



Belnorth Football Club Presidents Report

Dear Belnorth Members,

I am sure that all members will not forget the 2020 season and the challenges that the club, players, parents, spectators and the wider community faced due to smoke (air quality) around Canberra region at the start of the season and COVID19.

Belnorth Vision

Belnorth's vision is to be the football club of choice in the Canberra region, fostering a lifelong love of the game and developing players to their full potential.

Belnorth Football club consists of 88% juniors and 12% seniors.

The strength of the Belnorth Football club is the juniors and parents continue to register kids in the U 5 – U 9's, due to playing with their friends and the convenience of all games being played at Kaleen.

The following table illustrated the number of teams (boys and girls) that played in the COVID 19, 2020 winter season.

Belnorth Football Club	Age Groups	No. of Teams
Juniors Mini Roos	U 5 – U 9	62
Juniors SSG	U 10 – U 11	19
Juniors Competitive	U 12 – U 18	12
Seniors	Community League, State League and Masters	13
BNFC	Total	106

The future for Belnorth club is to continue to develop the juniors by investing in developing skills particular having a program for the U 5 – U 9's which will flow onto the U 10 – U 18's.

One of the goals is to develop girls and encourage more participation for the girls.

Impact of COVID 19

Capital Football provided leadership and continued to engage with all football clubs throughout the year. There were times during the early part of the COVID 19 lock down that Football in the Canberra region might not be played for the 2020 season.

Capital Football formulated scenarios of different dates on when the competition would look like and how many games would be played for the 2020 winter season.



Capital Football continued to work closely with the ACT Government as they provided direction to the Canberra community on what was feasible.

Belnorth football club had to continue to work with Capital Football in developing the return to training COVID plan.

The committee had to endorse and write up the plans and seek approval from Capital Football.

Thank you to Ben Muir the secretary of Belnorth Committee for all the behind the scene work that he has done with the COVID plans, minutes and agendas, updating and making changes to the website, communicating through web and FB, plus all the other IT tasks. Plus the ground manager role that you have been doing for two years, and now you have a good system in place.

Outcome of the COVID 19 Winter Season

With the number of COVID 19 cases being under control and zero, Capital Football approved Belnorth COVID safe environment plans.

The outcome was a shorted winter season and the focus was participation in football for the 2020 season rather than competition points for the miniroos, juniors and seniors.

Belnorth Football Club	COVID 19 Season Schedule	Actual number of games played due to wet weather
U 5 – U 9	13	11
U 10 – U 18	11	9
Community League, State League and Masters	11	9

Overall the COVID 19, 2020 winter season was a good outcome for football in Canberra, as players, coaches, managers, game day leaders, referees and parents were able to participate in the season.

One of the outcomes from a shorted season, was that Capital Football agreed to refund a percentage to the players from clubs that were registered. Capital Football worked with the clubs on the process on how to refund. The Belnorth Committee made a decision on the amount of money that was to be refunded to each age group.

As part of the Capital Football process the club refunded \$33,870 to players and parents who requested a COVID 19 refund.

Belnorth's treasure Martyn Ruddy did a fantastic job with the refunds, processing payments, budgets, junior game day payments, game day payments, organising the auditors and



I would like to thank Martyn for the amount of work that he has done during this challenging year.

The treasure will provide a more detail report on Belnorth strong financial position which will allow investment into equipment and training programs for developing juniors.

Coaches and Managers

A big thank you goes out to coaches and managers who volunteered their time to coach and manage each team. It can be very challenging, however rewarding in watching the children develop as players and having fun.

One of the challenges that Belnorth and other clubs continue to struggle with is parents volunteering their time to coach and manage teams. I encourage parents to step up and assist the club in continuing to coach, manage and be on the committee.

The club requires to invest in developing the juniors in skills and assisting coaches. This can be done through an appointment of a Technical Director for the club that is committed and has a passion in developing juniors.

Game Day Leaders and Referee Coordinator

This year has been a successful year with developing game day leaders and the success of this has been due to Matt Willington who is the Belnorth Referee Coordinator. Matt has continued to provide training and feedback to the young game day leaders and these game day leaders will become excellent referees for the future.

As part of the COVID19, the committee decided that game day leaders and referees were to be paid by the club, rather than each team paying half of the fees on game day. This was a successful outcome.

Belnorth Committee and Volunteers

I am confident that there will be new and existing committee members that will be able to fill the roles due to their experience and knowledge of the Belnorth Club.

As the club consists of 88% of juniors it is important that there is good representation of committee members who are parents with kids at the club and seniors.

For the 2020 Belnorth committee, out of the 9 committee members, 4 members had children playing for the Belnorth and this gave a good representation to the committee.

I would like to thank all the registrars (Teresa Meisel - Dennis, Kat Newman, Kayannie Denigan, Esperance Anderson and Meggsie (Anthony Goddard) with all the work that they have done in forming teams, communicating with coaches, managers, parents and Capital



Football. I appreciate all the effort that you have put in, especially with the COVID 19 season and making changes so that the competitions could run.

To our operation manager, Lenie Kostovska thank you for all the time that you have spent over the last two years in ensuring that the jersey's, equipment, were ready for collection and pick up by the teams each year and then having them returned. The work that you did last year with presentation was massive and it worked out very well, plus dealing with Dominos as a sponsor (plus organising the medals for 2020, which was appreciated by the kids and parents).

Henk Thijssens Legacy to the club

This year was a sad year for Belnorth club as Henk Thijssens, a founding Belnorth member passed away. I would like to acknowledge all that Henk contributed to the club from being a committee member, referee, referee coordinator and other roles within the club.

The Belnorth committee has decided to honour Henk by renaming the Belnorth summer competition.

The new committee will update the Belnorth members once the design and name has been finalised.

As Henk would have said **“for the love of the game”**.

I wish the club and committee members all the best for the 2021 season.

Warmest regards

George Lovrinevic

President Belnorth