

# WARKWORTH AFC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26 FEBRUARY 2024 – 7.00PM

Bridgehouse Lodge, Warkworth

## CHAIR REPORT



Thank you to all our members, supporters and sponsors for another successful year for Warkworth Football Club. Football is experiencing an excellent level of growth in our community, partly in thanks to events like the FIFA Men's and Women's World Cups of recent years, but also as a result of an excellent, hands-on membership base who can see the possibilities and are doing their part in making this a great club to be a part of.

This year has unfortunately seen the departure of Cameron Gray, aka El Presidente, for 5 years along with a club coach, sponsor when needed and general do-everything guy. His desire to see Warkworth Football Club be the best it can be helped set it on a path for success so that the incoming committee had an excellent base to grow from. We give a huge thanks to Cam who, although he does still remain involved as a parent, sponsor of the U15 team and general ear for advice when needed, takes a deserved break and focusses on his growing business.

We also give thanks and say goodbye to Art Waddell, the enthusiastic Scotsman with an intense passion for ensuring kids in football experience the best the club can offer. Art has also been a part of the club for 10 years, both coaching teams and fulfilling the huge role of Junior Coordinator. We will certainly miss seeing his happy face around the club but know he is only ever a single call away from football duty.

James Woodall, who has been our Club Captain for 5 years, is also on the move due to a change in his work situation which takes him to Auckland. James is that guy who will always be available if you need help and will quietly just get on with it with no fuss. He has been another great asset to this club and will be greatly missed. We wish Cam, Art and James well in their future endeavours but remind them that the door is always open to come back to Warkworth Football Club.

2023 also saw a whole new committee step up. Richard Jones, our club Administrator, has been instrumental in our club growth and his organisation and drive has ensured that the club's trajectory has remained on an upward path. He has been supported by a passionate committee (George Moore, Jacob Paul, Gwynn Hoskins, Steve Bedford, Simon Hawken, Nicola Jones, James Woodall and Richard Ashton) who have each taken on the vision of growth and invested a lot of personal time into the club. We also especially thank the committee's family's for allowing them the time away from home to work on club business. It has been an intense year, and we hope our members can see the growth and development we are striving for. We celebrate successes such as:

- Increase in membership numbers from 238 in 2022 to 295 in 2023, with an expectation of similar growth going into 2024.
- Excellent support from club families with coaches and managers readily stepping up to help out and volunteers assisting with set-up and pack-down on Saturday's – every little bit helps.

- Well-attended club working bee where members worked hard to get the club ready for the 2023 season by painting the container, cleaning out old gear and equipment and giving the club a good clean.
- The Senior Men's team continuing its positive growth, in both competition levels and squad numbers. The team was narrowly pipped to second place on the last day by a goal difference, even after a run of 5 wins from the last 5 games. However, this development over 2023, as well as adding Rod Isaacs as their new coach, has set up the team with a great platform to build on moving forward into 2024 and beyond, which now also includes a new reserves team.
- We ran a successful weekly BBQ and stall – this contributed \$2,068 profit back into the club and we thank our diligent volunteers for their excellent sausage flipping, sales skills and BBQ cleaning – it all makes for the positive club culture we are building. We also thank Warkworth Butchery for churning out around 150-200 of their delicious sausages every week for us to sell – no mean feat! A big high five also to Outdoor Concepts for donating us a safer, better BBQ – that made the world of difference!
- Our Council lease was renewed – always a win when Council allows you to continue doing what you do.
- Our “hosting” of the Junior grade visiting teams was a great success receiving positive feedback both on the day and as follow-up messages. Some teams even had the gesture reciprocated when they visited their clubs in return – a great win and another wonderful development of the culture we want.
- Continued our positive relationship with Council Facilities which meant our concerns about our grounds have been heard and the fields were closed over the summer period so that the grass can grow back, and we can have a good base to play on in 2024.
- We also ran a summer football league for 8 weeks at the end of 2023. 12 teams entered, and it was a successful league which we will aim to continue each year from now on. In addition, we also trialled summer football for juniors, and we'll be taking our learnings from this trial to see if we can facilitate a more structured competition at the end of 2024. As this is a weekday programme it will be subject to obtaining enough volunteers to help run it.
- With the help of NRF, the club trialled a 4-week programme encouraging girls aged between 5-12 to come and try football no matter what experience they had. This was highly successful, and the club will be receiving funding in 2024 from New Zealand Football to run an accredited Fantails football programme to further encourage females to play the game.

The 2024 season is almost upon us, and the committee has been working very hard to bring more improvements to the club. We have signed with a new supplier, FootballHQ, to deliver our kit and equipment needs with new Adidas kit underway for all players. We can't wait to see everyone feeling proud to be representing our club in top quality kit when they hit the training and playing fields. We have also put new nets on the standard field goals so that we have goals available for trainings and we will be purchasing new balls and any other necessary equipment to support our wonderful coaches, managers and players in ensuring Warkworth Football Club competes with the best of them. We are also registering two teams in the Metro league which runs on a Sunday. This is a more competitive league than the Saturday league and we have secured great coaches to take our U13 and U15 teams through to success.

Lastly, we need to thank our very supportive sponsors. 2023 saw us quickly secure the few sponsors we wanted to start with, and we are so thankful that our main sponsors of ADP Hydraulics, Bedford Homes, SG Fabrication, ECM Barbershop, Coresteel, Junction Magazine and Keep Fit Matakana could see our vision and wanted to help us get there. We also received great player of the day sponsorship for our First Kicks and Fun Football grades by Charlies Gelato, Bridgehouse, Savan's Bakery, Pete & Mary's Eatery and

ECM Barbershop and the recipients were all very grateful. Many of these sponsors are back on board this year with additional sponsors of Dominator Garage Doors, Just Bins, People Inc Ltd and Goodyear Autocare Warkworth also jumping in to help out. Without this fantastic support our club cannot deliver the best it aims to and so in turn we encourage our membership base to support these businesses in return.

We look forward to another successful season of “the beautiful game” and we welcome new members, families and club volunteers to join us in the fun!