

## Holy Spirit Basketball Club - Presidents Report 2021

### **Delivered to the Annual General Meeting of the Spirit Magic Basketball Club held on Sunday, 25 July 2021**

Well, my third year in this role has continued to be very challenging with COVID-19 continually affecting play. It was disappointing for all members that finals for Summer Season 2021 could not be held and that the Winter Season 2021 has had stop starts. We are hopefully in this coming year getting back to some level of consistency.

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 three years (also U-8 age coordinator). Leon really is the heart and soul of the club and goes above and beyond. Leon is a great man in general and we wouldn't have been able to run the club without him.

A thank you is also to **Glenn Childs** who has done a terrific job as Club Registrar and a very dedicated member of the overall committee. Looks like PlayHQ is looking promising and should be easier for the club to manage the administration of each season moving forwards.

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 has done magnificent job in the transition across to X8 Maker Sports who will be supplying our uniform needs via online portal and will make things easier for the club in this regard. 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 Maker Sports for getting our new uniforms sorted and working on some other apparel items. We are very pleased to have not only a member of Spirit Magic who's children play at the club but also a local supplier aligned with us.

**Sonia Armytage** who joined the committee in the past year has done a stellar job with social media and is working hard on repositioning the club with the local community and hopefully attract some new members to the club. Watch this space some great things in the pipeline and I am personally looking forward to seeing all this hard work come to fruition.

**Barry Woods, Leon McKenna, Naomi Cameron, James Fox, Joe Egan, Steve Hatfield, Dan Van Winckel** (Retired) and I were age group coordinators in the past year. 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)
- **James Fox** (Child Safety Officer)

Several non-committee parents also help in many and varied ways including my wife Lydia Bakacs (Unofficial Spirit Magic Caterer). Tammie Palmer also assisted in the past year however has since left the committee as her son is no longer playing, thanks Tammie for your time.

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, Ben Janssen, Ben Laurence, Steve Hatfield, Naomi Cameron, Paul Dubaich, Barry Woods, Nathan Semos and Leon Mckenna.

Membership numbers have slowed down in the last 12 months. The summer season saw our playing numbers peak at 340. Girls continue to make up approx. 20% of membership numbers although we seem to be losing some to AFL football during the winter seasons. Overall, during COVID we saw parents/players reflect and make changes in their lives possibly dropping a sport or two or trying a new one. To anyone that left the club always know you are welcome back as we just want kids to enjoy the game and have positive experiences in their overall growth.

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. Aquinas has put off their renovations and as such with drop in team numbers we currently have enough training venues.

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 2022 to make it easier for all stakeholders.

Last year, again saw Spirit Magic participate in the Vinnies Christmas hamper appeal, raising around \$500 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.

Team selection is always very challenging, and we are hoping as a club we can go back to the original way we performed team selections with coach's involvement and input. We will need to wait and see if this can be conducted with COVID protocols as we haven't had a chance in the last few seasons to do this.

I hope all our members and families are safe and well and doing the best they can during this very difficult time. 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.

Just a final note to say that due to stop/start of our current Winter 2021 season that we need to be patient and remember that the umpiring and possibly some of the processes at stadiums might be challenging. We all need to take a breath, remember that our own children are easing their way back into sport as well.

If you honestly have a valid issue, please reach out to me personally and I can action on the clubs behalf.

All the best and hoping we can see some normality as we head into 2022.

Regards  
Tony Bakacs  
President