



Mens Club Captain - Marcus Pearson
Mens Section Report

Before I begin the main part of the report on the Men's section I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers we have helping the men's section. There are far too many to name them all and I apologise if I leave anyone out.

Carl Breden for all the work he does for the club, not just with the branch registrations but with the juniors and in maintaining the relations between newpark and Avoca.

Cara Kelehan who has been a fantastic match secretary and will be very sorely missed if she decides to step down.

The coaches Mark and Stephen who do great work and I will discuss later in the report.

The umpires who give a huge amount of their time for what can be a grueling task in some of the men's leagues and without whom we could not have our games each week.

Summary

In preparation for writing this I read Mark Meir's report from last year to help give myself inspiration. Please don't do the same or you find out just how little I have changed in it. Mark described last season as "consistently inconsistent" for the men. Well with last years season in mind the men's teams this year can only be described as "serial improvers". All three senior teams improved on last year, not just in results and where they finished in the leagues but in their performances also.

Mens 1st Team

The 1s finished 5th in Division 1 playing 9 games with 5 wins and 4 losses. This qualified them for Division 1a after the split where they also finished 5th after playing 8 games with 1 draw and 7 defeats. Over these 17 games they scored 26 and conceded 50.

The team had a great start to the season, battling hard and pulling out big performances when they needed to ensuring they were the right side of the split. Div 1a was always going to be tough and even though the results didn't always go the right way the performances showed the high standard Avoca have reached.

Mark Cullen has achieved this success by building on his hard work of the last few seasons and I am sure he will be able to build on this season again in driving the club forward.

Mens 2nd Team

The 2s finished 2nd in Division 4 (a single point behind 1st place) playing 18 games with 14 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss. They scored 69 goals and had the best defence in the league only conceding 25.

The 2s success was helped by a lot of young players coming through the club as well as a few of the stalwarts propping up the team. Mark Meir stepping up as captain and Stephen Cullen building on the work of the last few seasons, took Mark's words from last season and made the most consistent team in the club. The 2s went on a brilliant run of results and only fell short of winning the league by the smallest of margins. They did secure promotion to Division 3 which is a terrific achievement and a challenge that is being looked forward to by all the players.

Stephen Cullen will be building on his successes over the last few seasons to help keep the 2s up in Division 3 and drive on for more success again next season.

Mens 3rd Team

The 3s finished 3rd in Division 5 playing 18 games with 8 wins, 5 draws and 5 losses scoring 34 goals in the process and conceding 32.

After a slow start to the season the 3s really got going as the matches went by and started to see the results. To finish 3rd in such a strongly contested league was a great achievement for Stephen Jenkins in his first year as Captain. Captain of the mens 3rds means you are captain, coach, manager, umpire organiser and everything in between and Stephen has taken to this job admirably. Here's hoping he can see more of this success in his 2nd year in charge.

The 3s did suffer a little from the success of the 2s due to the number of players stepping up, particularly on days when the games clashed. Hopefully we will have better numbers next season so we can avoid this happening again. We will also look at doing everything within our power to avoid these clashes in the future.

Mens Vets

The vets had a great first season where they actually had a home ground to play and train. The squad grew this year and the hope is that it will continue to grow next year.

They were also honoured to have Avoca Vets (and 3s) player Marc Elliot representing Ireland in the Canberra Masters World Cup this year.

Awards

Men's Player of the year:	Rian Jolley
U21 Player of the years:	Herbie Fowler-Hudson
Schoolboy Player of the Year:	Alastair Reid
2nds Player of the Year:	Ben Mayberry
3rds Player of the Year:	Tim Stewart

Finally I would like to thank Mark Mark who was the man responsible for twisting (emphasis on twist) my arm and asking me to be Men's Captain. I have enjoyed my first year in the role, learnt a huge amount and look forward to implementing some of these lessons next season. A big thank-you to Mark and all of the Committee for their help throughout the year. In particular I would like to thank Niamh who has been so helpful as my co-captain and who's job I do not envy.

Finally (actually this time) I would like to join in in thanking Johnny, Denis and Tanya who are stepping down for the unbelievable contributions they have made over the years. The club is unrecognisable from the club I joined years ago and these 3 have played a huge part in that.