



Waitakere City FC

2016 Senior Coaching appointments

Waitakere City FC will compete this 2016 season in Men's NRFL Division 1 after being relegated last season.

Our stated aim is to gain promotion back to the Premier League immediately.

We realise that will not be an easy task, with a number of clubs having the same intention, and we expect a tough fight to achieve that aim.

However, the club will be working hard on the field and off to give our team the best opportunity to compete well in Division 1 and through that to achieve our goal of Premier League for 2017.

Waitakere City FC is pleased to announce the following appointments for the 2016 NRFL season:

Head Coach – Jake Butler

Assistant Coach – John Bennett

Reserve Team Coach – Tommy Mason

Reserve Team Assistant Coach – Paul Steffe

Jake Butler is well known in Auckland football circles, having played for Waitakere City and Waitakere United for a number of years, being the current Captain of Waitakere United.

Butler took on a player/coach position at Waitakere City part way through the 2015 season and the club is pleased to confirm him in this same role for the coming season. Butler will have full responsibility for selecting both the First team and Reserve team squads, working along with other senior coaches.

Butler: *"I am excited to bring my experience as a player and passion for the game to my first major coaching commitment. I realise I am in for a big personal challenge, along with the challenge for the club to compete well in Division 1 and look for promotion back to the Premier League. But I am looking forward to developing the First and Reserve squads, to provide a good environment and to play some great football. If we can do those things, we will be in the fight at the business end of the season."*

Butler will be assisted in his First team duties by **John Bennett**.

Bennett is new to the club and we are pleased to welcome him to this new challenge.

With experience at women's and youth football along with being a qualified referee, Butler believes Bennett will bring strong technical analysis and individual player development to the team, as well as the ability to assist in building a strong team bond within the squads for the challenge ahead.

Butler: *"I have known John for a long time and we share the same views about the game. We have different strengths, and together we will complement each other. I know John will bring talents to our club which we can take advantage of."*

The First team will be backed up by new appointments at the Reserve team level with **Tommy Mason** returning to coaching after some time away from that area of the game.

Mason has a strong history with Waitakere City, having previously coached our First team and holding the Director of Football position.

Mason has previous coaching experience at local level as well as with A-League team the NZ Knights and the Football Kingz in the NSL. His playing experience includes strong contracts in the UK, national league in NZ and representing the All Whites.

Mason: *"I have had a decent break from team coaching but am now really excited about getting back into it with some young, developing players. I wouldn't have envisaged doing that anywhere else except Waitakere City where I have had plenty of great experiences and some great friends. I hope I will assist with my experience as a player and coach for players to develop their own game, as well as assisting the club getting back to where it should be – competing at the highest level that it can."*

Butler: *"I'm really pleased to have Tommy involved with coaching at the club, and he will be able to offer his experience to me and the first team to assist in our goals. Young players looking for a spot at Reserve team level – and to push for first team positions, should be even more excited with the chance to be coached by someone with Tommy's knowledge and personality. He knows his football and brings a real positive vibe to anything he is involved with."*

Tommy Mason will be assisted in his Reserve team duties by **Paul Steffe**. Steffe takes his first role in coaching, wishing to learn as a coach and to develop his own personal knowledge having played at national league level in NZ and semi-pro level in the UK. The club sees Steffe as having a future in the game as a coach and the opportunity to work alongside Mason in the Reserve team set up will be a great learning experience for him.

Mason: *"I have known Paul for many years and his playing ability was never in doubt. His understanding and thinking on the game is impressive and I am keen for him to have the opportunity to bring that to the young players at the club in a coaching role."*

Club Chairman, Peter Bult commented:

"We have two young coaches at the helm of our first team. Jake and John will bring their individual talents to the table and we think that is a good mix. We believe they make an exciting coaching team and we wish them all the best. Jake has gained so much experience as a player, being involved with a number of different set ups, and under some great coaches. He is keen to develop his own coaching, and we are pleased he has chosen to continue with us at Waitakere City. Jake and John both have a real passion to succeed and we need to back that to assist them and the team to compete and fight for promotion.

Not an easy task – but we'll give it a good shot!

On a personal note, I am also pleased to have Tommy Mason back in a coaching role. I have known and worked with Tommy for a long time, and it won't take long for our young players to learn what he brings to a football team. Young players should be really excited to be involved with him.

2015 saw us relegated for the first time ever. We can't complain about that, we just need to do something about it.

Trust will be given to Jake and his coaching group to bring together players who want to meet the club goals. It's a challenge, but that can also bring excitement and hopefully a bit of fun along with it.

The whole club is behind them and we can't wait for the new season to roll around."

Training for the 2016 season begins Saturday 30 January, 1pm, at Fred Taylor Park.

Players wishing to attend for first team and reserve team consideration are welcome to attend.

All player information should be directed to Jake Butler and John Bennett in the first instance.

Jake Butler: 022-042-7903

John Bennett: 022-102-1269

Further Information:

Jake Butler:

All White representative, Captain of Waitakere United, 5 National League Titles, 3 Northern League Titles, 2 O-League Titles, Pro-player in Singapore League. 2015 Player-Coach Waitakere City

John Bennett:

Elite youth coaching – AFF FTC, Wynrs Academy, Coerver Academy and Auckland City Youth League.

NZ Football Referee Badge Holder, involvement with Women's senior teams at Bay Olympic and Birkenhead.

Tommy Mason:

As a player – All Whites Representative, Clubs: Fulham, Brighton, Farnborough Town, Hendon, Enfield (UK), Tauranga City, Papatoetoe, North Shore, Metro (NZ National League)

As a Coach: Mt Wellington, Waitakere City, Football Kingz (Australian NSL), NZ Knights (A-League)

Paul Steffe:

As a player – Burton Albion, Leatherhead, Barnet, Welling, Dulwich Hamlet, Tooting&Mitcham, Molesly, Walton&Hersham, (UK), Waitemata, Oratia (NZ Swiss Maid), Papatoetoe, North Shore, Melville (NZ National League), Auckland and Franklin Representative.

For general club information:

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