



TIGER TALK

EPPING EASTWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2010

President's Letter

Welcome to Season 2010 – the 58th Season of the Epping Eastwood Football Club on our home ground, Boronia Park, Epping.

As I am writing this the outside temperature is 42° and it is difficult to get 'geed up' about soccer. Then again, it won't be so long before it will be 10° and we are putting up nets at 7am on a Saturday morning. In the meantime we have, along with all the other Clubs, to get organised for the season ahead. Believe me when I say your management committee has been toiling away during the 'off' season.

Let me welcome back our ever loyal bunch of existing players, managers and coaches and extend a warm welcome to all of you who have joined us in Season 2010. We hope that you will enjoy being part of the 'Tigers' and that your stay at EEW will be a happy and rewarding experience.

This year we have changed the location and times for registrations. I would welcome feedback, especially from our existing players, on how you feel about these changes. I note that some clubs are offering online registration and hope that in the not so distant future we will be able to do so too.

To our previous players we sent out fridge magnets with email and phone number details which we hope will be of assistance to

you. You will be able to fill in your coach and manager's numbers using a standard biro pen. Additional magnets will be available from the canteen at Boronia Park.

Speaking of Boronia Park, during the month of December (2009), Parramatta City Council began ground improvements to the playing surface. The aim being to fill and level out the uneven areas and to improve the grass coverage. The ground has been deeply slit, heavily watered and fertilised. All of which we hope will see us with more grass and less ground closures during Season 2010.

Pre-season training U9 to All Age will be on Fred Spurway Reserve with Mini's 6, 7 & 8 on Boronia Park. When Epping Oval & Roselea come online preseason, the 'no boots' rule will be in place.

Season 2010 will commence as follows:

Premier League: March 27th

U9 to All Age: April 10th

Mini's 6, 7 & 8: April 17th

Everyone plays through the school holidays with Mini's 6, 7 & 8 NOT playing July 10th.

Tiger Talk is published every 2 weeks and we welcome your contribution and team reports (win, lose or draw). The next issue will be sent to you electronically via your team manager and is also available for viewing on the Club website.

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Boronia Park

Wet Weather
& Saturdays
9869 0267

EPPING EASTWOOD WEBSITE

For all the competition tables and results of your EEW Tigers teams see www.eppingeastwoodtigers.com.au



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You are reminded that if you have paid your registration fees via credit card it will appear on your statement as 'I A Robertson', a company associated with Raine & Horne Epping, who very kindly allows us to use their facility.

We have had a very modest increase in our fees and have continued to absorb some of the cost increases. Player insurance, which is mandatory, has not been increased this season. Everyone should have received a copy of this policy at the time of registration. If for some reason you were missed, please request a copy, it is very important.

Likewise you should have a copy of the 'Code of Conduct'. If not, ask for one. This is also available on the Club's website.

One of the major changes this season is in the way the P & D Committee will operate regarding penalties and appeals. We will cover this in more detail in the next issue of Tiger Talk and also on the Club website.

So, there you have it. We are off and running I hope. Rest assured that your management committee will be doing all it can to ensure we all have an enjoyable season.

Till next we meet,
Go You Tiger's Go!

Regards,
Ian Kendal
President, 98581605

20 Year Awards

At the Club Annual Dinner last September, another 7 people were presented with their 20 Year badges and engraved glasses. It really is a milestone event having served as a player, coach, manager or club official.

We congratulate the following individuals and thank them for their effort and ongoing support of the Epping Eastwood Football Club:

Gavin Martin

Anthony Mitchell

Paul Henson

David Lewis

Scott Gordon

Dave Waghorne

Doug Russell

That makes 21 people in this exclusive part of your club, 20 Years of Service.

Management Change

Tim Genzo has resigned as Assistant Coach of the Premier League due to work commitments. Tim will continue his service to the Club in other projects, time permitting.

Mike Richards has taken over as Assistant Coach for Season 2010. He brings a lot of experience to the position and we wish all involved a successful season.

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Mini Football



Under 6, 7 & 8

Mini football continues this season in the small-sided games format. This has been very successful over the past couple of seasons so we're looking forward to another fun-filled year.

Mini football is "non competitive", which means we don't have a competition ladder and the scores don't matter from week to week. The object is about learning and having a good time, not about who's "top of the table". Of course, the kids will still tell you the score and claim every goal was theirs (and a few extra too).

Under 6

For many of the Under 6s, it's their first time playing football (or any team sport). The aim is to make it a fun time, as well as learning the basics of the game. Kicking, passing, teamwork and scoring goals!

There are 4 players per team on the field (no goalies) so everyone will be involved in the action. The field is 30m x 20m with small portable goals, 2 metres wide and 1 metre tall.

Under 7

In Under 7s, we're hoping to build on the players' basic skills since most will have played before (although it doesn't matter if they haven't). There are 5 players per team on the field (no goalies). The field is 30m x 20m with small portable goals, 2 metres wide and 1 metre tall.

Under 8

This is the next step on the transition up to the big field. The team is bigger and so is the field. The players will start learning new skills including throw-ins and goalkeeping.

There are 7 players on the field including a goalie. The field is 50m x 25m with permanent goals 5m wide and 1.5m tall.

Ranking of Teams

No one likes getting a 10 goal thrashing. But it can also be pretty boring if you win 10-0 every game. To avoid lopsided results week after week (there'll still be the occasional crazy score), we try to rank teams into appropriate groups. The best games are where the teams are evenly matched and this provides a more positive experience for our youngest players.

We do not grade our mini teams (grading is selecting players based on their ability). The mini teams are usually selected based on friend groups or partly at random. What team ranking is about is looking at the teams already formed and attempting to match them up against teams from other clubs of similar team ability. We will be ranking our teams following guidelines laid out by GHFA.

Coaches and Managers

Mini-football depends on volunteers to help out with coaching and managing (organising) the teams. These volunteers are usually the parents of players. That means we need your help to make this a successful season. It really isn't that difficult and can be a very rewarding experience.

The smaller size of the mini teams means a single person can act as coach/manager for each team (although some still like to split the roles). The joint training sessions and coaching classes will mean that even if you know very little about coaching football, you will quickly get the hang of things. The important part will be getting the kids on the field every Saturday.

Of course, the more help the better and there's plenty of room for assistants. Having plenty of help from the parents at training makes it lots of fun for everyone. We all learn a lot and the kids really progress quickly.

If you are interesting in being a coach or manager, please let us know at registration time and tick the box on your child's registration form. Even if you're interested but unsure what's involved, the committee members on the registration desk are happy to talk to you about it.

Training

Once again our mini-football coordinator, Don Walker, will be running the joint training session each week with all the mini teams. Don's going to need lots of help to continue this very successful program, so put your hand up for some fun.

Mini training will be held on Wednesday afternoons with all teams training at the same time. This allows us to set up a series of drills and "skill stations" and have the teams rotate around each, as well as run practice games. Don and the coaches will be organising different activities each week to keep things exciting.

This arrangement also makes it really easy for inexperienced coaches to learn their role. There's plenty of help and lots of ideas.

Summary of Important Dates

Team allocation: Wed 3 March 5pm to 6 pm at Boronia Park.

Everyone gets introduced to their team and meets the coach. All mini players should come to this.

Training starts: Wed 10 March.

Season starts: Sat 17 April.

Games are always on Saturday mornings.

And finally, if you have any questions you can call me, Chris Salmon, on 0417-696-001 (preferably in the evenings). Here's to another great year of Mini-Football with the Tigers.

Chris Salmon
Vice President



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A New Flag

You will notice on all grounds within GHFA 'tear drop' flags on display. It just so happens they are the same colour as our club colours, which also happen to be the GHFA colours. The message on the flag is "Respect Everyone, Enjoy the Game". To many this may not at first sight be understood so here is an explanation.

Over the last few seasons there has been a marked increase in the number of incidents of abuse towards referees and their assistants, which does not always come from the players. It should be clearly understood that your Club, Epping Eastwood, will not condone such behaviour by any person associated with your Club. We know this is the same in other clubs within GHFA, so why do we find ourselves, as a group of 34 clubs with over 13 000 players in this situation?

This abuse seems to be directed more towards the junior referees doing the morning games. Let me hasten to add we have not seen anything of this on Boronia Park and during 2009 we have been watching for it.

Last season it is reported as fact that a junior referee left a ground in tears after being abused by parents who were unhappy with a decision. The net result being that we lost for all times a referee. Despite sometimes getting what you may consider a bad call, the referee has to call it as they see it. As Scott McGoogan (EEW Registrar) says: "If it was that easy we would all want to referee!"

We have within GHFA one of the highest levels of game coverage by referees of any association in Sydney – some 95% of games are covered. We all want to get to 100% but this will not happen if as a group the practice of referee abuse is allowed to continue.

A number of measures have been put in place:

1. A Code of Conduct that applies to all Clubs, a copy of which you received when you registered
2. Ground Marshall identification by a fluorescent jacket, especially at morning games. This can be a Club official or someone appointed to act in that role. It may also be a parent within the team reporting to the Team Manager. For example, on Epping Oval, we have no canteen or fulltime Club Official on duty. It is not the team manager's job to get into a difficult situation, other than to request the person to stop and then report the incident in full back to the Club for action. Action taken in the heat of the moment can destabilise the situation further.
3. Introduction of the new flag that becomes part of the ground dressing procedure, both at Boronia and Epping Oval.

We are all part of the game. It is hard to watch sport today and not see abuse coming from spectators, players, coaches, managers or club officials. If it is not controlled we could find that we won the game, securing 3 points and then lose 6 points because of some hot-headed incident.

Spectator's actions can have a positive effect – one can go up and say 'good game' even if your team has lost. We collectively need to give encouragement to all players and referees. So, when we say "Respect Everyone" and 'Enjoy the Game' we are all reading the same message, be you player, spectator, referee, coach, manager or Club Official.

We have mail (A real letter)

Last season the management committee decided to introduce a new trophy to be presented annually to the emerging group of players playing in the Over 35's and it was called the 'Stuart Harris' Trophy.

At the Club's Annual Dinner it was very capably presented by Mrs Harris. We are pleased to share the following letter from Rosemary with you all.

I was pleased and honoured to be asked to present the inaugural Stuart Harris Trophy. It was a lovely surprise to be handing the trophy over to my eldest son Ian (Cavey) at the Annual Club Dinner on 12 September 2009. He in turn felt privileged and humbled to receive the award.

This is the inscription on the Stuart Harris Trophy: "The name Stuart Harris and Epping Eastwood are two of the same in the modern era, 1970 - 1990"

Stuart was part of EEFC in a period of uncertainty. He served as Club President from 1974 through to 1980 with the exception of one season. All through the period and beyond he was the driving force both on and off the field, his love and devotion to Epping Eastwood was legendary.

He spent much of his time as a coach and many players went through with Stuart Harris. It is fitting that this trophy is named after such a dedicated Tiger - a man who got enormous pleasure and satisfaction from seeing others do so well and one who was so respected by all.

In retrospect, I thought perhaps Tiger Talk readers might be interested in a little Harris family history - particularly how we became staunch and loyal supporters of EEFC.

Go back in time to 1966 when 'Cavey' was 7 years old and attending Eastwood Primary School. Some of his friends had joined St Andrews Football Club. They were playing in Under 8's competition and wanted Cavey to join them. Cavey pleaded with his dad to be allowed to play soccer at St Andrews but Stuart's stern response was "What!? Put a young boy in uniform and expect him to play competitive sport? I don't think so!" Cavey was very disappointed. I was keen that the soccer idea should succeed, so I discussed the situation with Stuart and managed to prevail upon him to relent. By this time St Andrews enrollments were full.

Researching around the district Stuart discovered EEFC. Fortunately, there were still vacancies in the Under 8's team - which Cavey joined and discovered the game of soccer, to his delight. Stuart became totally fascinated and focused on anything and everything to do with soccer. From that start the long and rewarding association with EEFC kicked off for the Harris family.

Stuart knew only Rugby Union up to this point in time. Now, his challenges were many, from coaching classes to the never ending GHFA and EEW Committee meetings and best of all, coaching the boys. In later years his popularity with the U6 team's boys (and mothers!) was heart warming. They called him Uncle Harris. He conducted recruiting campaigns solo, believing that the strength of the club came from the young teams. The camaraderie within the club was of great importance to Stuart always.

I would like to thank EEW for their generosity in creating the O/35's trophy and their thoughtfulness in naming it in memory of Stuart. Our family are all touched and appreciative of the gesture.

Rosemary Harris

The Tiger Talk is published every 2 weeks during the season, holidays excluded. Please email team reports and action photos directly to Michelle McCoy at michmagu@bigpond.net.au by Wednesday morning each week. 50-100 words max! Don't forget to include Team Age, Name and Week Number, ie. "U/6 Red Wk 1".