

2025 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

As always, we've had a very busy winter season with a lot of activity both on and off the grass. There's too much to mention everything that happened but we'll recap some of the highlights...

Small Whites Programme

- It's our 11th year of having a dedicated Small Whites programme and the 4th year of coaching our youngest players as a squad for Weds training with our own coaches, and by all accounts, it's working well.
- Robert Scholes is our lead coach who puts together the weekly training sessions that he delivers with coaches Olivia, Izaan, Kanav, Scott, Bradley & Damian.
- We had a record number of Small Whites members this season with 106 players aged 4-8yo registered
- We'd like to thank the parents who jumped in to help when asked with coaching, supervising the small sided games and packing gear away.
- We continue to enjoy Saturdays in the Southern Small Whites cluster with our Franklin buddy clubs, Pukekohe AFC & Tuakau SC.
- There will be some changes next season as NZ Football rolls out their Whole of Football Plan 2.0 which will see the 9th Grade become an inhouse programme. We'll be working with Pukekohe, Tuakau, Waiuku & Waiau Pa teams to form a Southern cluster so our U9 teams will play games in the local area.

WEDS BBQ

- Every Weds, a dedicated team of volunteers ran the fundraising bbq, which was a great way to stave off the late afternoon hunger pains and became a social hub for parents.
- This was a great initiative started by Hayley & Phil Govorko four years ago, and they've pulled together a dedicated crew who turn up every week without fail.
- The BBQ profit go towards prizegiving expenses, including the lovely coach & manager thank you gifts and today's sausage sizzle.
- BBQs are generally a very low profit fundraiser. Ours has been spectacularly profitable thanks to Drury Meats donating their excellent sausages. They make the tastiest sausages so it's no surprise they're award winning and our members keep coming back for more.
- Sadly, Drury Meats will be closing later this year when the shops are pulled down so their sponsorship will come to an end. We'd like thank John & Jeanette Bell of Drury Meats for their generous support over the past 4 years, it's been invaluable.
- We'd also like to thank Desmond Joe for arranging the Fonterra milk drinks, a very welcome & popular addition to the table.
- Our BBQ crew raised a whopping \$3,452 this season! Our sincere thanks to them for their outstanding effort: Hayley, Phil, Nina, Crystal, Nick, Jennifer, Leith, Jo, Lisa, Anya, Alice, Daryl, Katie, Kelly, Tony & Paddy, and Des for arranging the Fonterra milk. What an outstanding effort.

JUNIOR & YOUTH TEAMS

- The increase in young players flowed into the Junior section of the club with five U9 teams this year, and 2 teams in each 10th-12th grades, plus 2 youth teams; all teams were over-full by April.
- Our teams are led by dedicated coaches & managers, and supported well by family & friends who pitch in to help and cheer us on from the sidelines.
- It's great to see people using the Team Reach app to keep in touch, celebrate the team achievements and help each other out, and we love seeing the photos you share of game highlights & hi-jinks, Player of the Day awards and people having fun
- It's also great to see players staying on to play as they move into the Youth age group, and we're excited for this to continue next season.

SENIOR TEAMS

- Most of you won't see much of our Senior teams as they train on Tues & Thurs, but we have 3 Mens & 1 Women's team with players aged from 20 to late 50s who are just as enthusiastic about football as our Small Whites (although they don't all have as much never-ending energy!)
- DIY Hire, Bellancas, Troopers & Green Queens offer a range of levels of play and a pathway for older youth to move into, and even parents who rediscover their love of football watching their kids
- If any parents are keen to play, definitely do come along to senior training as there will be a suitable team who'd love to welcome you

FANTAILS PROGRAMME

- Lead coach Phil Greene is passionate about growing the number of girls playing football so he's the ideal coach to head up the girls-only sessions held on Thursdays
- Phil started our Girls programme in 2022 with just a handful of players, and in 2023 we became a Fantails hub as part of the Women's World Cup legacy initiative.
- Our Fantails now have 43 registered players with 20 on average attending each session, and numbers are growing which is fantastic.
- Coach Phil reports that the girls are all keen to continue over Term 4 and several are considering forming a girls team for next season.
- We'd like to thank Phil and the assistant coaches for delivering this energetic and engaging girls programme.

FRANKLIN UNITED FC

- We continue our alliance with Franklin Utd alongside Pukekohe & Tuakau football clubs.
- Franklin continues to grow and strengthen their teams, which creates a great pathway for our players who want to move from community to competitive football, be it at junior, youth or senior level.
- Their Academy increased to 5 junior & 5 youth teams, all of which contain a good number of Drury players. They will invite aspiring players from local clubs to join their training over Term 4 and info on that will go out as soon as it's available.
- We were pleased that they resumed their Skills Centre each term at Drury & Pukekohe grounds for 9-12 year olds, so a keen group of Drury players got the benefit of extra training with Franklin coaches.

AUCKLAND FC

We've all been excited having a professional team in Auckland to cheer on, especially with past Drury player Liam Gillion being signed in their inaugural line-up. Many of our members have attended games and bought season passes and what a stellar first season they've had. We were stoked to see our club name on their billboard, and even more excited to be the first club to host the AFC Skills Clinic in July when 120 junior players trained with AFC coaches.

The players had a brilliant time and were stoked with their AFC training shirts & shorts, bag & drink bottle. We'd like to thank AFC & NRF for arranging the session and giving us the opportunity to participate.

GRANTS & SPONSORSHIP

Unsurprisingly, in tough economic times, grant funding has been harder to come by so we are grateful to the funders who have continued to support our club: Grassroots Trust, Bobby Foundation, North & South Trust and Air Rescue Services.

They see the good things happening at our club and they support our vision for growth and delivering football to our community. There's quite a bit of work involved in applying for grants but we simply couldn't function as well without them.

We are also thrilled to have two new club sponsors.

Firstly, GJ Garnder Homes Papakura came onboard as our main sponsor with a four year agreement, and you'll have seen their logo proudly displayed on the front of our team shirts, and on signage around the grounds.

Owners Nick Xue and Len Adendorff came down to cheer on the teams early in the season, kindly putting on a free sausage sizzle for all the players & supporters. They were presented with a framed club shirt to hang in their office. We'd like to thank Nick, Len, Clinton & Miriam for taking the time to support our club, it's very much appreciated and we look forward to a successful partnership over the coming years.

Recently we finalised a 3 year sponsorship deal with Park Green, part of the Hugh Green Group developing housing projects in Drury. You will see their new sign go up on the main billboard and more information shortly.

And of course, as we've already mentioned, Drury Meats have supported us with their fantastic sausage donations for several years, making the Wednesday bbqs fantastically profitable. We appreciate their steadfast loyalty and they will be sorely missed in future seasons.

FACILITIES

- Upgrading our facilities and equipment is an ongoing project that takes countless hours of liaison with Council & contractors, grant applications and volunteer input.
- We are still focused on getting more floodlights around the top fields so we double the lit space & can spread out for training. It's quite a juggle finding space for the increasing number of teams and this is an expensive and layered project. We've done a lot of groundwork and the next stage is liaising with Council and grant funders, which really requires a dedicated person to drive it. It isn't difficult, it just needs time & focus, and you'll be supported in the process, so if anyone is interested, please get in touch.
- The first step in upgrading the existing floodlight was completed with a new activation system installed. Next, we'll see the old bulbs replaced with LEDs.
- the master plan for grounds that include new clubrooms & changing rooms is still on the table but it will take many more years to come to fruition. In the meantime, we have refurbished the existing clubrooms ourselves and Council are refurbishing the toilet & changing room block over summer.
- The nearby roading upgrades caused some inconvenience but are expected to be completed over summer so we'll have clear access and extra carparks next season.

CLUB MANAGER

The club has grown to a size where its become necessary to employ a part-time manager and we struck gold in finding Monique Luke to fill the roll. With 2 sons playing, she's familiar with football and our club, and has the necessary skills to fulfil the role successfully. She's been thrown in the deep end with organising prize giving and end of season tasks and has handled things admirably. Monique will be the main point of contact for members going forward so you can expect to hear from her in February with the 2026 season information.

Our biggest highlight of the season is seeing our club members enjoy their football.

Wednesday night at the club is buzzing with nearly all of our junior & youth teams training. The deck and chairs in front have become a social hub and it's wonderful seeing the families chatting. We definitely need a bigger carpark!

Tuesdays & Thursdays sees our Seniors & older youth teams training, and again, it's busy at the club on the deck and the grass.

And of course, all the teams have game days on Saturday and Sunday and there's nothing like a full house of home games.

On that note, we'll move on to the Team Awards.

CLOSING

Congratulations of all the players who received team awards and those who received Club awards.

We'd like to thank our wonderful coaches, managers and referees who volunteer their time and energy to ensure our players get to do what they love.

We appreciate you committing to training & game days, taking time away from home & work, and remaining positive in fostering a love of football for our young players.

As a small token of appreciation, there is a gift for all of our coaches, managers, BBQ crew & committee of a club blanket and a bottle of wine to enjoy over summer... before we see you again next season!

To our players, thank you for training hard, playing hard and being wonderful team members. Please remember to thank your family & supporters for cheering you on, driving you around and providing your gear!

SUMMER FOOTBALL

- You sure are a bunch of keen footballers, enquires about summer football have already started, and of course there will be some!
- The kids open fun sessions start Weds 1st Nov, 5-6pm. It's a very relaxed format but we do need parents to supervise the players and keep games flowing.
- Info will be emailed to everyone, and go up on the website & Facebook page in October.
- We also have our Senior Summer Futsal comp starting after Labour Weekend, which we won't be advertising because thanks to returning teams and word of mouth, it's full already! We have 28 teams playing and we're looking forward to the day we have all the top fields available so we can accommodate all the teams who want to play.

All of the players have a snack pack that team managers can collect from the tables at the side of the room and hand out shortly.

There is also a free sausage sizzle for everyone outside.

As a long serving committee of footballers, we know the enormous effort you all put in and it's thanks to you that our club thrives. Well done everyone on a successful 2025 season.

COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

We're fortunate to have a core of committee members who have been with the club for over a decade, and also newer members who are long time footballers.

David Pivott – President

Amanda Holroyd – Treasurer

Angela Yuksel – Secretary

Adam Raututi – Senior delegate

Jeremy Posthuma – Junior & Youth Delegate

Phil Govorko – Small Whites Delegate & Club Captain

Members Russ Hart, Nigel Frost & Martin Hedley

Monique Luke – Club Manager

We are always keen to welcome new committee members and volunteers who bring a fresh perspective and new energy. Most of the current committee have seen our children come through the ranks and move into senior football, and we'd love to hand over the reins to those with coming through the younger age groups now.

If you're interested in seeing what we do and maybe becoming involved, please do make contact.