



President's Report 2021

I started last year's President's Report with "What a crazy year it has been!" and it seems the "crazy" has continued on into 2021. No games were played from March through to December 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, there was a heap of work behind the scenes by myself, Kerry (our Treasurer) and our terrific Committee and Age Coordinators getting teams organized when registrations were opened, then closed, three times.

Communications with our members, as well as the huge number of refund requests, certainly kept us incredibly busy. Melbourne was in Lockdown for four months from July till October 2020 and we really did start to wonder whether it would ever be like before the pandemic and if we would get back out onto the courts again.

When lockdown was complete and things slowly started returning to some kind of "normal", the SBA decided to take to the opportunity to change the starting dates of the seasons and bring them into line with the calendar year. This meant that when games recommenced, that we could attempt to play out a whole season, rather than run a shortened season over one term only. Autumn Season would run during Terms 1 and 2, and Spring Season would run during Terms 3 and 4. This change in start dates also means that we no longer have a 6 week break in the middle of a season, and helps Domestic clubs creating A Grade teams with Rep players manage their points, as all Rep teams are now confirmed during the Spring Season.

Bullits had our largest number of teams, 103 teams, registered to play in the Autumn Season 2021. This included two Senior Women's teams and one team playing in the McKinnon Competition. We had teams across all age groups and most grades from A to D Grade. Our new reversible uniforms are now necessary as there are many grades with multiple Bullits teams playing each other each week.

Our Bullits teams finally got to use the wonderful court at Sandringham East Primary School for training sessions. We now have so many teams requiring a training spot that we use Sandringham East Primary School from Mondays-Thursdays 4.00-8.30pm and Fridays 4.00-6.15pm, as well as Sandringham Secondary College from Mondays-Thursdays 4.00-8.30pm.

Unfortunately, the Autumn Season was also interrupted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. There were two snap lockdowns called during the season, and games were also missed for a few days due to a fire in the gym at Tulip Street complex. Finals were postponed, and eventually played weeks apart.

Bullits had 60 teams play in the Semi finals which were played on the last weekend of the term with limited spectators. Grand Finals were played two weeks later on the last weekend of the school holidays. Again, spectators were limited and masks worn. Bullits had 33 teams win their way through to the Grand Finals with 16 teams winning their Grand Finals. It was really awesome to get finals played for the first time in over 12 months!!

In spite of the crazy times we continue to live in, the club continues to grow. In the Spring Season 2021, Bullits has over 800 players with 107 teams registered. The first 4 days were played of Spring Season 2021 and then two lockdowns were called. At the time of writing this report, two rounds had been played after what should have been Round 6. It seems that Covid-19 really is the gift that keeps on giving!!

A big thank you to everyone who plays a part in running what is now the second largest club at the SBA. To Kerry Thomson, our wonderful Treasurer, who goes above and beyond in her Treasurer and Age Coordinator duties, and is a constant -almost daily support to me!! Thank you.

Thank you also to my hard-working Committee members who also double as Age coordinators: Vice-President-Sandy Celantano, Secretary-Sophia Ali, and Committee members: Rachel Visser and Peta Dyke. To Kate Parker and Melissa Forde for joining our list of Age Coordinators. The club is getting bigger and bigger so the need for additional hands is a necessity! Thanks.

Our uniform sales went online this year, as our uniforms sales sky rocketed!! It seems that children continue to grow, even in lockdown! And we were amazed at the demand for uniforms at our uniform days at the beginning of year. Uniform sales continue to thrive and April Whitaker continues to do an amazing job keeping on top of our booming uniform supplies. Thanks April!

Anne-Maree Nunan, who is no longer a Committee member, continues to update our website and Social Media pages, as well as manage our Everproof accounts which is a big task. Thanks Anne-Maree.

Our Bullits Trainers continue to work hard at our training sessions at both of our venues. As well as running sessions, helping with skills and individual players, they are also responsible for ensuring that everyone is Covid-safe at trainings by marking attendance rolls, ensuring adults are checking in using the QR codes, dispensing hand sanitizer, and wiping down benches. Nathan Harbutt, is our Head Trainer, and we now have Evan McConkey, Lachlan Celantano, Aras Harbutt, Cassie Whitaker and Hayden Whitaker working regular Trainer shifts. We farewellled Ryan Girvan and Jackson Lang after their many years of dedicated Bullits Trainer service. Thanks to Ryan and Jackson for all of their hard work over the years.

The club looks forward to the commencement of the building of the four new courts at Tulip Street, which will hopefully start at the end of this year. We all know that with the growth of basketball in our area these courts are badly needed. Fingers crossed the lockdowns will not delay the build. The clubs have been asked to pitch in with some funds for the courts by the end of 2022. Bullits is well on its way to raising the amount requested by the SBA and agreed to by the Presidents.

I'm really looking forward to being able to get back out onto the courts again soon. No one knows when this will be. We won't ever take being able to play and train for granted again- that's for sure! And I continue to be so proud to be a part of the great club that is Bullits and I look forward to many more successful seasons to come.

Lisa Mouncer

Bullits President