

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2020

Welcome and thank you to all who have come along to the 2020 AGM.

What a season! I wasn't quite sure what to expect when Jamie Wood nominated me for Chairman at the 2019 AGM. As a long-time Tararua man, I was proud to take on the role and hopefully reward the trust put in me to keep this great club moving forward.

With over half the previous year's Exec standing down, and a new team on board, it was always going to be a challenging season... and then we were hit with COVID!

I cannot thank the team (both behind the scenes and on the field) enough, for their time and commitment required to get us through this COVID-impacted season. It was a huge learning curve for our new Exec members. However, I'm looking forward to a more stable season ahead and putting the lessons we've learnt to good use, to continue to grow our club. A special mention to Brian Wood, who rejoined the Exec after a year's absence. His knowledge of club operations, particularly pre-season, was invaluable.

On Field

It was a strong start to the season for our Parapine ITM Men's 1st team but unfortunately we couldn't maintain the momentum, finishing 2nd behind Wainuiomata. Although disappointing, we can be proud of what is largely a "home-grown" squad, including six players aged under 20 and a handful of first team debuts, which bodes well for the future of the team. Furthermore, we also had one of a very select group of females coaching at top level local football in the country, when Lorraine Bowring joined Mark Foster in the coaching team.

Following a successful 2019 campaign, our newly promoted Parapine Men's 2nds found the going a bit tougher in Capital 1. The team battled with the occasional success, but unfortunately Brendon Clent and the boys were unable to retain a spot in Cap 1 for 2021. I'm sure the group will have learnt a lot from this and will be all the stronger for it.

With the Hooligans disbanding, our Parapine Men's 3rd team moved up the leagues to take the vacant Capital 3 spot. We welcomed Phil Dobbin back to the club as coach, guiding the team to a 3rd spot finish. Not such a great season for our 4th team which struggled for numbers and will drop down to Wellington 3 next year.

Pedro Garcias and our Women's 1st team continued its progress from the previous season, with a double promotion and earning a spot in the Women's Capital Premier League for 2021. A fantastic effort by players and coaches alike and a great foundation to build the women's game on in Upper Hutt. Also, this year through a robust recruiting campaign lead by Women's club captain Katie Pettingell managed to field a second team, a valuable link between the firsts and our U18s. We also re-introduced the Girls Development Squad with a renewed focus on the development pathway from junior through to senior football.

Across the social teams strong results and more importantly a lot of fun was had! A special welcome to a new social team this year, The Horns, and of course a congrats to the Marauders for promotion into the Masters 3rd division – super effort.

In the U19 space, our own Bob Bamford Tournament was a victim of COVID and unfortunately cancelled. However, the club was represented at the Napier tournament for the first time with both

a Women's **and** Men's team. It was an eye-opening debut for our young women, who had some moments of great play but hard to sustain against some very strong teams with notable (age-grade international) players. Our young men were unlucky not to progress from the group stage. A draw would have seen us qualify for the knockout stages, however, a last minute penalty to the opposition broke our orange hearts. Still a great performance from a team which had limited preparation pre-tournament (due to late finish of winter season).

Capital Football introduced a new CDL (Capital Development League for TDP (Talent development Program) clubs to play in. This prompted the club (along with a number of others) to establish its own TDP and we fielded teams in the U13 and new U15 league though unfortunately we were unable to field a U17 team. The TDP replaced the old Federation based talent centres (FTC) and sets high standards for coaching, equipment, facilities and player training contacts. In what already was a tough first year given delays in getting the programme off the ground COVID didn't help matters but the fact the club had two teams competing at the highest youth level was a step in the right direction. The club also fielded a U15 social team and U13 teams.

Based on feedback from players, parents and clubs Capital Football are looking to make positive changes to the way the CDL is run next year but the youth space still remains messy with clubs, colleges and academies all vying for players and there is work to be done to demystify and clarify the pathway from junior to senior football. This year, we welcomed Jonathan Winkworth and Belinda Warrington in development roles to support the club (and players) in this area.

Many thanks to all our coaches and managers for their efforts and commitment to the club.

On the Junior side. Glynn Paling, Junior Club Captain, will cover off the junior section but I would like to extend my thanks to the committee for doing a fantastic job, again, this year and allowing our junior players to get out onto the park and play football.

Off field

As I said earlier, it certainly was a challenging start to the season and I extend my heartfelt thanks to our club Executive (Mike Rennie, Glynn Paling, John Sutherland, Katie Pettengell, Brian Wood, Callum Barlow-Groome, Dean Groves, Tyler McRobie, Lorraine Bowring, Dan McKissock, Sam Rausch and Josh Hinton) along with Jonathon Winkworth, Belinda Warrington, Jamie Wood, Steve Bowring, Gillian Patterson, Phil Gorman, Paige Foster and Emma Gameson who provided support outside the Exec.

We have a great team onboard – but there's always room for more! You don't have to join the Exec to lend a hand. We'd love to hear from you if you could spare an hour or so a week to help us with fundraising, events or marketing and comms.

Our relationships with sponsors and grant funders was never more important than this season. A huge thanks to the following for their support:

- Pelorus Trust
- NZ Racing Board
- Grassroots Trust
- Hutt Mana Trust
- Upper Hutt Cossie Club
- Air Rescue

- One Foundation
- Trust House (Rimutaka Trust)
- Lion Foundation

- Parapine ITM
- Farrah's
- Bayley's Real Estate (Steve Andrews and Lesley Grant)
- The Gun Shop
- Momentum
- Warner Fences
- B&P Engineering
- Waitomo

Finally, a huge thank you to our supporters. This club just wouldn't be the same without you.

I trust everyone will have a relaxing Christmas and I look forward to seeing you on the side lines and in the clubrooms next year.

Tristan Elder
Chairman