We finished with a positive goal difference (+2)
- Most games were decided by 2 or less goals
- Josie improved on last season's runners up to take out golden boot averaging a goal a game
- Caitlin assisting in the scoring role, averaging a goal every two games, with Laura and Kiara also assisting with an average of a goal every three games each.
- Washouts and lockdowns cancelled a third of the season(again)

For what has been another disruptive year, this season and this team have again been the highlight. But with the season coming to a premature close and the various disruptions throughout, things again seem unfinished. So bring on 2022 and hopefully third time lucky with bringing home some silverware (or at least having a full season).

# Team 9

## Division Five Orange - Mischa Rippon

---

This squad, with its many names (Mimosas? Scooters? Zesty?) and many injuries, has a lot to be proud of this year. Our season started strong, with a new coach and half a squad of new players, eager to learn how to play together and have fun on the pitch.

Our first game was a good one - despite the one-nil loss against Woden Valley, we performed well and created more chances. The sense of excitement after the game when we realised what we were capable of is one of many highlights this season. We went on to prove it in our next game, against O'Connor Knights, with a hat trick from Emmanuelle and a goal from Monica.

As the season progressed, we won a few, and lost a few, and while at times it was disheartening, this team should take great pride in that it never suppressed our spirit. A few notable games include our 3-2 win against Belsouth, who were top of the table at the time, and arguably our best game; and our 4-0 defeat to Lanyon, in which many of our players suffered repeated and flagrant fouls, yet kept their cool and stood their ground.

Due to washed out games and the big bad virus, we technically only played on 9 of the 18 game days in our season. Instead of lamenting the loss of play time, there's lots to celebrate about what we did have. This team boasts having three great goalkeepers in its ranks - Bec, Charlotte, and Catie - all skilled, unshakeable, supportive, and the heart of our games; a fearless backline - Olivia, Charlotte, Ginni, Claire, Keira - whose heroic feats were often the highlights of the game; a cutting midfield - Mia, Jess, Amber - with footwork and passes so good it's often difficult to concentrate on one's own role in the game; a ruthless attack - Zoe, Emmanuelle, Monica, Eva, Saff, Marty, Anna - whose speed, determination, and at times terrifying kicks were the bane of many opposition's days; and of course, our coach - Mischa - who was kind, attentive to what we wanted to learn, and fostered a positive environment for the team that made it so easy for us to play in. This captain is proud to share the field with these people.

Looking forward to a new (and hopefully uninterrupted) season next year!

- Connor



It's sad to see any soccer season cut short, but it was especially sad this year, as it meant I didn't get as much time coaching this wonderful squad. I'm very grateful for the time that we did have, however, and blessed that my first season coaching was with a team that was welcoming, helpful, and had a great attitude - towards each other and towards the game.

Whether it was catching me up on the fabled rivalry between our team and Belwest, having Matildas viewing parties, or just cheering on the orange blurs on the pitch, I had a great time, and I'm sure the rest of the team did too.

A big thank you to the whole team, as well as everyone that filled in for us over the season, and also to Simon and the 4s squad, for playing a large role in our comradery and training this year. Thanks for a great season, and I hope to see everyone back next year!

- Mischa





# Team 10

## Division Six Orange - Kartavaya Anand



Joining ANUWFC and coaching the div 6 team has been the greatest decision I could have ever made. I have learned so much over the last few months and if it's even possible I've fallen deeper in love with soccer. With so much to write about I really don't know where to begin. Perhaps it is best to start from the beginning of the season.

I would like to thank Alice and Charlotte for helping me get my footing at the beginning of the season, they are absolute gems!! I think every coach can agree that the selection process is the toughest part of the season since it's heart-breaking to decide who stays and who leaves the team but fortunately for Suban and me, we didn't have to face any of that and could welcome everyone with open arms..... Thank you coaches for letting all these incredible players go, we were there to catch them.

Training sessions with the Fireflies have always been fun. As much as I'd like to take credit for it and say that it was due to my precisely set up cones (IKR what fun!!) I think Carolyn and Emma's stories about naked patients and spiked proteins stole the show. Whether it was tipsy training or gelato at Messina, the team always had each

others' back and managed to cheer anyone who had a below-average day and that's one of the many reasons I'm so glad to have coached such a wonderful bunch of players.

I think we started off a bit shaky, only because players weren't used to their positions, and I hadn't made up my mind with our formation but once we found our groove with 3-4-3 we really picked up our game and I was pretty confident that we could end up in the top 4 teams. I know I've pushed players hard during training sessions but only because of the immense talent they possess. The amount of growth all the div 6 players have shown through the season is incredible and it's made every second of coaching worth it.

The top moments throughout the season must include Gemma's incredibly well-timed slide tackles, Frances' absolute sitter, and Ruby yelling back at me to shut up on the sidelines. But in all seriousness, without a doubt, our best game was our last game against Yass FC where everyone played their best game of the season. I have been playing for over 10 years, and I can say without a doubt I have never experienced the incredulous amount of joy I felt from the sidelines when the whistle blew, and we won 1-0 (Shoutout to Iris who gave it her 110% that game). I think the only truly sad moments were when we had to see wonderful players like Chips, Jes, and Jo hop-off injured. I wish to see them back into full fitness and hope to get to play with or coach them again.

It breaks my heart to know that some of you are leaving Canberra. I would like to wish each one of you the very best and hope that you never stop playing soccer. I had a blast of a season and I hope you all did too. I know you're sick and tired of my never-ending coaching tips but hey y'all don't call me Coach Karta/Carter for no reason. So here are some final words of advice - Don't be afraid to be crazy on the field and try out new things, that's when we have the most fun. Warning: Keep in mind these are words from a div 6 coach, not a div 1 coach, follow at your own risk. I'd love to see everyone next season!





# Team 11

## Division Six Blue - Suban Rubasingham

---

2021 Football promised so much after a shortened 2020 football season. With vaccine rollouts and zero cases in Australia, everyone was excited to get back on the pitch.

After an intensive skills based trials process our team was created and ready to take on Division 6, even with a first time coach. The team came together with a mix of first time and more experienced players, we worked on gelling the team with social events and games vs the other ANU Div 6 team. The camaraderie amongst the team was there as picnics were organized after games, as the players got to know each other.

After multiple games vs the other ANU Div 6 team in training, obviously our first round would also end up being against them, and despite the loss we reminded ourselves it didn't matter who won the 1st game of the season, only the last.

Our season got off to a slow start. A few early losses put us on the back foot to qualify for top 4. As other teams seemed happy to hoof the ball over our backline and make it into a running race. Our team was keen to pass the ball around and work it forward.

We set up our backline a little deeper and as our team's skills continued to improve, midway through the season it started to click, we won 4 and drew 1 game in a 5 game stretch. Unfortunately as we wanted this unbeaten run to continue, the news broke that there was covid case in the ACT. Straight away Midway through the season became the end of the season.

The players' camaraderie was still there though and the players organised zoom chats instead of training, while everyone hoped for a restart of the season that never came.

There were plenty of memorable moments.

- Our first win including Annabelle's amazing save 1 on 1 in the final minutes to get us the win.
- On a cold Saturday morning in Canberra, multiple cars were not starting, leading to our squad dwindling by 4 players on the day of the game.
- Beating a team 5-0 with 10 players (in a game we ended with 8 players due to an injury and someone needing to leave early)

- Beating the 2nd placed team 3-2 in what ended up being our last game after they beat us 0-4 in round 2. Which came with an incredible comeback from 1-2 down in the last 10 mins.

On a personal note, for my first season coaching a team, I was very lucky to have a great group of players to coach. I hope everyone came away keen to play again next season and I'd like to thank them for a very enjoyable coaching experience.

