

Holy Spirit Basketball Club - Presidents Report 2020

Delivered to the Annual General Meeting of the Spirit Magic Basketball Club held on Sunday, 27 September 2020

This is my second year in this role and it's been both exciting with some new changes and also very challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic. It was disappointing for all members that finals for Summer Season 2019/20 could not be held and that the Winter Season 2020 was cancelled. We are moving into uncharted territory post COVID-19 and there will be much work ahead of us before our members are playing and coaching again.

I would like to start with a number of thanks.

Firstly, to our committee, who continue to seamlessly oversee the overall running of the club. From initial registration and uniform fitting through to team selection and coaching appointments. This all before the teams finally take to the court at the commencement of each season.

Specifically, I'd like to acknowledge Leon McKenna who served as Vice President in the two years (also U-8-10 age coordinator). Leon really is the heart and soul of the club and goes above and beyond. Leon has been very helpful in my transition into the role and honestly, we wouldn't have been able to run the club without him.

A thank you is also in order for Glenn Childs who has done a terrific job as Club Registrar and a very dedicated member of the overall committee. Once we resume playing there will be new learning with the Play HQ platform which has taken over from previous years.

Our finances continue to be as strong as ever and I would like to thank Cathy Donnison who is in the role of Club Treasurer.

The big effort of Di Jelinek also needs to be highlighted, who once again reliably oversaw the uniform coordination function. Di even spent one entire day sorting out our new uniforms and placing them in orders. Di has performed this role for years and it's quite a big task.

Barry Woods, Leon McKenna, Naomi Cameron, Chris Ayton, James Fox, Joe Egan, Steve Hatfield, Dan Van Winckel and myself are our age group coordinators. They all play a pivotal role in the critical function of team selection. Additionally most of them also contribute in other areas of the running of the club:

- Naomi Cameron (Grading, Team Selection Manager)
- Sonia Armitage (Secretary)
- Kellie Moran (Training Scheduler)
- Tammie Palmer (Team Manager Co-Ordinator)
- James Fox (Child Safety Officer)
- Terry Jones (Grading)

A number of non-committee parents also help out in many and varied ways including my wife Lydia Bakacs (Unofficial Spirit Magic Caterer) . Tammie Palmer will also become our Team Manager coordinator once we are back to playing. The committee felt this was required with the changing of registration, team sheets and entry into stadiums, thanks Tammie for stepping up to help out in a role..

As always, our group of volunteer coaches continue to step-up and fill the 50 plus coaching positions we have every season. The club truly could not function without them.

In particular the efforts of those who coach multiple teams need to be acknowledged: James Fox, Stuart McPhee, Laurence Meehan, Travis Wade, Steve Hatfield, Paul Dubaich and Leon McKenna.

We also need to make special mention of the coaching contributions made by our current and former players. Jordie Moran, Ethan Ramirez, Aimee Morrow, Hannah Ronin Black, Emily Waryszczuk, Sophie Kirkwood, Emma Solano, Chloe Smith, Ryleh & Jak Killian, Alex & Nic Rae, Lucas Pavlis, Callum Seaye,

Josh Pelosi, Aaron Swift, Erin Jelinek, Ayla Hatfield, Luca Vigo, Ethan Stone, Sue Wallace and Kane Wallace – 25% of our coaching positions are filled.

Membership numbers have slowed down in the last 12 months. The summer season saw our playing numbers peak at 440 – the most in recent history. Girls continue to make up approx. 20% of membership numbers although we seem to be losing some to AFL football during the winter seasons.

Regarding training venues – the space we have available at Yarra Valley, Aquinas, and Kalinda did meet our training needs. We also added some court space at The Rings. As Aquinas will be building a new basketball court, as such the club won't have access for a period of time. We are currently trying to find some space during this period and if anyone knows of a court that the club could use please get in touch with me.

We will continue to work with the association in the area of Child Protection Policy – this in response to the Victorian Governments' requirement to comply with their newly developed 'Child Safe Standards'. Flowing on from the launch of this policy we have appointed a Child Safety Officer. There is more to be done on this front and we will continue to be guided by our basketball association on compliance requirements. There may also be electronic declarations via Play HQ in 2021 to make it easier for all stakeholders.

Last year, again saw Spirit Magic participate in the Vinnies Christmas hamper appeal, raising around \$700 to fund hampers for needy families in our local community – Joe Egan was once again the driving force behind this most worthwhile initiative. We also continue our sponsorship of the Holy Spirit 'Carols by Candlelight' held each year.

We are at a point at the club where some longer standing committee members are moving on as their children are finishing up playing so we are in need of some new committee members to help continue the great work in keeping the club running. If you have pondered the thought why not come along to our next meeting and get involved. There are different levels of involvement so everyone can make a difference in a way that also fits in with their life.

The new Team Selection policy also came into play for the Summer 2019/20 season and helps form some framework to help age group coordinators as well as the membership understand how as a club we go about the teams and players going into the best fit scenario. I have had positive feedback so far with team selections so we are hoping to continue this difficult process into the next season.

Our transition to new uniforms has gone well with the bulk of the changeover still to occur however the new uniforms are on hand. Thanks to Matt Scalzo at XLR8 Sports for getting our new uniforms sorted and working on some other apparel items. There will be more information on a website where you will be able to purchase Spirit Magic merchandise and uniforms moving forward.

Thank you to everyone who attended and help organise in any way our clubs 25th Anniversary celebration on 31 August 2019 at Eastern Indoor Sports Centre in Ferntree Gully. It was a great night with kids running around playing the activities and a chance to all come together as a club. I enjoyed the night and it was great that our founding member Pater Matassa could come and provide a speech outlining how the club started and the early days. Subsequently his grandchildren are playing at the club which is fantastic. We were also able to induct some Life Members to the club on the night. The inductees were:

Laurence Meehan - Club member since 2004 / Served on committee for 7 years (2006-2013) / 3 years as President (2006-2009) / 4 years as Club Secretary (2010-2013) / Still coaching (2 teams per season) long after kids have left the club

Di Jelinek - Club member since 2007 / Served on committee for 7 years (2012-present) / All of those years on committee as Uniform Co-ordinator (big job)

Leon McKenna - Club member since 2008 / Served on committee for 10 years (2009-present) / 4 years as Club President (2014-2018) / Current Club Vice President (2018-present)

Chris Ayton - Club member since 2007 / Served on committee for 9 years (2010-2019) – most of those as an Age Group Co-ordinator / 3 years as coaching co-ordinator (2014-2017) / Many years preparing the Training Matrix each season / Coached teams for 12 years – (2 teams per season on many occasions)

Terry Jones - Club member since 2005 / Served on committee for 3 years (2006-2009) / Heavily Involved in girls grading for last several years / Coached teams for many years – including 2 teams per season on many occasions (this long after his own kids have left the club)

I hope all our members and families are safe and well and doing the best they can during this very difficult time, especially in Melbourne being locked down for so long. I have had lots of messages from parents longing to get back into it and the kids playing again. At this stage we don't know when this will be and can only go with what the government decides.

All the best and hoping 2021 is a good year and we can leave 2020 behind us.

Regards
Tony Bakacs
President