ANUWFC FULL TIME







2020 was a season that not many of us will soon forget. In February, we had to live through face mask shortages due to the omnipresent smoke blanketing Canberra from the devastating fires. A few months later we were in the same boat, this time because we faced a pandemic, the first in many of our lifetimes. Our time in isolation was difficult for everyone, but every member of our club saw the challenge and made it through. Now is a time to celebrate and reflect on what 2020 meant for ANUWFC.

The season started with a lot of hope and aspiration. Even before trials started, the committee was hard at work. We had great engagement with all our committee members and started planning out the year, and also started looking into the more distant future as well. We had high hopes for the club this year, and as our player interest really ramped up we set ourselves a lofty goal: 10 teams, up from seven in 2019. Our club has been steadily growing over the last few years, and this time we wanted to be really ambitious. We were really excited to bring back the 'Strollers' non-training team. Being able to support women who want to get back on the field but have not been able to was something we wanted to get behind. As always, trials are a bit difficult for everyone, especially our incredibly

dedicated coaches who have the unenviable challenge of assessing dozens of players and finding fits for their teams. This year in our coaching crew we had Rob, returning from a successful 2019 to continue dominating the competition; Stu, who eagerly took up the challenge of coaching our second division one team; Chris, who swooped in late to save us from having an uncoached team who ended up getting pushed up to division one as well; Rich, who like a saint was managing three teams worth of people for the majority of trials; Peter, who came in during the chaos of trials but still managed to pick up with his team after we returned from isolation; Sundeep, who passionately keeps proving that Zesty will never quit; Simon, our longest tenured coach who somehow has been juggling coaching not only a team at ANUWFC but also his son's team as well; and last but certainly not least, Charlotte and Karen, who incredibly took their first leap into coaching this year, while still playing at a high level. We are always so appreciative of our coaches, and the work you all put in this year was immense. Shout out as well to Michael who helped us at the beginning of the year with trials before going overseas. Thank you to all our coaches for your continued support of the club!

Once trials were finally wrapped up, instead of getting down to the preseason

we went into season postponement due to COVID-19. This was obviously extremely disappointing for everyone. During this time the committee kept working behind the scenes, keeping in contact with Capital Football, working on COVID plans for our eventual return, and figuring out how the resumed season would work. We also hosted our first ever virtual trivia night, which was a great night that drew us back together as a club even while we were still separated.

When we were given the go ahead to resume the season, we ended up losing too many players and had to drop back to nine teams instead of 10, however this was still our biggest year yet! We experienced some disappointment around team nominations, however the affected team showed great perseverance, and we are really happy that you stuck around and had yourselves a season anyway. While there was no ladder or finals, many of our teams remained competitive, and I think that generally most people were just happy to be on the pitch again.

All the planning and work behind the scenes would not have been possible without all our dedicated committee members. This year we were extremely fortunate to have a really engaged and enthusiastic group of people working to make the club better. I would like to really extend my appreciation to all our committee members: Alice, Amber, Jess, Josie, Kat, Linley, Nicole and Sarah. Without your tireless efforts, we would not have gotten all our players registered, we would not have trivia night, our raffle or even our Presentation Night, our COVID plans would not have been up to scratch, our coaches and teams would not have gotten their jerseys and kits. I am thrilled that so many of you are keen to return next year to continue all the great work from 2020 and make things even better.

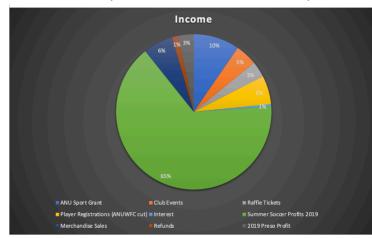
My biggest thanks of all go to my fellow Executive Committee members. Claire was our newcomer this year, and even though Treasurer is not often the most desired role, she took it on like an absolute champ and really strove to make positive impacts in everything. Her dedication extended from becoming an elected member of the ANU Sport Board, to dialing into a committee meeting from her workplace. Charlotte not only took up the Secretary helm again, but also took up coaching for the first time ever while also being a division one player. This level of commitment is not for the weak hearted, and Charlotte has proven she is anything but. Finally Laura, who took up VP, but regardless of what role she takes on will always pour her soul into the club. I definitely leaned on Laura a lot in my two years as President, and will always be thankful for her support. A club doesn't run itself, and the contributions of the Exec cannot be understated.

Lastly, a huge thank you to you, all our players. Our club exists so that players like yourselves can play and enjoy football. All of us try our best to make our teams inclusive, competitive and fun, and our club would not be as great as it is without all of you. Especially this year, you have all shown your dedication to the game, your teams and the club, and this season could only happen because all of you wanted to be here. Your resilience through this trying year is absolutely admirable. Now that 2020 is nearly behind us, let's start looking towards a better 2021.

Rosa Newton-Walters ANUWFC President

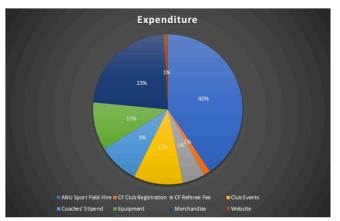


When I became treasurer last year as a slightly tipsy 18 year old I honestly thought that it couldn't be that hard! I was quickly proven wrong as I was thrown straight into Summer Soccer which as always was a huge success for the club and we ended making \$33 111.31 up from \$32 000 in 2018 and \$25 000 in 2017. From there it was straight into sponsorships and we were fortunate enough to renew our partnership with the Hellenic Club. Then it was into trials and starting to get registration sorted before the season came to a halt! We had a few months of nothing, and we released that it would be a tough financial year for the club with fewer club events, fewer fundraisers, reduced income off registrations and the grant from ANU Sport reduced by \$5000. Despite that our expenditure never stopped, with field hire at ANU at a record high of over \$11 000 up by \$4000 from 2019 and up \$7000 from 2018. However, despite that we had a huge success in our raffle and merchandise sales both dramatically increased from the past two years.



Overall in the winter season ANUWFC made a \$9 906.95 loss, but including the 2019 summer soccer profits we made a \$23 204.36 profit.

Income	2020
ANU Sport Grant	\$ 4,856.00
Club Events	\$ 2,300.00
Raffle Tickets	\$ 1,675.00
Player Registrations (ANUWFC cut)	\$ 3,009.28
Interest	\$ 247.12
Summer Soccer Profits 2019	\$ 33,111.31
Merchandise Sales	\$ 3,150.00
Refunds	\$ 655.00
2019 Preso Profit	\$ 1,630.00
TOTAL	\$ 50,633.71
TOTAL EXCLUDING SUMMER	\$ 17,522.40



Expenditure	2020
ANU Sport Field Hire	\$ 11,095.10
CF Club Registration	\$ 400.00
CF Referee Fee	\$ 1,316.70
Club Events	\$ 2,937.10
Coaches' Stipend	\$ 2,400.00
Equipment	\$ 2,837.64
Merchandise	\$ 6,190.81
Website	\$ 252.00
TOTAL	\$ 27,429.35

Claire Eaton

ANUWFC Treasurer





What a year. Although we had a bit of a stunted start to the season, we were very fortunate to have a strong contingent of returning players. Our promising pre season was cut short, but it meant that we came back hungry, if a little rusty. After a second preseason, getting back into the rhythm of things came easily, and with some strong results.

We got off to a great start. Unfortunately our 2020 season – a short season, but a season nonetheless – was plagued with washouts and injuries (how many more knees and ankles must we sacrifice!?), but being able to get out on the field and play at all is something we are all incredibly grateful for this year. Despite our walking wounded, we rallied, pushing our way through a few tough matches, fighting studs and paddocks masquerading as fields. No doubt the lowest point of the season had to be a stinging 4-2 loss against long-term rivals Canberra City, but we'll just have to wait until next year to show them how it's done. A cheeky late-season transfer brought some new life into the team, and together we all stepped up to take home a few massive wins – there's nothing quite like padding out a goal difference that doesn't actually matter. Although we finished on a disappointing 2-2 draw with UC, the last few games of this season we played some of our best football yet, which speaks volumes about the quality and sportsmanship of the players we have at this club. The highlight of the season was a 3-0 win against Stu's team on Willows which featured by far the best football I've seen in 2 years at this level. With a largish crowd featuring some very impressed high level footballers, everyone was treated to football worth paying to see. It was a huge credit to everyone involved.

Throughout the season Eloise was immense in goals, not always our busiest player, but vital when we needed her. Exactly what I want from a goalkeeper. Rikke and co-captain Linley were rocks at the back for the brief time they were there, but Rikke succumbed to a tendon injury after a few games. After that Linley had a revolving door of partners, but was excellent throughout. We even got her heading the ball and scoring goals. Could do everything. From last year we had a nearly new set of wing backs this year, bringing in Alice and Libby to support the returning Alex. Libby brought some much needed calm and experience to an often makeshift backline, while Alice and Alex's energy on the flanks gave us a new dimension in attack.

Moving into our midfield we get to the major part of our team. And by that I mean over halfour squad thought they were midfielders. Starting with our returners, Talia, Bella and co-captain Jasmine, all three really grew into their roles this year. Jasmine dominated the middle, with aggressive tackling and interceptions, crisp passing and an ever present voice. Her contribution should not just be measured in what she did, but in how she improved everyone on the team. Talia's ability in the middle to take the ball in any situation and drive forward caught the eve constantly, but my favourite contribution of hers was her defensive work in front of the back four, breaking up attacks in tandem with Jas. Bella was our box to box roadrunner, scoring one moment, tracking back the other, forward again the next moment. Between stints on the wings and powerful runs from deep Bella's name was a constant on the scoresheet. You'll be missed next year.

Onto our new additions, firstly Ruth, a returner to the club after a year out, she added quality and silk to our midfield in a way that seemed unfair on the opposition. Her work in centre back was hugely appreciated, but her class on the ball was a difference maker. Claire was brilliant. When she was on time. Another who added goals and class to a midfield overflowing with both, her presence was a much needed break for all our players, and a step up in quality. An absolute joy to watch. Our last midfielder, but far from least, was Saskia. Another who did stints on the wing and up front, her excellent dribbling and passing range added to her coolness in the 18 yard box was a huge asset to a team that on occasion struggled with finishing. Playing half fit all year, I can't wait to see what she can do at full capacity.

Finally our front line. As our goal difference showed, these guys had a great year. Special mention to co-captain Sheridan for a well earned golden boot, from the wing no less. Lethal off both feet and powerful with the ball she was literally unplayable at times this season. Hannah, our playmaker, was dropped in at the deep end in a hastily improvised false 9, and made the position look easy. Bringing the ball down while getting kicked before pirouetting around players to slide in our wingers became a common sight this season.

Poor Emma and Shelly, like Rikke, picked up injuries that stunted an already short season, but not before both registered a few assists. Both showed excellent signs and were sorely missed. Our final team member, our late season addition, Lisa, was an instant fit, coming back for her second stint with the team. Scoring in her first 5 minutes of play, her clever passes and movement brought so many chances, and her combination with our overlapping fullbacks brought a new dimension to our attack. I only wish we could have played on proper fields, because some of the football we played was truly breathtaking. So much to build on for next season.



Coach: Stuart Bryson

Top Scorer: Alice Austin (8)

POS	TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	Goals For	Goals Against	GD	Points
1	Ourselves	10	7	1	2	+27	-13	+14	?
2	Doubt								
3	Stress								
4	Exams								
5	Loneliness								
6	(Un)fitness								
7	Bad Canberra fields								
8	COVID-19								

What can you say about 2020 without grossly understating the monstrous upheaval, confusion, anxiety, and disruption to our lives? We've all been affected.

But out of that shadow, as so often happens, we shine the brightest when we pick ourselves up and get around a supportive community. This football club, and this team, are perfect examples of just that.

We hadn't even kicked off before the pandemic did, but in pre-season I could already tell this was a special group of players. Ambition was matched by hard work. Competitiveness was tempered by comradery. And teamwork was complemented by sheer individual brilliance.

I picked a big squad; perhaps too big. But I couldn't imagine the team without any of you wonderful people.

I have a simple philosophy about football: keep the ball, and score. Doing that is not simple. We needed to be fit, sharp, disciplined, strong in defence, and cold-blooded in front of goal. So we trained hard, often repeating the same exercises to hammer home the point. I might have spent hours poring over UEFA and FFA guides to try to find an edge, but at the end of the day, the best teachers were the players: I saw every player help another out, explain a solution, suggest an alternative, or come up with a new idea for formations or set plays. Every coach's dream team, and I learned so much from all of you.

By the end of the season, this group of players had become a slick, cohesive, ruthless attacking team. Simply beautiful to watch. We were a team that didn't just rely on one

player to score. I counted 8 players who scored this season. We won as a team, and everyone did their jobs superbly.

We played some absolutely beautiful football this year, and it was a highlight of some dark times. Thank you for rewarding each other when we won, and for picking each other up when we lost.

I really hope you've enjoyed your football this season. I hope you have found some joy and something to look forward to every week. I hope you keep playing. I hope you know how proud you've made your coach and your club. But most of all, I hope you remember to be good to each other, be as generous in your kindness in your day to day lives as you were to each other in football, and be ambitious to make the most of whatever life throws at you.

Vamos!



2020 Div 1 Blue Awards

Most improved:

Madeline Dove



When we finally kicked off in July, Maddie had been away from competitive football for longer than most. Her journey this season was not defined by growth in ability: she was always naturally gifted. Maddie's improvement was within herself, as she developed a confidence and strength that by the end of the season shone brightest of anyone in the team. The life of a goalkeeper is the most unforgiving of all, and it can feel the whole team's focus (and that of your coach) is entirely on you. Your successes and failures are worn in bruises and the sound of the net. Maddie gritted her teeth, dug her heels into that Wanniassa mud, and by the final game, she had become the most reliable, dependable, fiercely brave and talented keeper you could wish to have. Bravo Maddie.

Royal Heart:

Sophie McGlynn



The verv definition of resilience and determination, Sophie has returned from a serious injury to play at the highest level at this club. Sophie started the season gingerly testing herself little by little, gradually spending fewer minutes on the sideline, and more time on the field. But wherever she was, at training with her foam roller, on the sideline with a flag, or leading on the field, Sophie was ALWAYS cheering her team, encouraging every player, thinking of new ways to improve our play, and going above and beyond to include everyone and organise social events. Sophie's sportsmanship on the field was exemplary, and she has grown into a real leader of this club.

Players' Player: MVP

Edith Fordyce-Croker



Voted by the whole team on a 3-2-1 points system, Edith was recognised as our standout MVP. Edith made an impact on every single game, whether scoring or assisting, or running mayhem through the midfield. One of the most talented players I have ever seen, Edith has an astonishing gift and really made the difference for us this season.

In addition to her talent, Edith is such a kind and humble person: a true team player, and an inspiration to all of us.

Coach's Award: Player of the Season

Claire Eaton



Each year I celebrate a player who best represents the values of the club and the philosophy of my team. Claire demonstrated unmatched dedication at training and on match day, commitment to teamwork, self-improvement, ability, service to the club, a growth mindset, and personal qualities that made her stand out as a tremendous ambassador for ANUWFC. Claire impressed me beyond my expectations. In a year that tested us all, Claire's extraordinary resilience on and off the pitch has been remarkable, motivating, and inspiring. All the while, she found the time and energy to support me as a coach, encourage her teammates, and lead for the club. Claire's attitude and energy improved and lifted those around her, and she has improved her game to another level this season.

In a dark time, Claire was a shining light.

The manner in which Claire carried herself on and off the pitch, and the commitment she made to improve and develop into such a strong defender and exemplary leader, should make this club extremely proud, as indeed am I, and she is a deserving winner of my player of the season.



2020 was a season of many things for ANUWFC 3.

A season of wonder - I wonder whether there will be a season, I wonder when the season will start, I wonder when the season will end, I wonder what division we will be in. I wonder who will be in the team. I wonder what we should call our team. I wonder whether there will be another wash-out. I wonder why the coach has put everyone in yellow bibs except Maddi.

The answer to most of those questions, most of you will know. The ones you probably don't - The team name we finally decided on was "platinum" - why? Well team white just doesn't sound as cool. Why did the coach put everyone except Maddi in yellow bibs? Because he's an idiot. Why did no one say anything? That I'm still not too sure about. A season of challenges - Non-contact drills. Playing a division higher than expected. Several line-up changes. Only four training sessions as a team before the first game. Some unfortunate injuries. Trying to follow passing drills that Barcelona probably couldn't execute. I can proudly say, however, that team platinum overcame all of these challenges, well except for the Barcelona passing drill, and finished the 2020 season showing that they have what it takes to be a Div 1 team in the future. The highlight being a dominating 4-2 win over Belwest, which included passages where Belwest barely touched the ball. A season of fun - Despite the challenges and some one sided results, the players in team platinum never lost their sense of humor. A big thanks also to Richard's team who were always up for a fun game at the end of every training session.

Overall - super proud of what this team achieved this season and truly grateful to have had the opportunity to coach such an awesome group of players.







What a year 2020 has been! It was not a smooth beginning, with trials being cut short due to COVID, but as the state opened back up and the club reemerged from isolation, Div 2 began again, with the pressure on. We only had four training sessions to gel as a team before the first game, but given the mix of abilities and new team dynamic, Div 2 banded together and showed their grit and determination to play smart, not hard with a nail-biting first game against Weston, which ended as a 1-1 draw.

Before long, Blue were stringing together passes and working the ball up and down the field with the help of effective communication and possession. The team dynamic and individual skills built up over the course of the season, earning the team a 2-2-5 record, not the results that you deserved. You proved you deserved to be in Div 2 every single game, you all never gave up, and fought to try and get the win till the end. by the end of the season, this group of players had become a slick, cohesive, all-round team.

We all played some beautiful football this year, and it has been the greatest joy playing with you all. Thank you all for cheering everyone on, celebrating when we won or picking everyone up when we lost. You were hands down the best team!

Training sessions were a blast with you all. They were fun-filled and great learning opportunities, but with the new COVID rules, non-contact drills became the new norm. It took a bit to get used to. (Nicole, non-contact means no tackling!) But like most things Blue mastered them with ease.

We end the season without a ladder, around the mid-table. Despite the scoreline, every single game, every single player put in their best effort, special mentions go to Ash T, Ash C, Vienna, Rosie for all their awesome goals, especially those half-volley goals learnt from training sessions. Julia gets the mention because of your lovely trick maneuver to get back the ADFA defenders from the wing. As always our defenders were always solid, leading from the back, Bridget, Jacqui, Rosa, Elise always backing everyone up and trying for those winter runs up the line. And now to the Midfield, what to say, they were amazing! Ellen, Rach, Vienna, Dhigna playing possession football at its finest, and moving the ball around the pitch with ease. Stas, Julia, Ash T and Ash C were our key strikers, all with at least 3 shots per game, it was just unlucky that not all of them went in. Nicole was a formidable force between the posts, and was the bravest player on the pitch, often diving at the feet of a striker to snatch the ball.

But the hands down goal of the season goes to Dhigna, who against ADFA scored her first goal this season Congratulations!

Thank you to all players who filled in for us, from Div 1 Blue, Div 1 Platinum, Div 3 Orange and Div 3 Blue. We also love to thank Div 1 Platinum for being great training buddies and all the games at the end of the sessions!

Thank you to a fabulous season everyone!!! See you all in 2021! We have unfinished business and a trophy to win.





The Club spirit was great across the board and for those of us who are new to the club there was a lot of support from the admin team, other coaches and players.

Like everyone all over the Southern Hemisphere all winter sport was affected by COVID 19. For us restrictions were lifted within 4 weeks of the season starting and it meant less time to prepare as a team and even less time to get fit for the season but we still pulled it off the girls were committed and worked well together. Like a well-oiled machine the results showed. We started our game with a 5-0 win against Woden Valley and an overall stellar performance throughout the season. We had no actual goal keeper and this is something we look forward to addressing next year.

Personally I can't say enough about the commitment, dedication and sportsmanship demonstrated by most of the players and I really would like to congratulate all the girls in my team for a job well done.



After a very long preseason, those still in Canberra were subjected to months of some really fun sprint training! Peter worked hard to make sure we were fitter than ever to start the season with some wins, and that's exactly what happened. Our season started off strong with some convincing wins and great goal scoring efforts - including a season best of 5-0! After leading goal scorer Ash was brutally taken out, we faced our first loss, 5-1 to Monaro (let's not talk about that game, except that it was definitely the refs fault...). Luckily we have so many amazing attackers that we came back stronger than ever to finish the season with 3 final wins in a row.

As we were doing so well, Peter finally allowed us to move around positions and mix it up, leading to Catherine sticking it to Peter and scoring her first goal. Although note to self, don't make Dom play centre mid again! While it isn't yet revealed who won the golden boot, we know Maika is top of the table for golden forehead with at least 300* headers taken and a long range goal from halfway. Using Maddie's excel master skillz, we calculated that we would've finished 3rd on the ladder, with an educated guess of a win in both finals to take out the grand final.



"The Strollers 2.0"



A key barrier for female participation in senior sport is often their role as primary carer in their family. ANUWFC is a club proudly committed in fostering diversity and inclusion between our members. Therefore, in late 2019 the club decided to roll-out a pilot program in 2020 for the establishment of a self-managed team comprised of footballers who due to caring responsibilities could not attend the club's regular training sessions and have stopped playing football or were at risk of abandoning the sport.



The Strollers 2.0 played only 8 matches this season due to two consecutives washed out weekends and a BYE the following weekend. Despite a shaky start, for some players after years without playing football, the team found its foot quickly. Once the players got to know each other better

Round		Score		Opposition
1	1	×	4	Monaro Panther
2	4	×	1	Lanyon United
3	3	×	5	ANUWFC (Peter's Team)
4	washed	out		
5	washed	out		
6	BYE			
7	1	×	2	Weston Molonglo
8	1	×	3	UC
9	2	×	2	Canberra City
10	4	×	1	Weston Molonglo
11	9	×	1	Belsouth

and found their preferred positions in the squad, the team displayed great football. The lack of training sessions meant that each match was their only opportunity on the week to fine tune their structure and strategy. Through their strong team commitment and personal strength of each of its players, they overcame these barriers and the level of football played by the Strollers grew exponentially every weekend. If this was a normal season, I have no doubt that this team would have finished even stronger and would have become a serious contender for the title.

Some of the memorable moments of the 2020 season were:

- Leah's butt injury caused by a clash with the opposition;
- The mums in the team feeding their bubs on their bench rotations;
- Fantastic 9 1 win against Belsouth.





I am sure this squad is looking forward to the 2021 season and an opportunity, with a longer season, to achieve new highs in their football.

Congratulations to all Division 3 Blue (Strollers) players and their little supporters.





After a whirlwind selections process followed by a COVID-inspired protracted pre-season, we finally got a shortened season underway by mid-July. Our first game saw us pitted against Kristin's old team, Woden. The game was a perfect demonstration in showing our potential whilst drawing out some of our frailties. And although we conceded a goal early on, we brushed this off, settled, and took the game to Woden, finishing with an exciting 3 - 2 victory. This ability to shrug off adversity, our determination to chase our opponents down, and our commitment to play exciting attacking play was a hallmark of our season.

Our first major challenge came from Weston whose lead striker was averaging 4 goals a game! And on a muddy track at Lyneham, we restricted her to only two goals whilst scoring two of our own (despite strange calls from the odd Bavarian ref). We went on to score the deciding goal, which unfortunately was for them, from a deflection that even their killer striker couldn't have placed better (sorry Risa).

By mid-season we were sitting pretty in the top half of the non-existent ladder with the other ANUWFC WSL4 team (Orange), which set up for a cracking derby. And boy did it live up to it. Much like our previous games we put aside any adversity (not least of all Sundeep dragging in two guns from the Strollers) and again ground out a 2 -1 victory with the winning goal coming in the dying minutes of the game.

So with bragging rights under our belt and more than half our team having scored already this season, we spent the second half of the season running down the top teams – Bunda and Yass.

Week by week we got better and better as we picked off each team that came up against us. But it wasn't just our improving skills and team play that gave us our advantage, it was also our positive inclusiveness and supportive communication – a factor that oddly drew the ire of some opposition players (as they ripped into their own players).

Weather would play a hand in disrupting the season but not our confidence and momentum. And as we approached our final game against Yass we knew this would be effectively our grand final. If we could beat Yass then we were definitely the best team in the division.

With ANUWFC-Orange playing them the week before our final game, we were hoping to get a better understanding of Yass, particularly any firsthand information about their attacking three players that were averaging more than 7 goals a game between them!

Yass's ruthless destruction of the injury ravaged ANUWFC-Orange highlighted two things if we were to be victorious:

- 1. we had to bully their attackers off the ball; and
- 2. we had to show the same ruthlessness in attack.

With supporters flying in from as far away as Queensland (sadly COVID International travel bans blocked supporters from further afield joining us in person) and inspiration from Nike's "Good vs Evil" soccer commercial, we were ready. But there was one more twist – we had the unlucky odd Bavarian ref!

But nothing was going to deter us as we repelled attack after attack and we scored (1–0). Then we repelled more attacks, only for us to score again (2-0), and again (3-0). While halftime was abuzz with what we had done on the field, there was also the fear of not letting it slip as we knew what Yass was capable of. And so the second half started like the first – repelling attack after attack only for us to score again (4-0), and again (5-0), and again (6-0)! Not only had we scored the most of any team against Yass this season, but we were also the only team to keep a clean sheet against them.

Season stats ran like:

- 6 wins, 1 draw (BelSouth), 1 loss (WMFC by a sole own goal);
- · best defensive record (goals conceded) by almost twice our nearest opposition (WMFC);

- 10(+1) of our 16 players made it on the scorecard;
- almost half our games we kept a clean sheet (golden gloves to Alivia with backup by Kayla);
- team golden boot went to Ellen (with Josie one goal behind her); and
- dirtiest team (Kayla's sole Yellow card against Yass that only the odd Bavarian knows why).

For what has been a dreadful year, this season and this team have been the highlight of the year by far. But with the season coming to a close and without an official ladder or actual finals, things seem a little unfinished. So, bring on 2021 and the silverware that is rightly ours.





How to reflect on the 2020 Zesty season. It started with such promise; our squad was picked and pumped ready to take on the challenge of div 4. And then we all know what happened next and sadly we lost some of our new recruits. But we didn't let this dampen our spirits and so as soon as we could start getting together we were out there doing laps of O'Connor oval at "booty camp", which was always followed by a couple of well-earned bevvies.

Finally we got back on the training pitch and after stealing super sub Solbee from div 5 we were ready to get out there. Game 1 was a little slow for everyone, a few too many "it really is coffee in the mug" beverages during working from home but we scraped through with a win!

After that though things were a little rocky for the Zesty crew, unfortunately we lost a couple more players to injury namely Kat and Keira who missed pretty much our whole season with some serious knee injuries and our mojo was a little battered.

Whilst not our most consistent effort this year, our season was marked with moments of brilliance like Lucy's long range goals, Solbee finally netting her first goal and screaming like a banshee on the pitch, Jess getting revenge on her arch nemesis, Liv's blistering runs from the defence line and Connor's amazing saves in the goals, of course supported by Cath who added an "extra hand" on the goal line.

As the season progressed we suffered more injuries including three concussions, a busted shoulder and an ankle and our battered squad wasn't able to reach the heights we had hoped at the start of the season. And in the second last week we suffered our most devastating loss (EVER!) at the hands of Yass – nb thanks Simon's team for affecting revenge the following week.

But I am so proud of how the team then pulled together and in the final week of the season trained hard and fought for each other so that we could finish with our heads held high. With the bare minimum squad left uninjured and our star replacement goalie Marty between the sticks we ended a crazy season with a great display of what Zesty is capable of.

Personally I'd like to thank the team for having this old dog as your captain, it is a pleasure to be part of such a welcoming and lovely team. Also a massive shout out and thanks to Sundeep for his patience and perseverance, we were a testing bunch this year but we are so grateful that you stuck with us and that we were able to just get out there and have a run.

Nicole Vonarx





Coaches: Charlotte Wen & Karen Milewska

Team (Ocean's 8): Aradhana Porwal, Bec Phillippa, Bella Sedley, Charlotte McLoughlin, Sowon Kim, Diba Almasi, Emma Wiggins, Frances Zhang, Jahnavi Samprathi, Katia Moura, Lara Candy, (Laura Morgan), Tilly O'keefe, Mia Hughes, Rowan McGinness, Saye Kaeo Saylan, Seh Meh, Tess Waterhouse, Jo Taylor.

This has been a crazy year for us and for all of you as well. Apart from having to deal with COVID restrictions at the start of the season, you also had to deal with us being first-time, inexperienced coaches.

With Michael moving away we ended up with more players on our hands than we expected. This had us going back and forth every session on whether we would split all of you up into two teams or to keep you as one. In the first couple of training sessions we were telling you that you were a combined team, and then you weren't, and then you were again and then you weren't. And yet at the end of the season we had to borrow subs anyway. We tragically had to let go of Solbee so that she could move to a different team, but we kept her in our hearts for the whole season (Solbee, we are your number one fans).

Our training sessions and games were filled with joyful moments. Coaching was such an exciting experience for us and we looked forward to seeing you all at training and games every week. Here are some of our favourite highlights from training:

- · Charlotte stuttering drill instructions
- · Bec playing some sick tunes to take us to the next level
- · Charlotte selfishly trying to play with her moon boot while everyone was rightfully concerned for her well-being
- Sowon enthusiastically screaming for someone from the team to give her an 'easy option' and then proceeding to boot the ball 20 yards into the carpark
- The look of disbelief and disappointment on Tilly's face when she kicked the ball out during rondos followed by profuse apologies
- Our first win on Willows, our home ground, with our 1-0 lead being kept by Charlotte's epic penalty save
- And finally, the 4-1 win in the last game that you all very much deserved because you all worked really hard the whole season

Though this season began with a couple of heart-breaking losses, the camaraderie between everyone on this team was undeniable. The energy and commitment to developing this team remained high. With each game and each training, we saw great amounts of improvement in every single one of you and this was reflected in your seamless team work. The high level of possession based football you were all playing by the end of the season was amazing and honestly unmatched by any of your opponents in the division, even when the scoreline did not necessarily reflect this. Thus, your 4-1 win over Palerang in your last game was absolutely deserved. We can say with confidence that if we had a full length season, this team would have only continued to improve with smashing wins every week! You all have amazing amounts of passion, kindness, footballing skill and potential, and we cannot wait to see how things continue from here.

We cannot emphasise enough how amazing this season has been with you all. We hope you have found this season just as rewarding and fun as we have, and we hope we have been able to ignite or further your passion for football (objectively the best sport). We are so proud of each and every one of you and we hope to see you all on the pitch again!





Royal Heart Award Recipients

Player Rebecca Philippa

Committee Laura Sant'Ana

Coach Richard Wise

Royal Heart Award Nominees

Coach	Committee	Player		
Stuart Bryson	Josie Chantrell	Sarah Biggins-Gilchrist		
Chris Clery	Claire Eaton	Claire Eaton		
Sundeep Kesavadas	Linley Jenkins	Sarah Everett		
Rob Illingworth	Alice McNeil	Sophie McGlynn		
Karen Milewska	Laura Sant'Ana	Rebecca Philippa		
Peter Muradzikwa	Charlotte Wen	Dhigna Rubiano		
Charlotte Wen		Laura Sant'Ana		
Simon Whiting		Gerri Shellington		
Richard Wise				

Team

Division 1 Orange Division 1 Orange Division 1 Orange Division 1 Blue Division 1 Blue Division 1 Blue Division 1 White Division 1 White Division 1 White Division 2 Division 2 Division 2 Division 3 Orange Division 3 Orange Division 3 Orange Division 3 Orange Division 3 Strollers Division 3 Strollers Division 3 Strollers Division 4 Orange Division 4 Orange Division 4 Orange Division 4 Blue Division 4 Blue Division 4 Blue Division 5 Division 5 Division 5

Player

Linley Jenkins Sheridan McElligott Ruth Kravis Edith Fordyce-Croker Madeleine Dove Claire Eaton Madi Willett Aly Wijnen Chloe Kaney Elise Palethorpe Julia Manning Jacqui Pham Maika Van Der Eng Rose Kennedy Gerri Shellington Domi Zhigunov Lara Martin Nakita Prasad Laura Sant'Ana Olivia Robbins Anna Stewart-Yates Eugenie Martin Rin Rin Ly Sarah Callinan Josie Chantrell Mia Hughes Jahnavi Samprathi Seh Meh

Award

Player's Player Most Improved Coach's Choice Player's Player Most Improved Player of the Season Player's Player Most Improved Coach's Choice Player's Player Most Improved "Pressing with Friends" Award Player's Player Most Improved Coach's Choice Best Defensive Player Player's Player Most Improved "Amazing Team Management" Award Player's Player Most Consistent Player Coach's Choice Player's Player Most Improved Coach's Choice Player's Player Most Improved Coach's Choice