



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019/2020

What a crazy year it has been! From a successful end to the 2019 Winter Season, the club went from strength to strength in the Summer Season only to have the season abruptly cancelled due to The Covid-19 pandemic! It sure is never boring as Club President!!

The club's 93 teams finished off the 2019 Winter Season with 37 teams in semi-finals, 16 teams made it through to the Grand Final, and 6 teams won their Grand Finals. Our successful teams were across all age groups and all grades, demonstrating the depth of our club and how we cater for players of all abilities from A Grade through to D Grade, both boys and girls teams.

We said goodbye to Lucy Thompson, one of our longstanding Bullits trainers, and her mum, Lou Thompson, also stepped down from the Committee in February. I thank both Lucy and Lou for all of their hard work with the club for many, many years.

Our hard-working Secretary, Anne-Maree Nunan, had to step down from the Committee halfway through the year, when she joined the SBA Board. Among her many jobs on the Committee, Anne-Maree was responsible for re-writing our Constitution and keeping everyone's qualifications up to date on Everproof. She was our resident photographer over the finals period and worked on all our Social Media sites and website. Luckily for us, well mostly me, Anne-Maree continues to work behind the scenes on many of these roles and for that we are all really grateful.

Summer Season 2019/20 started off with a bang with 93 teams. Unfortunately, the season was cut short due to Coronavirus. The Association acted swiftly by suspending all games and training on March 13, 2020. The SBA paved the way for all other Associations and the VJL to suspend all of their training and games

The normal season games were all complete and semi-finals were set to commence the following day after shutdown. Bullits had 8 teams finish the season on top of the ladder and another 22 teams finished in the top 4 that should have been playing finals in the following week.

During lockdown, Nathan Harbutt, our Head Bullits trainer, ran some online Zoom Training Sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays for 5 weeks. This initiative was very well received, and we had in excess of 30 players join in the sessions each week. It was great to be able to keep players busy twice a week during Lockdown 1.0 and keep developing their skills. Nathan did a terrific job and I want to thank him for his hard work with the Zoom sessions.

Off the court it has been a great year for the club. I was so proud when we secured an extra training venue for the club on a long-term basis. We were successful in securing a long-term tenancy of the new stadium at Sandringham East Primary School. The venue is first class and we really are the envy of other clubs. We secured a 3-year contract to use the stadium

for up to 24 hours each week. It was a great coup for the club as we really had outgrown the facility at Sandringham Secondary College.

The club can never thank Michelle Ferguson enough for her tireless work and hours and hours of time that she put in trying to secure the court at SEPS for the club. Michelle joined the SEPS School Council and was a big part of the planning of the facility. A big thank you to Michelle! We would not have been able to secure the court without her.

During the Coronavirus lockdown, we tried as best we could to communicate what was happening with our playing membership. We were all in the dark for a lot of the time. About 25 Winter Season refunds were processed due to financial hardship which was not bas considering registrations closed on the day that basketball was suspended, so we had in excess of 650 players registered when things stopped.

The Winter Season took on a new look and new name, Spring Season. The Association decided to take advantage of the situation and change the dates for the seasons, so that the two seasons fall within a calendar year. Spring Season was to be Term 3 and 4, 2020. Autumn Season was to be Term 1 and 2, 2021.

Our Age Coordinators worked really hard re-confirming all teams for the Spring Season which was set to start on Monday 14th July.

A big thank you to Sandy Celantano, Kerry Thomson, Sophia Ali, Heather Simurina, Peta Dyke, Mel Harrison and Vanessa Fox for their hard work as our Age Coordinators. It really helps having so many people helping out with age groups and is really appreciated.

Team Manager and Coach meetings were held via Zoom meetings, high-vis social distancing vests were purchased, and hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and sprays, were all at the ready in preparation for a re-start to basketball, albeit with a number of Covid-19 restrictions.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 cases in Victoria spiked a few days before the Spring season was set to start. At the time of writing this report, we have no start date for basketball. Stage 4 restrictions have just been decreed. Everything is back on hold.

We are losing two very valuable Committee members at the AGM, Jenny Mouat and Heather Simurina. Jenny was Bullits President for 5 years and has been involved with the club on a Committee level for 11 years. Heather has been on the Committee for 5 years and has been my Vice President for the past 4 years. I thank them both so much for all of their time that they have given to the club, and also their wisdom and knowledge. I will really miss having both ladies on the Committee, but I know I will still be able to call on either of them for any advice or assistance in the future.

A huge thank you to all of the wonderful ladies on the Committee who make running the club such a pleasure. Heather Simurina, Sandy Celantano, Sophia Ali, Kerry Thomson and Jenny Mouat. I would also like to thank our awesome Uniform Coordinator, April Whitaker, for all of her hard work keeping all players in uniforms throughout the year.

And to our Bullits Trainers who help teams at trainings each week - a big thank you to Nathan Harbutt, Ryan Girvan, Jackson Lang, Evan McConkey and Tegan Mouncer.

I'm really proud to be a part of such a great club and I look forward to a great future for the club and all its players.

I'm really looking forward to getting all of our players back out onto the courts. I can't wait to see the faces of parents and players when they finally get to use our brand-new court for training at SEPS.

Noone knows when this will be. It may be Term 4 this year or Term 1, 2021. But I know one thing for sure - our Club will again be one of the biggest clubs at the SBA and we will all be ready and raring to go once we are given the green light to train and play again.

Lisa Mouncer

Bullits President