

BELCONNEN
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB
INCORPORATED

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

1972-73

BELCONNEN NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATED

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

PRESIDENT

W. SIMINGTON

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENTS

HOUSE -

FOOTBALL - B. FALCONER

SOCIAL - R. BAGULEY

TREASURER

J. WALDING

SECRETARY

R.O. BROWN

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

C. WEATHERILL

AUDITOR

R.M. HOUSTON F.A.S.A.

BANKERS

COMMONWEALTH TRADING BANK

SOLICITORS

GALLEN, GUILD & JOHNSTON

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

It is always easier to write and report when things are prosperous and running smoothly but unfortunately this is not the case with the affairs of your Club. The last year has been most difficult financially. We have been faced with dramatic increases in costs primarily in wages which is always a major item in such an enterprise as ours. These increases coupled with a downturn in trading has, as you can understand, caused difficulties. We have successfully negotiated a loan for a medium term at favourable interest rate which will solve our immediate problems but for the Club to ever prosper we need your support - use your Club. We also need your support in helping to run the affairs of the Club. The House Committee and Social Committee are almost entirely defunct owing to lack of interested people and as a result we are endeavouring to carry on with a dedicated few, which of course means they cannot run efficiently your affairs.

The football side of the Club has maintained a healthy interest even if the major teams did not fare very successfully on the field - again this section is carried by a few. Congratulations to our under 17 team on their flag which we hope will only be one of a number as they progress through the age groups. Who knows but in several years time if the team can be kept intact, they might even carry off the major flag.

On the Social side of the Club several functions were organised but from continued lack of support have almost ceased. It is most disappointing to organise a function and find only a few attend, this is apart from the financial loss.

In June we lost the services of a very dedicated and wonderful fellow in the person of John Griffiths. Griffio, as he was commonly known, passed away on the 24th June. Griffio is sadly missed by his many friends in the Club for his friendly interested and happy approach to life. He was a confidant of many and was never too busy to assist, help and advise. It was wonderful to see the large turnout from the Club on the day of his funeral.

We have also lost the services of Dick (Smiley) Wirth who has been with us since the inception of the Club. To Dick we owe a very hearty vote of thanks as it is largely through his untiring efforts that the Club got off the ground in the early stages. Dick will be missed by his many friends, but we know he will keep in touch with us.

Peter Adam has rejoined us and has taken Dick's position at the fore. Welcome back Peter and a welcome to John, our new barman.

During the year we also lost the services of our President, Ron Thompson, and House Vice President, Clem O'Connor, who both resigned from the Board because of pressure of business. To both, our thanks for a job well done.

To the dedicated few, the "hard core" of the Club and to my fellow Directors, my personal thanks for assistance given and your friendship which I value very much. My thanks also to all the members for their donation for the Beer Garden. Donations amounting to \$415 were received and applied to the building which unfortunately cost far in excess of our original estimate. Our thanks to the builders Jack and

Graham and to Carman Masculle (Hombre) who have carried us for many months. Unfortunately a large part of the money raised from the Dollar for Cents sales has had to be applied to meet pressing commitments of the House.

By the time you receive this the debt should have been largely repaid, thanks due largely to the untiring and almost single handed efforts of Clarrie Hopper.

I hope that the coming year will lead to better and brighter times, that you the members of perhaps the friendliest Club in the ACT will take a more active and positive role in the running of the Club, sharing the load makes things much easier for all and does not take all that much time - we are all busy men but can spare a couple of hours of our time each week.

Whilst the job, firstly as Senior Vice President and for the latter part of the year as your President, has at times been difficult and onerous it has been my pleasure to serve you and to assist in some way the affairs of the finest Club it has been my pleasure to belong.

BILL SIMINGTON

SOCIAL REPORT

As the Club operations for 1973 draw to a close, I regretfully have to report that this year has been a disappointing one for the social committee. Disappointing in such a way as that the social committee believed that from the foundations laid during 1971 and 1972, we would go from strength to strength this year. This has not eventuated, in fact we have slipped back a couple of cogs.

Social activities for the year got away to a great start when we restaged a couple of old successes in the members' Christmas Party and New Years Eve Party. Both were well patronized by members and both financially rewarding. The New Years Eve Party continues to be the social highlight of the year and this year we had the unique experience of having over half the tables available 'booked out' before Christmas. Members really let their hair down at this show which is quite evident by the 'sick parade' in the Club on the first day of the New Year.

The Children's Christmas Party was held for the first time this year and although we had a couple of teething problems it was a very successful day. The social committee decided to restrict expenditure at this function by not buying presents for the kiddies, but to give them ample supplies of ice-cream, lollies and soft drinks. We trust that with these handouts and the merry-go-round and movies all the kids had a good time. My thanks go to Santa and his helpers.

During the football season we organised a couple of dances and a beef and burgundy, with only the beef and burgundy enjoying moderate success. The dances were absolute disasters. These functions were very disappointing results for the social committee as we felt that from the experience we gained during 1972 season members would be attracted to these shows. The slow down in the rate of progress of the Club generally (both the house and the football team) could be an explanation for this

reduced appeal. Another possible explanation is that perhaps the social committee is wrong and these type of functions are not what the member desires. I believe it is now time for the social committee to go back to tors and revalue the whole situation.

By the time this report is distributed to members, the Belconnen National Football Club-Cricket Club will have started operations for season 1973/74 and anyone who would like an occasional game of social cricket can contact Russ Brown or myself. The Cricket Club has a proud tradition to uphold in that they have never been beaten, although they were saved by the rain on one occasion. The Golf Club is always looking for new blood and if anyone would like a game of golf in a friendly relaxed atmosphere can contact Bill Simington.

It is hard to say what social activities lie ahead for the Club, but I would like to say this. If you have an idea for a social, come forward and either put the idea to the committee and/or join the committee and help plan your particular function.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of my committee and all others who have assisted during this year.

RAY BAGULEY

Vice President.

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GOLF CLUB MEMO

In the last twelve months the Golf Club has managed eight outings to various clubs. Our most popular trips were Tully Park and Binalong. The hospitality at both these clubs continued to be just as good as ever.

Our one trip to Harden Country Club was memorable. The day started with the bus deserting us but after motoring to Harden a good game was had, along with a fine meal and some wonderful friendship from everyone at the club.

Jack Faint remains the court jester of our golf days. He has been voted the fastest golfer in the Club, but it is rumoured that he LABOURS a bit around the greens.

Barry Dent still holds our lowest marker title (handicap) and finished with the most outright wins to his credit.

A special thank you must go to Bernie Pacock who worked tirelessly all year to arrange transport and various other things for our outings. Bernie's efforts met with some very disappointing attendances and a few more people like Jack Hearn, Keith Davis and Bill Simington, whose attendance records are faultless, would make his job a lot more rewarding.

Next year's golfing calendar should appear on the notice board very soon. So as you enter the Club, glance up to your left and make a note of these dates and work on keeping them clear for a game of golf with your mates. The more the merrier and the better the trophies.

PRO TIP - DRIVE FOR SHOW, PUTT FOR DOUGH.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Finance

The results for the year show a loss of \$1402 compared to a loss last year of \$994. This is certainly disappointing as it had appeared towards the end of last August that we were beginning to get in front. The drop in bar sales through the opening of the new hotel and the poor football results has probably been the cause of the drop in patronage. The bar gross profit percentage however increased from 31.7% to a more respectable 34.5% which compensated a little for the drop in sales.

Expenses rose by \$2137 mainly through increased wages costs and still remain as low as capable.

Payments to our suppliers still remain a source of embarrassment even though stocks are kept to a minimum and it is hoped that a term loan currently under negotiation will provide some liquidity to enable accounts to be paid promptly.

Loans continued to be reduced during the year and the loan from Lombard Australia Limited was paid out. The lease payments will also be finalised during the next year.

Membership

The membership at the end of the year numbers 215. This compares with 236 in 1971 and 264 in 1970 however it is becoming increasingly obvious that the members now joining the Club are living in the immediate area and are using the facilities of the Club whereas the ones not renewing their membership were those who joined at the initial formation of the Club.

General

The responsibility for the running of the Club's affairs is being overburdened on two or three people. It is time that more support was given by more members by seeking positions on committees and distributing the responsibilities of the administration of the Club more equitably.

R.O. BROWN

Secretary

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1973 FOOTBALL VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This season, premiership success was again achieved only at the under-age level. Apart from several final round appearances by junior teams, the Club's overall performance in competition did not match expectations.

However outstanding results were achieved in a number of instances. These included:-

- Premiership honours for the second year in a row were won by the U17 team.

- John Manson won the U17 competition best player award
- Stephen Walding (Captain), Bill Sleeman and Phil Culnane represented N.S.W.
- Pat Bateman, a first year player, had a runaway win as best player for the seniors
- Pat Bateman was equal first for the CANFL Fyshwick Tyre award, losing on a countback.
- Tom Allison was playing coach for the A.C.T.
- Ray Baguley, Mark Read (both 15th round) and John O'Dea (16th round) were the first to play 50 matches for Belconnen first grade team
- Bill Sleeman, John Manson, Malcolm Manson, Stan Widera (players), John Stankevicius (selectors), Phil Culnane, Phil Gant (reserve players), were TEAL Cup (U17) representatives.
- Adrian Lamont, Neville Austin and Robyn Wylucki were Shell Cup (U15) representatives
- Paul Coleman, Tony Hills, Jim Harrington, Chris Althans (players) and Darryl Hills (selectors) were representatives for the match against the Farrer League (U13).
- Phil Gant was selected for the Australian Schoolboy Rugby Union tour of Great Britain in December/January next.

The seniors need to do better than this year because it has become evident that success at this level is essential. Support fell away and no doubt this also made the task at lower levels more difficult.

The seconds seemed to enjoy themselves as individuals and occasionally as a group. However as a team they were not able to provide the necessary depth to offset losses of first grade players.

The Under 19's could not sustain the performances which enabled them to beat higher teams but generally battled well against difficult odds. Some resources were applied to improve their lot and this needs to be continued.

The Under 17's again proved themselves to be an exceptional team. It is upon both under-age teams that we must pin our hopes for the future. But they will need greater encouragement if we are to capitalise upon their talent.

The Belconnen and Turner Juniors continue to work effectively and impose no strain on the senior level. Both concluded the season with respectable bank balances. The Turner Juniors face a difficult period ahead if their suburbs are to be phased out by revised zoning arrangements.

The foundation work by dedicated Junior officials is acknowledged as being of particular importance to the future of the Club.

The Club continued to operate as 3 distinct groups - senior/under-age, Belconnen Juniors and Turner Juniors. Efforts have been made towards greater unification but these have been limited by scarce resources. However officials have expressed a desire for this to occur and they should not be discouraged by results to date.

On the financial side the emphasis has been on recovery involving some decisions related to assistance for teams and players, which the senior committee would, under other circumstances, have made differently. The senior players who remained with the Club and played without match payments are to be commended.

We learned some lessons about fund raising the costly way but, as the result of that experience, will be better guided in future. The essential lessons were minimised losses and do not under estimate the effort needed to promote ventures.

We are a relatively young football Club and a considerable amount has to be achieved before a real influence can be exerted upon football in Canberra. The challenge ahead can only be met with maturity and the effective use of resources which, as a fact of life, will never be in abundance. Every bit of support, no matter how small, will help us to achieve our aims.

My personal thanks are due to all those persons, too numerous to mention individually, for their assistance during this difficult period. I would be remiss if I did not congratulate Frank Goddard and Reg Proctor for sharing the Best Clubman award for 1973.

B.T. FALCONER

1973 FOOTBALL TROPHY WINNERS

FIRSTS

Best and Fairest - J. Wilson Pty Ltd	P. Bateman
McEwans Perpetual	
Runner Up Best and Fairest	B. Prendergast
Most Improved	P. Stubbs
Best Teamman	M. Burgess
Club Trophy	Ray Baguley

SECONDS

Best and Fairest - Club Trophy	L. Pickering
Oscar Washington Perpetual	
Runner Up Best and Fairest	G. Moss
Most Improved	V. Guica
Coach's Trophy	I. Johnston

1973 MATCHES PLAYED

	1sts	2nds		1sts	2nds
T. Allison	10		V. Guica	2	13
T. Grant	13		I. Johnston		14
M. Read	15		B. Devenish		16
D. Spencer	10	1	L. Dohnt		17
F. Miller	7	2	P. Sheedy	6	6
P. Bateman	15		P. Kelly		4
M. Burgess	16		R. Burgess		5
I. Eberhard	10		P. Stubbs	14	
T. Fardell	10	8	P. Grame	1	16
I. Meek	16	4	R. Byrne	2	12
S. Walding	9	1	B.B. Hughes	6	6
Rob Baguley	12	5	W. Petersen		2
W. Sleeman	10		R. Revens		13
J. Talikka	4	1	W. Innes	2	7
J. O'Dea	16	-	J. Stanford	-	7
S. Taylor	6	2	S. Fenton	3	5
P. Vojlay	3	1	W. Campbell	3	2
G. Muir	2	3	L. Pickering		17
Ray Baguley	17	-	B. Harry		3
M. Suidgeest	13	-	N. Tyers		7
R. Goddard	16		I. McConnell		1
J. Summers	4		P. Culnane	1	1
D. Gayford	8	11	M. Manson	2	3
B. Prendergast	17	-	G. Boyd	2	5
J. Manson	5	1	I. Taylor		13
A. Kerger	3	2	A. Phillips	1	
M. Drekovic	11	3	D. Badcock	1	
G. Moss	7	9	A. Bean		5
G. Mortimer		5	G. Thomson		5
R. Watson		12	R. Griffith	2	8
T. Breen		16	C. May	3	7
M. Dennis		6	W. Jackson		8
C. Champion	2	4	G. Schmidt		4
P. Favalora	1	8	D. Beatty	2	2