



President's Report – Robin Chan

UNSW FC 2019 continues to be one of UNSW's largest affiliated sports clubs. With close to 1000 participants over the year across our Association, MSL, NPL and 6aside competitions. We continue to be an outlet for UNSW and the area to engage in their passion of football.

I would like to thank everyone involved in helping ensure that all our members are able to enjoy the game.

Also 2020 is the 60th anniversary of the football club and I look forward to working with our UNSW FC life members and Alumni in planning their reunion and celebration of this occasion.

On Field Highlights

Across all divisions, 24 UNSW FC teams competed across ESFA (16 teams), MSL (3 teams) and WNPL2 (5 teams).

ESFA Highlights

UNSW FC had teams competing in AA1 and AA2 men's divisions for the first time in quite a few years. AA1 coached by Michael Chen and comprised largely of students was extremely competitive and had a finals berth but were unable to proceed further. The AA2's continued their winning ways with the minor premiership but unable to complete the double. This team led by Matt Vandenberg has come up from AA7 and been with the club for several years building each year.

The AA6 team also made the grand final but came up short against a Dunbar team who were clearly not meant to be in their league. However, the lads showed true UNSW FC spirit and never gave up and it was a pleasure to have watched the manner in which this game was played.

On the women's side we continue to grow our women's football with 4 teams this year competing. While the structure of the competition was not particularly pleasant at the top level (only 5 teams in AA1!) we continue to offer an outlet for many new and experienced players from UNSW. In positive news, ESFA has promised to restructure and have 10 team competitions moving forward hopefully creating much more competitive and greater experience for these teams.

MSL Highlights

MSL finished 5th in the club championship and the 18s and 20s were standouts in the division with both making the major semi-final. 1st grade while overall results didn't match the ambition set by the boys and coach Gabe Knowles there were some positives with UNSW FC taking home the League's Golden Boot Winner in Nima Beik. With the restructure and competing in NPL4 in 2020, 1st grade will look to bounce back and a few key additions to the team may prove influential. The majority of 18s and 20s are returning and this will provide continuity and stability as we develop our talent.

With NPL4 comes the addition of Boys Youth League. We have partnered with ESFA to jointly enter BYL and I welcome the addition of the boy's youth teams to the club. The management and process will be reviewed at the end of year 1 but this is an exciting partnership which will position the club nicely in the area as one of the key footballing clubs for boy's and girl's development.



WNPL2 Highlights

Our women's program continues to grow and develop and 2019 continued our run of finals football showings. Reserve Grade and U15s made the major semi-finals and both displayed great football performances throughout the season to get themselves there.

We have made some key coaching changes for 2020 to raise the program to the next level and I am confident that these hires will be successful in achieving our goals at this level.

Off Field Challenges

Facilities and Infrastructure continue to be one of our ongoing challenges in 2019 and will likely be for 2020.

The leasing of East/West to the Waratahs for commercial reasons continues to prove a huge barrier to growth and a high financial cost as we look to secure fields for games and training.

On a more positive note, the official announcement and construction of the Village Green Synthetic ("VG") is warmly welcomed, and I look forward to our teams relocating onto the VG in 2021 in the heart of UNSW. Until then, fields will need to be managed carefully in 2020 to ensure that our teams are able to train and compete.

The financial implication of this is that we are reliant on UNSW to provide financial relief for the cost of some of our grounds. However, as a club we must develop new revenue streams to be able to support ourselves in future, in case that UNSW withdraw that support due to their own constraints. We have seen that there are planned budget cuts in 2020 and this likely will have an impact on our own finances.

Sponsorship is an area we have not been particularly strong at however we were able to secure a major partner in Emergency Trade Services for season 2019 and continuing in 2020. Securing sponsorship/partnership revenue will be critical for 2020 to help cover increasing costs of competition and professionalising our men's and women's elite programs.

Conclusion

In closing, the club continues to have strong on field performances year in and year out but there is always room for improvement and I believe strongly that as a club, we are taking the steps to ensure we continue to build UNSW FC as a centre of excellence for the area.

While we don't have everything right yet, I believe the direction is there and the right people are getting involved. The time and effort of our volunteers, committee members is paramount to the club's success. I hope to see many of you raising your hands at this AGM or in the coming months to join and help us achieve our goals.

Robin Chan

UNSW FC President