



HILLS HORNETS TOUCH FOOTBALL

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Presidents Report

Q116 -Q416

Prepared by Brad Mitchell - 1st June 2017

The Hills Hornets celebrated the 30th anniversary of the club in 2016 with another standout performance on and off the field as we enter our second year of the current Strategic Plan cycle.

The success achieved would not be possible without the hard work of the volunteers throughout the club with special mention to all the Referees, Coaches, Committee and Executive who go above and beyond for the club. This dedication is the cornerstone of our existence as we continually push to make ourselves and the club better for the community we service.

On the park the first tournament in 2016 was the Junior State Cup where the Hornets submitted 13 teams which included 3 additional development teams. We class these development teams as extremely important to the growth and skill set that the event provides them. The results of the tournament are improving each year and will not be long before the club rivals many of the more established affiliates in the championship table. The improvement stems from the education and exposure that the coaches are learning from regional level and also the contribution of Dave Nolan as a coaching mentor.

NTL 2016 also saw an increase in Hornets taking the step up in representation. The involvement was not just in player ranks but also in selecting, coaching and refereeing which is important recognition. If we can keep increasing these numbers in the technical aspects then the club will continue to have a fantastic base of credentialed resources available for future growth.

Junior Regionals were held in Parkes and the Hornets had 12 players and 7 coaches represented throughout the Scorpions teams. It is the highest numbers the club has contributed to this event and with the region the strongest throughout NSW it is a great accomplishment for the club. To finalise the event the Hornets had 4 players named in NSW merit teams. Congratulations to Holly McNamara, Eleanor Fairhurst, Harrison Read and Capri Vidler.

The Autumn competition in 2016 was held for the first time at Castlewood Reserve in Castle Hill, sharing common green space with the Castle Hill Brumbies League Club. The venue is first class in facility but does lack lighting on one side of the park. The team numbers increased by 4 which are great improvements considering we only have 2 fields on 1 night.

Vawdon Cup 2016 saw the introduction of the Inclusive Premier League team for the Hornets, organized and run by Greg Brown. The club was extremely excited with this team and supported them whenever possible. The Hornets submitted 7 teams and 8 referees into the event which saw the IPL team and the Womens Division 2 take out titles and was a great lead into State Cup. Congratulations to these teams and coaches.

The most pleasing accomplishment in 2016 was the increase in team numbers for the Spring competition which saw a rise by 30 teams to a total of 141. These statistics are incredible based on the number of fields available to the club. This included 101 junior teams with the club turning teams away due to lack of facilities. The club is working hard with council to resolve these issues and hopes to either have a new facility or a second venue in 2017 until alternative arrangements become available.

State of Origin was held in Sydney in September and the Hornets had 7 members involved included 5 players (Mel Mitchell, Katrina McIlwraith, Dom Goldie, Anthony Dudeck and Brad Mitchell) and 2 coaches (Dave Nolan and Bruce Ager). Congratulations to all involved as NSW retained the Cup in a close contest with the northern rivals.

The final event in 2016 was the NSW State Cup which saw 7 Hills teams and 8 referees compete in Port Macquarie. The event was the first time that the club entered a Mens 20s team which was a reflection of the development and growth that the junior program is producing at the club. Congratulations to Brad Curl who has constructed a fabulous pathway for this team and has high prospects for 2017 and beyond.

Off field the club is also leading the way for the sport and region achieving awards across many criteria. In September Phil and Katrina McIlwraith were awarded Blues Awards at the annual NSWTA Awards night for continued services at the Hornets over many years. Brad Mitchell also won the NSWTA Administrator of the Year for a record third consecutive period. As a club we were once again awarded a News Local award for a second straight year and a Community Service Group award at the Hills Orange Blossom Festival.

The community engagement adopted by the club continued throughout 2016 with the Hornets represented in a number of events. We see the opportunity to give back to the community that provides our member base as extremely important on many levels. It provides exposure and free advertising along with servicing the direct community. These events include;

- Clean Up Australia Day
- Anzac Day
- Relay for Life
- Orange Blossom Festival
- Shoosh for kids
- Good Sports campaigns

The recognition as a state leader in our field is evident with the club being asked to present as a key note speaker at the state conference for a second time and also invited by Touch Football Australia to talk at the national conference in December. These invitations are important from a club perspective as we are able to share our experiences with other affiliates who are experiences similar trends and provide successful paths for them to follow.

The involvement with TFA has continued throughout 2016 and is a relationship that we value for betterment of the sport. Opportunities such as the Women in League photo shoot, NRL advertising and TV ad, NRL Participation review and also the Safe Sport Assessment review are areas where the club has been involved and provided input for the sport as a whole. It also works extremely hard with the national elite level by providing facilities for camps and training.

Development has always been an important area for the club and 2016 continued this focus with V-Squad once again targeting players new to the sport. I thank those coaches who dedicated their time over the period to make touch a fun and inclusive sport for these players who joined our club for the first time. The innovative introduction of Club Global saw 8 clubs from around the globe join the Hornets to share ideas and resources with a goal to increase the sports identity and fast track growth within their club. This program saw Donnybrook Touch from Ireland visit the country for the Senior State Cup in 2016. The team enjoyed their experience and we will look to enhance the relationship in the future.

Financially the club has been able to successfully offset costs and also provide assets to its members via sponsorship and grant opportunities. Over the past 12 months the Hornets have obtained a range of grants such as the Giving for Grassroots, Stronger Communities and Local Sport Program grants. These grants have provided items such as a scoreboard, PA System, GPS units and V-Squad uniforms. In addition to these grants we have also been able to secure two club sponsors, namely Mercedes-Benz Parramatta and De France Bakeries which appear as uniform sponsors. The junior program was also able to secure the following sponsors that assisted in the purchasing of JSC uniforms;

- Prestige Joinery
- Blueprint
- Ultra Earthworks
- DASA
- Sports on the Run
- Three Threes
- Colour Coatings
- EHI
- Forbes Electrical
- Gold Crest
- Griffin Air
- Karisma
- Pet Resorts
- TRG Broadcasts
- Vamped Kitchens

Looking ahead to 2017 the club has set high goals to continue the success and with the dedicated committee I have no doubts that the club will succeed on all fronts.

Brad Mitchell - President