



## **DEC 21 2016 NEWSLETTER – EXTRACTS FOR NON-EMAIL MEMBERS**

### **President's Message**

On behalf of the Football Club, I would like to wish all players, members and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. It goes without saying that we all hope 2017 will bring further success and rewards to the Burners.

Last week the Club held its AGM which was well attended (see attached for commentary extracts).

The following new committee for 2017 was elected at the meeting.

PRESIDENT: Matthew Breen

VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Tuminello

SECRETARY: Darren Adey

TREASURER: Paul Molan

JUNIORS PRESIDENT: Pat Mannix

GENERAL COMMITTEE: Phil Stewart, Mike McCoy, Michael Peake, Trevor Howard, Leanne Hammond, Mark Wilson and Scott Patterson

Michael Dwyer and Dermot O'Connor will fill the roles of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer respectively but will not attend meetings or have voting rights.

Stepping down from the Committee will be James MacLeod, Mark Edwards and Grant Schumacher who have all been excellent workers for the Club over their time in service, so I would like to formally acknowledge their contributions here. All have indicated that they will continue to do a bit, just behind the scenes. However it's great to see a couple of parents stepping up in Mark Wilson (father of Jayden) and Scott Patterson (father of Liam and Corey).

It's also fantastic to see past players Michael Rainey and Neil Jackson return to the club in an official role as past players coordinators for 2017. Michael started as an 18 year old and played from 2007 to 2012 and was a member of the team of the decade. Neil has been a popular figure at Blackburn from juniors and played though to seniors before retiring in 2014. Neil received Life membership of the Club in 2015. We wish them well and thank them for their support.

## **Football Operations Report**

As you are probably aware, the Football department has been extremely busy throughout the off season with player meetings, recruitment, leadership team meetings, 2017 planning and strategy sessions, coaching interviews and selection and of course pre-season training sessions. Pre-season commenced on November 14<sup>th</sup> at Nunawading Christian College and finished on December 14<sup>th</sup> with on average over 40 players attending each session. The playing group are substantially fitter than at this time last year, which is testament to the strength and fitness programs prepared by Marcus “Freddy” Krygger. Marcus fills this role at St Kilda, so our program has very much an AFL feel to it.

Also on the coaching side we have strengthened the coaching group considerably. Former player and captain Luc Matthews has joined as an assistant coach along with Dave Bartlett from the Calder Cannons who brings both VFL and TAC cup experience to the group. The Club has also appointed Brendan Fulton as the new Under 19's coach. Brendan had a long playing career in the Southern League and last year coached at Chelsea Heights. All three gentlemen were extremely impressive on interview and have one thing in common - they are great communicators who can teach football.



*New assistant coach Dave Bartlett and returning favourite son Luc Matthews*

**DANIEL CAMPISANO** has also joined Blackburn as a playing assistant coach for season 2017 (and beyond). Daniel is a 192cm key position defender - coming from Frankston in the VFL he has spent the last 4 years at Greenvale in the EDFL, in that time becoming a 2 x premierships player, being awarded multiple EDFL team of the year selection and EDFL and Vic Metro interleague rep. football. Aside from his football attributes, Daniel brings strong leadership qualities that will help continue to drive a culture of success at Blackburn.



In addition to Daniel, the following players have signed for the Burners for 2017.

**RYAN BATHIE:** 198 cm power forward/ruck who is currently on Richmond's VFL list but is not expected to play many games with them as he is 28. He was previously on Geelong's list as a rookie and has won a flag at Geelong VFL and also at Keilor where he has been aligned for the last few years.



**JULIAN SOCCIO:** 21 year old, 188 cm key forward who has been at Box Hill for a few seasons where he has played senior football and also played in their premiership teams - now full time with the Burners.



**XAVIER MURPHY:** another Box Hill boy who was a pivotal member of both senior grand final teams in 2013/14 winning in 2013. A quality “hard at it” mid forward (25 years old and 180cm) - now full time with the Burners



**ASH MORRIS:** from Deniliquin where he was Murray League B & F, club B & F and interleague rep. Previously a GWS academy squad member he is now with Richmond VFL and will play with us when not selected (expected to play maybe half at Richmond, half at Blackburn). An inside mid/forward he is still young at 24 and a ripping country boy (sorry, no pic at this stage).



Last but not least, **MATT TUMINELLO** returns to Blackburn after 6 years absence. Matt is a 201 cm ruckman who won B and F honours at Blackburn in 2007 and also at Lake Wendouree in 2013/14, where he also was made captain.



In addition to the above, we are also keen to sign **MATT HUNT** (25 years old, 180cm) from Perth FC who has been super impressive at training. Matt is a mate of Luke Conca who, along with Pat Contin, are now full time at Blackburn. More news about Matt and a few of his WA mates in the New Year.



Returning from the injury list Michael Dunn, Michael Prendergast, Heath O'Farrell, Dylan Vizzari and Charlie Summers are all back in serious training. This group played little or no football last year so in essence they are like new recruits. To date there are very few departures from the list apart from Ryan Toohey and Aaron Hatton who are travelling overseas and Josh Ralph and Mark Griffiths who have transferred to Nth Ringwood.

However the playing list is further strengthened by a good number of last season's successful Under 19 team who have now moved into senior ranks (includes Josh Meyers, Jacob Bellis, Jayden Wilson, Jacob Eppe, Lake Tink and Liam Smith as regulars at pre-season training).

Leveraging off the premiership success of the Reserves last season, there is no doubt our list will be bigger, stronger and deeper than in past years and judging by pre-season – fitter and quicker as well.

We still have quite a number of VFL players who are aligned with Blackburn. These are Jacob Ballard at Richmond, Ben McIntyre at Box Hill, Mitch Dawson at Northern Blues, Kyle Dove at Port Melbourne and Ryan Exon who was at Frankston this year. I can also report that the majority of the senior list has been signed up and has committed for the 2017 season.

With three Under 17 teams in 2016, numbers for the Under 19s are looking good and we are very confident that we can field two standalone Under 19 teams in 2017. The boys have had two weeks of training pre Xmas with good numbers attending, however extra players are still required to make the requisite numbers. If you know of any boys in this age group who want a run, contact Coach Brendan Fulton on 0429 607243.

As you can see from all of the above, the Football Department led by Senior coach Kon Karavias has been extremely busy over the off season (what off-season!). We have been quite specific in our list management and recruiting to firstly retain our current playing list and then secondly being targeted in the recruits we required to help build a premiership club. Those key traits being - good character, height, outside speed, premiership experience, solid football background and leadership qualities.

We feel that our new recruits tick all of those boxes. At the conclusion of the first stage of pre- season, coaches and players alike are all excited about the upcoming 2017 season. As a Committee member and supporter I'm likewise excited and hope that all members and supporters are also equally enthused.

I look forward to catching up in the New Year at one of our practice games, Season launch, Jumper presentation or our first "Footy is Back" luncheon. In the meantime have a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Good Luck to all and GO BURNERS 2017



**Mike Tuminello**

Vice President Football Operations, Blackburn Football Club

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