

## Chairman's Blog – August 2018



### **Introduction**

Welcome to my first Chairman's blog. I will utilise this forum to update members each month on what has been happening around the club and highlight many of the exciting things we have coming up.

As many of you may have seen, I have taken over the Chairman's role stepping up from my position on the committee as the FFSA coordinator. Thank you to Detlef Georg for your extremely hard work undertaking the role previously and the contribution you have made to the club. Detlef will be remaining on the committee and will continue with his role as coach for our senior women's team.

### **A bit about me**

I want to start my first blog by providing a bit of background about me and my involvement with Modbury Vista Soccer Club (MVSC) so that you can get to know your Chairman a little better!

I first joined MVSC as a 12 year old in 1989 after my family emigrated to Australia from England. Moving from Middlesbrough in the north east of England to Adelaide was certainly a culture shock. I still remember hearing kids playing soccer on Kelly Road at Modbury North (that was our home ground before we moved to Richardson Reserve) and saying to my dad, can I go join in? As they say, the rest is history and the love affair with MVSC began. I ended up playing all my career at MVSC (apart from one short stint at TTG, we don't talk about that, and a few years playing state league in Canberra, after I moved there when I joined the Australian Taxation Office).

After moving back to Adelaide and starting a family with my wife Kirstyn (we have two children, Daniel 14 and Alyssa 9) I got into coaching starting with Daniel and his under 6 team in 2010. The last 8 years have been an incredible ride taking many of the boys from that under 6 team right up to the current U14 JPL team where we currently sit on top of the ladder undefeated.

At the end of this season I will be hanging up my coaching boots to focus on the role as Chairman and to help drive the club forward. One of the first tasks I will be undertaking as Chairman is to help develop the clubs strategic plan for 2019-2021. Once it is completed I will share this plan with all members outlining our strategic priorities and vision for the club.

## **Member's survey**

Thank you to the members who completed our club survey. We received over 130 responses and collated some great feedback. Once I have compiled a report I will share some of the key findings from the survey in my next Chairman's blog. The feedback from the responses will help drive the strategic plan and help shape the future direction of the club ensuring we continue to deliver on the services we do well and implement solutions to address areas for improvements.

## **Proposed sale of Richardson Reserve**

As the season is coming towards a close a lot of things have been happening around the club. Many of you would be aware of the unsolicited offer from Kaufland to purchase Richardson Reserve. Whilst this has been an unsettling time for the club creating uncertainty about our future, rest assure that the committee is working closely with council and all stakeholders to ensure the clubs interests are maintained. To help highlight the clubs position and the challenges we face I delivered a deputation to the council on the 24 July (for full details you can read a copy in the documents section on the Team App) seeking their commitment that regardless of the outcome of this proposal that council would be committed to work with us to improve our facilities. The deputation was extremely well received by council and they unanimously voted to support the club and provide us with that commitment. You may have seen the article in this week's messenger where we made the front page confirming this. The committee are currently working with council on what this means for the club but we do know the council has allocated \$1.74m to MVSC in their budget for works in 2018-19. I've also been in contact with Michael Carter the CEO of the FFSA who is aware of our situation with the pitches and clubrooms and he has offered to help out in any way he can. The decision about the proposed sale of Richardson Reserve will take place on August 14<sup>th</sup> at a council meeting. As soon as we know the outcome of this decision and the impacts to the club we will notify members.

## **Football news**

On the playing side of things we have seen some great successes this year with many of our teams doing well in both league and cup competitions. The U12 JPL team were the first junior team to be promoted to JPL A and shows that as a club we are more than capable of competing at this top level. The U13 girls FFSA team have made the cup final to be played on August 19<sup>th</sup> which is an outstanding achievement (we will send out details on the Team App and social media so if you can get there to support them I know they would appreciate it). Our U12 and U15 FFSA boy's teams also have cup semi-finals in the coming weeks. In the league our U14 JPL team are currently sitting top of JPL B undefeated and on track to get promoted to JPL A next season. The senior ladies have been having a great season in Division 3 currently sitting second on the ladder and narrowly missed out on a cup final spot going down 4-2 in the semi-final. Our State League U18's have had a great season and will be qualifying for the finals for the first time. Great achievement lads and well done to the coaching staff and all involved. We also have a number of our E&D teams doing really well in the league and still have 8 teams in the challenge cup. The teams still in the cup are U10 Rovers & Rangers, U11 Rovers, U14 Rovers & Rangers, U15 Rovers and Colts Rovers & Rangers. Good luck to all those teams still involved.

## Club events

Our annual quiz night was a huge success where we raised a staggering \$3755! It was great to see so many people enjoying themselves and giving generously to support the club. I know I had fun collecting all those gold coins from super competitive people trying to win a bottle of grog! Well done to all the winners on the night and a special mention to club sponsors Bladez who kindly offered to cut Detlef's hair and give him a shave to help raise funds for cancer research. Thank you to all the sponsors and members who kindly donated prizes for the evening. Amazing effort by all involved, especially Alison Warner who took the lead on organising such a great night!

Hopefully all of you will be aware of the car lottery we are running thanks to one of our major sponsors Newspot Motors. This is a great initiative the club has undertaken and with the help of our sponsors is a great fundraising opportunity. Big thanks must go to the committee members who have worked extremely hard on making this happen. If you haven't got a ticket yet or helped sell some books, please contact club secretary Melissa Gilchrist (0414 586 075) and she will gladly sort you out. We are also seeking volunteers to give up an hour or 2 of their time to help sell tickets at the Village Shopping Centre on either a Thursday night or Saturday morning. Again if you are able to help out please see Melissa and she can provide details on what is required.

It's been exciting to see some new initiatives being implemented recently such as the meal nights run by Anita in the canteen. This is one of the suggestions that came from the member's survey and the response to the first one last week was extremely positive with Anita advising she had orders from over 50 members. There will be future meal nights offered, so if you can, please get behind it and support it and place your order by commenting on the Facebook post when you see them. These type of events go a long way to creating the sense of community and involvement we want at our club.

Over the coming months the committee are going to be extremely busy planning for end of season activities and preparing for the 2019 season. A couple of events to put in your calendar include October 13 Junior Presentation Day and October 20 for the MVSC Gala night which will incorporate senior presentations for our SL2, SAASL and women's teams. Tickets for the gala night will be \$95 for adults and \$75 for U18's and includes a 3 course meal and 5 hour drink package (non-alcoholic for U18's). Please speak to Alison Warner (0402 938 558) or Melissa Gilchrist if you wish to purchase tickets for the gala night.

I'll wrap up my first blog now otherwise I could keep going on and on as there is that much happening and people that I could mention. As I said at the start, I will continue to write these on a monthly basis throughout the season and during the offseason to keep members updated as to what is happening around the club.

Till next month, Go VISTA!

Stuart Carlisle

Chairman