

EMMAUS ST. LEO'S OLD COLLEGIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

ANIMALS INSIDER

Animals fall short on field, succeed off it

Special points of interest:

- Coaches Corner
- 2019 Plans
- President Update
- True Blues Update
- Social Events

The 2018 Emmaus St. Leo's OCFC season concluded in heartbreak on the field as the Seniors went down by 23 points to St. Johns on a cold, windy, and at times hail-ridden day in Dandenong to succumb to the drop.

The game would be the last for the Senior Coaching Group of Senior Coach Jason Fennell and his Assistant Coaches in Bernard Mitchell and Anthony McKenzie. Reserves Coach Paul McGloin would also wrap up his tenure on the day, but did so on a winning note as the Reserves finished the year strongly with an 8 point win. All four are moving on due to increasing work commitments outside the club and do so reluctantly.

ESLOCFC would like to thank the four of them for all the work and dedication they have put into the

club and wish them well in the future.

The young group now have an exciting chance to rebound and create a bond for life by pushing for immediate promotion and a premiership in 2019 in Division 3.

The women finished their historic debut season in 7th position after an amazing come from behind win in their last home game against Yarra Valley. Sue Fearn-Wannan kicking the winning goal from beyond 50 with 1 minute remaining. They will be even stronger next year with coach Roy Fenton returning in 2019.

Off the field, the Animals have excelled in achieving some key goals. The club has been successful in setting up a Mental Health Program which was highlighted

by the visit of Matt Tooley from Headcrack who spoke to the entire Mens and Womens playing groups about Mental Health.

Social Events such as "The Big Draw" and the Club B&F Count have also contributed to a strong year off the field, which has been helped by the fantastic new club-rooms at Bennettswood Reserve.

The club will also hold it's annual Presentation Night on October 13 at the Carlton Brewhouse. Check the Animals Facebook page for more details.



Animals Goalkickers

A.Smith Reserves	47 (17)
D.Hill Seniors/Reserves	38 (9)
T.Birkett Seniors	18 (9)
L. Gunn Seniors/Reserves	16 (16)
C.Beluszar Seniors	15 (9)
S.Danckert Women	8 (13)
M.Hogan Women	4 (11)

Animals Final Stats

SENIOR MEN - 9th

Played: 18
Won: 4
Lost: 14
For: 1207
Against: 1874
Percentage: 64.41%
Streak: L2

RESERVES MEN - 6th

Played: 18
Won: 7
Lost: 11
For: 1023
Against: 1521
Percentage: 67.26%
Streak: W2

SENIOR WOMEN—7th

Played: 14
Won: 4 (1 Draw)
Lost: 9
For: 320
Against: 538
Percentage: 59.48%
Streak: L1

Coach's Report - Jason "Stumpy" Fennell



Jason Fennell addresses his side

The last 4 rounds of the year had us fighting off relegation. With a great win again Melbourne High where the side come from six goals behind gave us great hope heading into the last two rounds. Unfortunately it was not meant to be with a loss to Bulleen in the second last round having us heading to St Johns with a win the only result to keep us in D2. The win we were all looking for was not to eventuate with St Johns being too strong on the day and running the game out stronger for them to survive another year in D2.

In what was an up and down year and both enjoyable and frustrating at the same time I know the players gave their all when they ran on the ground. The team just needed more continuity to string a few more wins together for the year however as we have experienced the Amateurs curse of mid winter holidays and unavailability made it difficult to achieve.

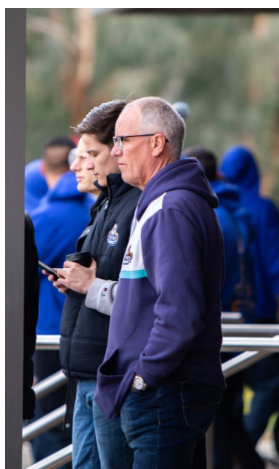
After 3 years the coaching group has decided to move on and will not apply to be reinstated next year. We

would like to thank the players, families and club for all their support and although we did not achieve the success we dreamed, we walk away with many friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

I would like to thank Barny, Macca and Paul for all their help and patience, without their great support I would not have been able to take on the role. Also a big thank you to the two runners I had over the three years in Damian Carey and Dan Barron. I truly appreciate your help. Good bye all for now and see you around as a spectator in the future. - Stump.

Coach's Report - Roy "Fenno" Fenton

*Every heart beats true
for the Blue and the
Blue*



Roy Fenton looks on after his sides Rd 1 victory, sans trademark hat.

2018 was the inaugural season for the Emmaus St Leos senior women's side, with former Whitehorse coach Roy Fenton at the helm. The elected leadership group of Sue, Sally, KL and Gem proved excellent choices and were steady, positive influences all year. With a large portion of the side having never played organised sport before, let alone football, the learning curve was steep but the passion to improve was strong.

The final ladder position of 7th of 8 was misleading, as the girls showed patches of dominance against many of the higher sides. A win against eventual premiers Westbourne kicked off the season, while later a draw against 3rd placed Powerhouse and courageous 1 point loss to 2nd side MCC led into an inspired victory over finals contenders Yarra. Despite some frustrating losses mixed in between these games, the foundation

is strong and the future bright for this group of women.

There were plenty of individual highlights throughout the year as every single player had moments to shine and show they belonged on the footy field. Every week, a few girls would step up and play their best game of the year, supporting the incredibly consistent leadership group. As the year progressed, it was evident how the girls were progressing as well. Tackles, shepherds, decision making, positioning – all of these improved week to week across the board. We could easily list highlights for every player, but without room for that, a few standout individual efforts should be mentioned. Mid-field machine Shannon Danckert's 2nd place finish in the league B&F, just one vote shy of taking home the medal, is a phenomenal effort of which the club as a whole is immensely proud.

"Big Dog" Caroline Simon completely shut down the eventual League B&F winner for 3 quarters, playing a massive role in our narrow loss to MCC. Grace Baulch's best on ground performance against South Melbourne was the realisation of her huge potential. Shelby and Sammy B each had a dominant standout game, with Sammy's leading us to that highlight victory over Yarra in the final rounds. Overall, despite the ladder position, it is clear that there is something genuinely exciting building with this women's team. With another pre-season and a full year of footy under their belts, and hopefully a clean bill of health for a few of our injured Animals, these girls are going to take the competition by storm next year. A massive thank you to this fantastic club for providing the girls with a chance to play, and for bringing us on board.

President's Wrap - Alex Maunder

It's been a transitional year for the Animals in 2018. New clubrooms, a new team, more new faces, and a new president midway through the season. While we didn't get the results on the field that we'd like this year, off the field the club continues to grow and build towards a sustainable future. The new facilities were a massive boost for the club, and thanks must go to Nathan Baranello for all his work in the initial set up of the rooms, and managing our transition into the new space. It came with many challenges; however, the ability to host many more functions and on a grander scale was brilliant and we look forward to expanding on this next season, with more luncheons and social functions to involve our community further. This year we were able to host the after party of the Ladies Lunch (which was another huge success), an RSA course for those within the community, a Mental Health information night, as well as several past-player and supporter lunches. Not to mention the opening of the rooms back in April.

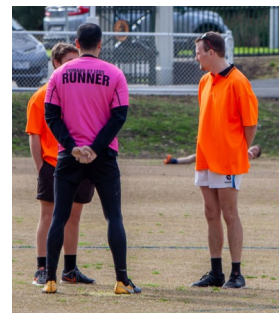
It has also been fantastic to have the continued support of our sponsors, and to have new sponsors come on board. Deakin University continue to be strong supporters, the relationship growing again with more players and support staff coming to the club through our vicinity to the Uni. Beretta's Liquor and Camberwell Sports and Spinal maintained their strong support, and it was great to have Integrated Protective Services jump on board as new sponsors. A special mention to Emmaus College, who after years of being informal supporters through allowing us access to their facilities for training and preseason activities, have formalised the relationship with a financial sponsorship which we hope will be the start of even stronger affiliation into the future.

The old adage that you must go backwards before you can go forwards will hopefully ring true next season, after the Seniors were relegated to D3 after a difficult year hampered by player unavailability and the result of coming up against strong physically mature sides with a young and developing playing group. However, as opposed to the hard times on the field leading to low morale and depressing scenes, the playing group stuck together and the vibe around the club remained positive. This was a result of terrific leadership from the senior leadership group, and the coaching staff who oversaw a varied training program to ensure that things didn't get stale on the track. At this point I'd like to thank Jason Fennell and his coaching group for all their hard work over the last three years. Jason's love of the club and passion for the game was clear to see; always approachable, Jason developed a strong club culture and he leaves the playing group as a united force hungry for success. Thanks also to long time Reserves coach Paul McGloin, and Senior Assistants Bernard Mitchell and Anthony McKenzie for their time and commitment they've shown over the last three years.

The real success from this season has been the introduction of Women's Football at the Animals. The inaugural Women's team has been a terrific addition to the club; it almost feels like the team has been around for years the ease with which they've integrated within the club. Under the guidance of Roy Fenton the girls had a wonderful development year. We were able to get a few good wins, knocking off finalists and drawing with the top of the ladder team, and the spirit with which the group has played with has been great to witness. A special mention to Shannon Danckert who came 2nd in the competition best and fairest.

The club is already looking forward to a big year next season, but we'll start by celebrating 2018 at Presentation Night on October 13th. I hope to see many of you there.

Alex Maunder, Club President



Club President Alex Maunder (right) running water for the Reserves

True Blue Update - Bunnings Fundraiser

The club is running a BUNNINGS BBQ on Wednesday 19th December, 2018 at the BOX HILL STORE (259 Middleborough Rd)

This is an off season fund raiser to help with early season costs in 2019 & we are seeking volunteers to assist with a helpers roster.

You may have finished work for the year, not working or a student who may have a spare hour (or two)

Please let us know your interest by email & we will be in touch closer to the event.

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Fenton stays on as Coach, promotes Team Manager

Womens Coach Roy Fenton has re-signed for the 2019 season.

"I am very privileged and honoured to be re-appointed coach of the Emmaus Womans team for season 2019." said Fenton.

2019 will also see Team Manager Brendan Ellwood be promoted to Assistant Coach.

"Brendan did a fantastic job as

team manager this year as well as helping out at training sessions and also with myself on game days" said Fenton.

"Brendan has a wealth of football knowledge not only as a player but working with the Northern Football League and will be a great asset to the team."

Ellwood was ecstatic about the move.

"I'm really looking forward to the move into coaching next year. Coaching was always an eventual goal of mine, and having been around this group from the beginning, I'm already completely invested in the team and their development."

PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

Home Ground

Bennettswood Reserve
Holland Ave
Burwood

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Animals

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Stay tuned to the official ESLOCFC social media channels for updates regarding the 2019 season, Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to ensure you're up to date.