



Brisbane City Football Club 2020 Annual General Meeting Presidents Report

The 2019 year at Brisbane City represented a year of progress and challenge for the Club as we sought to balance further changes in the game against the backdrop of further gains in on field performance, preparation for the execution of 2 major strategic projects and a re-balance of the Clubs strategy following postponement of our Hyundai A-League ambitions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish to thank our Parents, Players, Sponsors, Staff, Supporters, Volunteers and Coaches for their commitment to the Club and the services to the community we are striving to Deliver.

Whilst the year has been challenging, Brisbane City today, remains in a strong position, ready to continue to execute its strategic plan on the back of the biggest series of infrastructure projects undertaken since the Gino Merlo Stand was commenced in the late 70's.

Restoring our facility through over \$400,000 worth of works to our dressing sheds via the Federal Governments Female Facilities Grant and expanding our training field footprint via the acquisition and development of the Newmarket Bowls Club space (again funded by Local and State Government along with City Sponsors, will add 8000 m2 to our training field capacity and will provide a significant boost to the Club after 4 years of planning. We are pleased to report the Newmarket Bowls Club field was handed over to us 10 days ago and will be ready for February 2020.

These works, coupled with several hundred meters of fencing and netting, lighting upgrades to LED at Mark St to make it compliant for night matches, and facilities equipment replacement are part of a carefully sequenced plan we have executed to expand the club's footprint and also improve the quality of fields over time.

We continue to work at length with our local, state and federal members to plan further improvements to the facility to enable the Club to serve the community for generations to come. One of our next major goals is to undertake the replacement of our Main Field lights with conversion to LED heads at a 500 lux TV standard level considered a priority. We keenly await the announcement in 2020 of the Master Precinct plan from Council.

The Club via its sponsor fund is committed to continue to invest in our coaches so that we continue to build and acquire the best coaches we can afford. The growth of the game has led to increased demand for qualified coaches, an issue highlighted to our governing bodies for the past 4 years. We call on these bodies to significantly increase the amount of coaching courses available to Clubs. The insistence that Clubs meet minimum coaching standards and grow these is a positive but the lack of availability of regular coaching courses needs to be addressed.



From a Football Perspective, 2019 represented a year of pros and cons for the Club. Across our NPL segment we were rated the number 1 club with all Teams Under 13 through 20's making finals, several Premierships and Grand Final appearances demonstrating the Clubs commitment to player development. We were also awarded SAP Gold Status and a dual licence capability by FQ in our Under 9 – 12 segment and despite some challenges with coaching and delivery in this area, our Teams performed strongly.

The Club enjoyed record expansion in our Mini, Junior Gladiators area in 2019 part of the strategy to increase the size of the Club over time as new training spaces are acquired. Our BYPL, Divisional and Academy blocks all performed strongly in most cases.

One of the most pleasing aspects of 2019 was the movement of players on merit amongst our footballing programs re-enforcing our belief that all players develop at different rates and at different times. Many players were able to earn selection from BYPL layers into NPL in 2019 with the same experience in our SAP/Academy Layers.

It is a testament to our coaching teams and approach that many players that we have developed, and do not make our SAP or NPL sides go on to make sides in other clubs spreading the City DNA and Philosophy into the football community. We remain extremely pleased for those players and families.

From a 1st Team perspective, we continued to progress. After a positive pre-season making the finals of the MACRON and Silver Boot Competitions, we entered the Season with great anticipation. From there, the loss of 6 points due to a paperwork error and a poor series of results forced a coaching re-structure onto the Club based on concern of relegation. This unplanned investment by the club, highlighted precisely the weaknesses in the new Football Qld competition model where a Club known for its development of youth into higher pathways, was now forced to invest valuable funds and resources into this area of the Club putting at risk the very highly functioning pathway the Club had developed. Our 1st Team rallied and recovered well for the balance of the year with many of our Under 20's gaining debuts and many of our existing 1st team players continuing to develop maturity and experience clocking over 50 games in the league. This is a base that will continue to stand us in good stead in coming years supplemented by experienced players the club will bring in.

Whilst the Club WILL and HAS started to increase its investment into our 1st Team cohort over time, we continue to take the view that at this tier of Football, it is counterproductive to the pathway to see Clubs spending \$200,000 to \$300,000 a year on 1st Team player payments (excluding other costs) at the expense of balanced investment into their Clubs. Most Clubs, if not all, are "Not for profit"



This does not mean that the Club is not aspirational. We continue to monitor the progress of the B League working group and await further information as it comes to hand. We see that under the right circumstances, this league and with our existing facility used, could be viable and productive for the Club. With a seated capacity of 2,000 to 4,000 people and with 20 odd corporate boxes at CTM Stadium the economics may very well work.

We are aspirational in any area that makes sense for our players and the pathways we are creating. The NPL and the A League are not the only pathways available to our youth and we continue to focus on realistic and viable pathways for our players. In 2019 several BCFC players have earned places in Overseas European Academies at Venezia FC, Leeds United and Swansea. We continue to provide a large swath of players to the Brisbane Roar Academy at Logan as well with some Academy Graduates signing their 1st professional contracts this year.

The Club has been selected as a training facility for the 2023 Women's World Cup, should it be secured, and this will also bring, not only Club exposure, but the possibility of other significant field and facility upgrades to meet FIFA standards.

Brisbane City is also extremely proud of its Power chair Football Team and congratulates the players on their performances this year. We look forward to seeing your progress in 2020.

The Club continues to re-establish and develop links with its Old Boys and Girls through its Legends Lunch and Old Boys/Girls Day platforms. This year, we found a record number of our 50's – 90's cohort plus Life Members, and saw many of them attend the Club and our Legends Lunch. The appointment of Frank Mengotti and Mark Battistin as Club Immortals along with the great Jim Hermiston as a Club Legend provided a significant highlight for the Club in 2019. It was also pleasing to see Jamie Pherous attain the status of Life Member in 2019.

We continue to re-build the Clubs archives with the hope that one day we will see the construction of a Club Museum space.

2020 will see an increased focus on program execution within the Club to ensure service and program execution is paramount. A return to business as usual building on the base we have supported by the parent community is a core goal of the Board.

We anticipate that our major infrastructure programs will be delivered by February 2020 and after overcoming Board changes, Facilities challenges and the added impact of our Apparel provider going bust in 2019, we look forward to the season with great anticipation.

Brisbane's Best Club

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In 2020 we will welcome back Senior Women's Football to the Club via our Capital 1 and Capital One reserves sides, an addition that highlights our aspirations for the growth of Female Football at the Club. We are hopeful of receiving SAP and NPL licencing in 2021 and in 2020 we will field 2 Academy sides at the Club in our Junior cohort as well.

I would personally like to thank our volunteer Board Members, our coaches and staff for their resilience and determination to see the Club progress so that we can continue to provide footballing, community and life skills to our footballers for the next 60 years.

We wish all Club Members the very best for the Festive Season and thank you for your support of this great Club. We look forward to seeing you in 2020!

David Asnicar
Director
Brisbane City FC