



# Warkworth Football Club

## WARKWORTH AFC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18th FEBRUARY 2025 – 7.00PM

The Bridgehouse

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

Thank you to all our members, supporters, volunteers and sponsors for another successful year for Warkworth Football Club. Football in our community continues to go from strength-to-strength thanks in part to our great hands-on membership base who all help in doing their part in making this a great club to be a part of.

In 2023 we had a new committee step up and I'm proud to say we were all still together at the end of the 2024 season. Thank you to Richard Jones, our tireless Club Administrator, who has continued with countless hours of behind the scenes admin right throughout the entire year as well as his on field support which has ensured that the club's trajectory has remained on an upward path. He has been supported by a passionate committee (Richard Ashton, Steve Bedford, Jacob Paul, Gwynn Hoskins, and Simon Hawken) who have each taken on the vision of growth and invested a lot of personal time into the club. We also thank the committee's family's for allowing them the time away from home to work on club business.

It has been yet another year of amazing growth for the club. Some highlights being:

- Ongoing increase in membership numbers from 295 in 2023, to 437 in 2024 with an additional 39 new members that joined the Fantails Trial. In part this upsurge in membership growth last year was due to two junior and one senior team from Matakana joining our club which has given us a lot more depth of players. We expect the growth in membership to continue (all be in not as large as last season's increase), and we hope to be fielding at least 18-20 teams in 2025.
- Auckland Club Teams are now aware that our club is becoming a real force to be reckoned with when playing us and we have made some real impact this season. For example:
  - o The 9th Grade Red Knights had an incredible 15 wins from the 17 games they played.
  - o The U13 Sunday Conference Team (coached by Steve Bedford) who finished just one point behind Auckland United FC's U13 team to place second in our inaugural year in the NRF Conference. This is an amazing result given there were 14 strong teams in this competition.
  - o The U15 NRF Championship Team (coached by Ben Van der Loeff), who placed 6th out of 13 teams - again this was our first time playing in this competitive league and the first year this team had all played together, so another incredible result.
  - o Our Senior Men's Team finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 6.
- We are a community club and as such we rely on volunteers to make this great club what it is. We have had excellent support from club families with many readily stepping up to help manage and coach our players and volunteers assisting with set-up and pack-down on game days.

- I would like to thank our BBQ volunteers for their excellent sausage grilling, sales skills and BBQ cleaning. A very special mention of thanks to Lucy Coory who not only single handedly took over the unenviable task of organising the team and pitch schedule for the entire season, but also all of the BBQ & snacks logistics. This quite often left her stranded behind the grill most weekends (along with other volunteers). With 200 Warkworth Butchery sausages being cooked on our Outdoor Concepts BBQ every weekend, this income stream has helped the club immensely.
- We also ran a summer football league with 240 players playing weekly late last year and through to last week. This was also the first time we have trialled running junior summer football as well. Overall it was very competitive but in the Senior League after 22 games played, both the Keep Fat & Matakana teams were tied on points with 17 wins a piece – however, congratulations to Keep Fat who won on goal differential. Thank you to Connor Passingham and his team of helpers for ensuring this competition ran smoothly. We are working hard to see how we can structure and resource the programme for 2025 so it can be an on-going programme we can offer to our community.
- We were selected by New Zealand Football and Northern Region Football to be an inaugural Fantails programme provider. This was introduced to provide more opportunities for young females aged 5-12 to come and try football no matter what experience they had by delivering a high-quality football experience that results in girls falling in love with football. Thank you to Hayley Stirling from NRF who helped facilitate this. We will continue this program in 2025. And speaking of girls football, on Saturday just gone we held our first ever girls muster with around 14 girls turning up which means we hope to be fielding a combined Year 9 & 10 Girls only Team for the first time in many years.
- We held our first ever ‘Club Day’ and with the generous support of sponsors and supporters and many volunteers we were able to provide a great family day for around 1,500 players and supporters who turned up during the day with every one of our teams having a home game on that day. All visiting Auckland teams were well impressed with what we turned on with some saying they should do the same for their respective clubs. This along with some of our teams offering visiting teams an after game shared morning tea or BBQ for the entire second consecutive season has given our club a positive and hospitable profile across all Auckland Clubs.

Lastly, on behalf of all club members we need to thank our very supportive sponsors. In 2023 we secured ADP Hydraulics & Engineering, Bedford Homes, SG Fabrication, Coresteel, Goodyear Autocare, Dominator Garage Doors, SCS Solar & Electrical and Just Bins who all committed to 3 years of support. These generous sponsors enabled us to provide brand new adidas playing kit for every player (along with a training/away kit for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up) and I’m sure I speak for everyone when I say they look great and everyone is proud to wear it when playing.

We have other longstanding as well as some new sponsors who came on board so thank you Warkworth New World, Carters Building Supplies, and ECM Barbershop. We received player of the day sponsorship for our First Kicks and Fun Football grades from Charlies Gelato, The Bridgehouse, Savan’s Bakery, and Pete & Mary’s Eatery. Without this support from our local business community, we would not be where we are and I ask you all that whenever you can you support our sponsors in return – as they support us.

As we grow in terms of numbers and popularity, we, The Committee, want to ensure that our stewardship of this club allows for us to evolve our offerings, be it with continuing with our core focus of providing football for all in the community, and then progress this by creating opportunities and pathways for talented individuals in our Club. We are also working closely with the Auckland Council to upgrade some of our fields in alignment with our club's growth.

We look forward to another successful season of 'the beautiful game' and we welcome all new members, families and club volunteers to join us in the fun for what is going to be another absolutely cracker season for Warkworth AFC.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Moore', with a stylized, cursive script.

George Moore

WAFC President