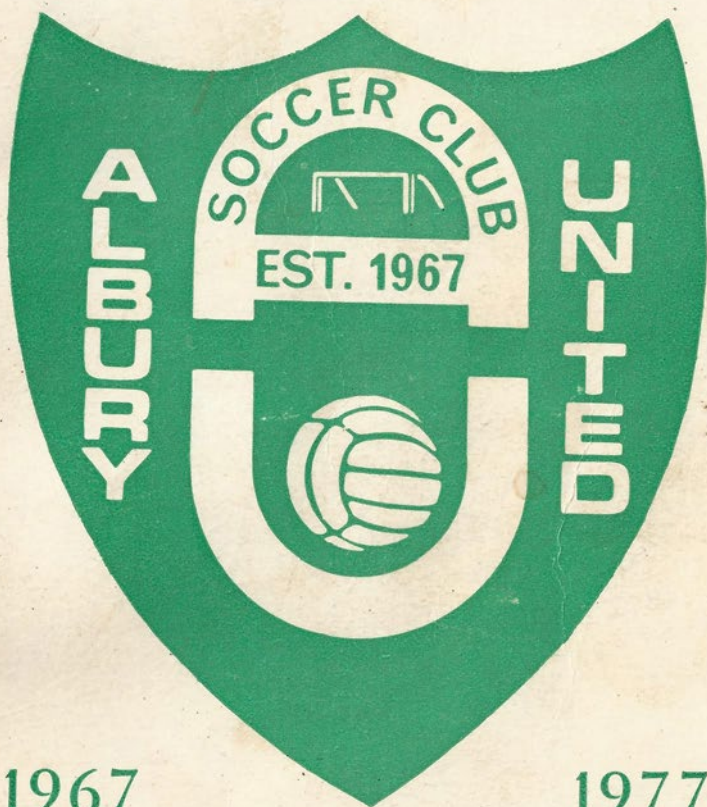


10th
ANNIVERSARY



1967

1977

ALBURY UNITED

SOCCER CLUB

EST. 1967



FOREWORD

"Write a Foreward" they said. "Just a few lines!"

Now forward lines I can manage. How about Matthews, Pele, Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento. That's not a bad one.

Albury United was established in 1967. Ten years ago—that's quite an achievement. Soccer clubs come and go, only a very few go on and on and these are usually the very successful ones with shelves of trophies.

United is really different as we have never won a senior trophy and yet the club goes on from strength to strength.

This is due mainly to the work of the committee and coaches and the band of parents who back the club so loyally. The players, of course, are the main body of the club, but a lot of work has to be done between Sundays.

It is particularly pleasing for me to see all the youngsters playing Seniors this year who have come from the junior teams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who started Albury United. I wonder if they knew what they were starting and the pleasure they were going to give to the hundreds of United players who have followed in their footsteps.

Thank you, gentlemen.

PETER BANNISTER,

President, 1977

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1967	G. Fuchsberger
1968	G. Knobloch
1969	G. Knobloch
1970	D. Knobloch
1971	B. Hoek
1972	B. Hoek, H. van Gerven
1973	H. van Gerven
1974	H. van Gerven
1975	H. Winter
1976	F. Bannister
1977	P. Bannister

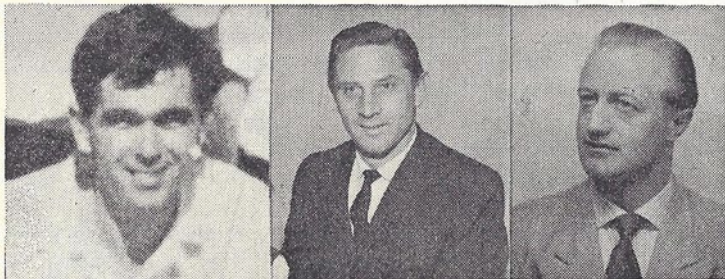
FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Club members from 1967 who are still actively associated with Albury United:

B. Schmitz, H. Winter, Fritz Demharter, D. Knobloch, K. Chambers.

Club members from 1967 who have sons playing for Albury United:

H. Winter, H. Walch, K. Chambers, D. Knobloch.



DEREK THORNLEY

BERNIE SCHMITZ

HANS WINTER



FRITZ DEMHARTER

HANS LARAMEE

G. FUCHSBERGER

HOW IT BEGAN

In 1967 there was no soccer teams playing in Albury, but players from Albury were registered with a Wodonga team and played over the border.

With the growing interest of more players in Albury it was decided that time was appropriate for the formation of a team or teams in Albury .

Prime movers in this direction were Derek Thornley, Bernie Schmitz, Hans Winter, Fritz Demharter, Hans LeRamee and George Fuchsberger.

An advertisement was inserted in the "Border Morning Mail" calling a meeting of all interested persons to attend at the Boomerang Motel on Friday, November 4, 1966, to consider the formation of an Albury soccer club.

From this meeting, convened by Geogre Fuchsberger, it was decided to form a new soccer club in Albury.

A further meeting was held on the 18th November, 1966, and the following office-bearers were elected for the 1967 season:

President: George Fuchsberger
Secretary: Derek Thornley
Asst. Secretary: L. McLelland
Treasurers: B. Schmitz, J. McKinvin
Committee: K. Muller, H. Winter, G. Rossman,
H. LaRamee

The name chosen for the club was Albury United Soccer Club.

The club sought and gained admission to the North Eastern Soccer Federation of Victoria and fielded two teams in the 1967 season.

The teams were coached by Firtz Demharter and trained at Melrose Park. This ground had been made suitable for play after strenuous working bees involving removal of a concrete cricket pitch, grass slashing, renovating existing dressing sheds and marking out a soccer pitch. The club colours were then yellow and black.

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AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPH



L. to R.—M. Alavuk, H. Walch, H. Ruitenberg, J. Tai, D. Milic, H. LaRamee, G. Wegener, F. Demharter.
Front row—B. Schmitz, P. Maa, M. Antonello, D. Thornley, K. Chambers

Enthusiasm ran high right from the birth of the club and in a very short time there were 39 registered members and players. They included:

M. Alavuk	K. Harder	F. Resch
M. Antonello	D. Knobloch	G. Rossman
I. Barker	G. Knobloch	H. Ruitenberg
G. Burt	*H. LaRamee	*B. Schmitz
E. Cham	S. Loh	A. Susic
K. Chambers	P. Maa	J. Tai
J. Craane	L. McClellan	V. Tai
P. Dawson	J. McKinvin	J. van Holten
W. Dedourek	D. Milic	H. Walch
*F. Demharter	B. Nieuwerth	G. Wegener
*G. Fuchsberger	B. Palavestar	G. Winter, jnr.
P. Gittel, jnr.	M. Panesic	*H. Winter
W. Groenendyk	H. Redfern	*D. Thornley

* Denotes players who transferred from Wodonga

A report in the "Border Morning Mail" of the 14th March, 1967 indicates the healthy enthusiasm that existed from the first game played:

SOCCKER AGAIN IN ALBURY

The first soccer match to be played in Albury for many years was staged at Melrose Park on Sunday.

It was a social game between Albury United and Wodonga Bulldogs which resulted in a two-all draw.

This could be the forerunner of many games to be played in the area as Albury United will be competing in the North Eastern Soccer Federation which commences competition early in April.

After a bright start by both sides, the game deteriorated as a spectacle. In the second half both teams tried desperately for the winning goal, but little effort was made by the defences to play a constructive game. High kicking seemed to be the order of the day, instead of combined teamwork and thoughtful clearances.

Next weekend both teams travel to Myrtleford to play in the \$200 Alitalia knock out cup.

On Monday, 10th April, the "B.M.M." reported as follows:

ALBURY UNITED DEFEATED IN FIRST GAMES

Albury United played its first game in the North Eastern Soccer Federation when it visited Cobram yesterday.

The first game played was between the respective reserve teams and proved to be very entertaining and crowd pleasing right up to the final whistle.

Cobram quickly gained the ascendancy and were two up to the first 10 minutes, with goals from Herman and Schultz.

Best players for Cobram: H. Schulz, S. Herman, and for Albury United: B. Schmitz.

Final scores: Cobram 2, Albury United 1.

The second game, between the first elevens followed an almost identical pattern to that of the reserve game, in that Albury United dominated the early part of the game.

They took an early lead when Chambers slipped past the defence to score from close range.

However, as the game progressed, Albury began to tire and Cobram took the initiative and scored their winner in the closing stages of the game with a "freak" shot that cannoned off a defender over the head of goalkeeper Banovic, making it a 2-1 victory for the home team.

Best players for Albury were: Banovic, who played brilliantly in the goal, and young John Tai who at inside-right, played with the assurance of a senior.

Determination, the greatest asset any team can possess, was noticeably to the forefront at all times. Via the "B.M.M." this impression is spelt out:

In the first competitive game of soccer played in Albury for six years, Albury United caused an upset on Sunday when they held a strong Milawa team to a one-all draw at Melrose Park.

Again, on 3th May:

Although United have had little success this season, they have now signed D. Knobloch, who will strengthen the defence, and they hope to give King Valley a good game.

The match was a real crowd-pleaser, and the final scores (4-1 in favour of King Valley) flattered the visitors, who in the last 25 minutes were completely outplayed by a fit and skillful United team.

In fact, United were unlucky not to score on at least three occasions when Ruitenbergh hit the post and then both Ruitenbergh and Walch came very close to hitting the net with the visitors' goalkeeper well beaten.

Two of King Valley's goals were brilliant individual efforts.

The inclusion of new recruit Deiter Knobloch added strength to Albury's defence which, given time, will prove very hard to pass. In the forward-line Hong Kong born Eddie Chan played superbly at inside-right.

Albury will have few worries for the future and will prove tough opposition for other sides.

Best players: E. Chan, H. Walch, H. Ruitenberg, M. Antonello. —"B.M.M.," 15-5-67.

Although fortunes had not been with Albury United to any extent up to date, the never-say-die spirit was still paramount, and on Saturday, July 1, 1967, comments in Soccer News in the "Border Morning Mail" highlighted the fact:

Albury United travel to play Milawa in what is likely to be one of the hardest fought games of the round.

Milawa are playing well, having won three out of their last five games, and a victory over United is essential if they are to remain a threat to the teams above them.

On the other hand, United are going through a very lean spell, having lost their last three home games, and will be anxious to take home two points in an effort to lift them off the bottom of the ladder.

However, Milawa proved to be too strong and after a spate of close marking and quick tackling which temporarily upset Milawa, Albury United could not stand up to the sudden attack by Milawa who eventually ran out winners by 2-0.

At this point of the seasons play the ladder was:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
King Valley	12	10	1	1	21
Cobram	12	8	2	2	18
Myrtleford	12	7	4	1	15
Khancoban	12	6	5	1	13
Whorouly	12	5	5	2	12
Milawa	12	5	5	2	12
Wang. City	12	4	8	0	8
Benalla	12	3	7	2	8
Wodonga	12	4	8	0	8
Albury	12	2	9	1	5

Results of the United-Benalla match were more encouraging as reported on Tuesday, August 1:

Albury United drew 2-all with Benalla in an exciting bottom-of-the-ladder N.E.S.L. game at the weekend.

Instead of "folding-up" as they have done in so many games this season, United treated their supporters to a courageous fight-back and a grand-stand finish which had the crowd on their toes until the final whistle.

This recovery was made even more remarkable by the fact that United played the last 20 minutes with only nine fit players on the field.

Improvement continued and the next weekend saw Albury United defeat Wodonga 2-0, the success being attributed to the strong defence of Knobloch, LaRamee and Walch.

However, this win did not shift Albury United from the bottom of the ladder.

The season was completed with a friendly game against Wagga United at Melrose Park.

Even though the club finished the season near the bottom of the ladder, morale was high and the club was financially sound.

At this point it was suggested that something be done to encourage juniors to take part in the game, and it was announced that boys would be welcome at United's training sessions.

Altogether the season was regarded as very successful from playing and social points of view. Several enjoyable social functions were held during the year and the season closed with a dance and social evening on September 2.

Finance was augmented by several competitions, when prizes for a floor polisher and an electric blanket were given.

One big effort was made when members, with a truck generously loaned by Alfarm Pty. Ltd., went to Les Hanel's property and cut and carted wood which was sold to private buyers in Albury and Wodonga. The project proved to be a very successful one, financially and socially.

Spectator attendances through the season were generally very good, but difficulty was experienced in attracting a greater number of senior as well as junior players.

No women's auxiliary existed at this time.

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SEASON 1968

At the annual general meeting of the Club held at the Boomerang Motel on 21st September, 1967, the following were elected to fill the main administrative positions:

President: G. Knobloch
Secretary: D. Thornley
Treasurer: B. Schmitz
Coach: F. Demharter

A review of the closing season stressed the success of the club. It could not be expected that for the first season the club would take out a premiership. The integration of a team could not take place as fast as that, but a great deal of satisfaction had been gained by players and officials alike in the efforts that had been made.

It was gratifying to see so many nationalities involved in the activities of the club, especially the overseas students that were attending Scott School in Albury.

The social events had brought people together and they had worked for the good of the club as one body. Financial support had been satisfactory and pointers were evident that next season would be a better one. Players and supporters could look forward with confidence to the permanent establishment of the club, and a very bright season ahead.

Under the guidance of J. Schuurman and H. Winter, junior coaching sessions got under way during this year. Twenty-five youngsters between five and 14 years were enrolled and this number increased to approximately 50 by the end of the season. Delegates from Albury United to the N.E.S.L. meeting proposed a junior competition.

It would appear from early reports appearing in the "Border Morning Mail" that right from the commencement of the season optimism was at a high pitch, and although in the opening round United were defeated by Cobram, the Reserves were successful in defeating Cobram 3-0 in the curtain raiser.

In the game against Wodonga Bulldogs on 21st April, United ran out winners, 3-1, points being taken with two goals by Gerhard Winter and one by Chambers at critical stages. The strong defence of Albury United was too good for the Bulldogs. In the Reserves match the tables were turned and Wodonga Bulldogs won 2-0.

Albury United's win over Wodonga Bulldogs gave rise to some encouraging speculation in their match against Benalla, and again their determination was noted:

Albury's teamwork and determination have never been higher, especially since its morale-boosting 3-1 victory over Border neighbours, Wodonga Bulldogs.

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This, combined with the fact that in centre-half and captain, Dieter Knobloch, they have the most constructive and talented defender in the league, United should run out winners.

An encouraging feature of last week's win over Wodonga was the will-to-win spirit displayed by the home team and a return to form of Max Antonello and full-back Hans LaRamee.

If United can continue its present form, it must retain its present standing in the top four.

In their match against King Valley, Albury United caused a stir when they pressed the Valley team in a goal-for-goal first half, as recorded:

The second half of the match again produced good soccer by both teams, Albury's swift-moving forward line was no match for King Valley's rugged backs. But Albury's adoption of a full five-man defence kept the Valley forwards out of shooting range. Not until the 35th minute of the second half did United's backs make their first mistake and allow King Valley to score their second and final goal.

Best players for Albury were H. Winter and H. Walch.

Albury Reserves were no match for the rugged King Valley team, the final scores being 8-3. Scorers for Albury were K. Harder, V. Tai and W. Moore.

Albury United scored a valuable win over Milawa in the seventh round, but went under to a greatly improved side of Wangaratta City the following week, due, according to newspaper reports, to a lack of their usual drive and enthusiasm. In the second half, however, Albury came back with newly-build courage and enthusiasm, but failed to overtake Wang's lead. Final scores were 5-1.

Best players were P. Maa, D. Knobloch and H. Winter.

The ladder at this stage was:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Benalla	7	5	2	-	10
Myrtleford	7	5	2	-	10
King Valley	7	4	2	1	9
Cobram	6	4	2	-	8
Wodonga	7	1	6	-	2
Milawa	6	3	2	1	7
Wangaratta	7	2	3	1	5
Albury	7	2	5	-	4

SECONDS: Milawa 12, Myrtleford 9, King Valley 6, Wodonga 6, Benalla 4, Cobram 3, Albury 2.

As with every club, United was having its ups and downs, as indicated in a comment in the "B.M.M." on 1st June, 1968:

If United continue to play without purpose or endeavour, as it did against Wangaratta City, it cannot hope to hold a very competent and efficient Cobram side.

United weakness is its attack where it lacks the necessary drive and shooting power to score goals. As a consequence, its defence is always under a great deal of pressure.

As if rallying to a call for greater effort, United defeated Wodonga Bulldogs. From the "B.M.M.":

Best Wishes to Albury United Soccer Club

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In the Border clash between Albury United and Wodonga Bulldogs, speed and determination were the prime factors in Albury's 1-0 win.

Albury were unlucky not to score in the early minutes of the game—first the ball hit the crossbar and rebounded into the field, then another hit the upright post.

These, along with other shots, kept the Wodonga goalkeepers well occupied. Wodonga frequently broke away and looked quite dangerous at times, but they were no match for the Albury defence.

D. Thornley gave Albury their only goal in the 40th minute with a good long drive into the top left-hand corner from a distance of 35 yards.

In the second half a further goal by Albury was ruled off-side.

Although Wodonga put a great deal into attack, they lacked the combination to make it a draw and the final whistle saw Albury the winners, 1-0.

The "lift" was but short-lived, for the next report stated:

United are not playing well at the moment with many of its top players well below their best. In addition, J. Schuurman, M. Antonello and G. Winter are all doubtful starters.

(This refers to their game against Myrtleford).

A further report on the game says:

Myrtleford needed a penalty goal to set the seal on victory over Albury United. A great deal will depend upon which team can score the first goal. Both sides this season have shown a lack of fight when a goal is down.

This is a weakness both sides must overcome if either is to take out the championship.

Albury United will entertain King Valley in what could prove the surprise result of the round. United, with four reserves in, played a magnificent rear-guard game last week against Myrtleford, only conceding the game in the last 10 minutes of the match.

Once again it was its defence of Winter, Knobloch and Thornley that held the team together.

It seems that the greater the odds against United, the better their performance.

In the 14th and final round of matches, United had failed to gain a position in the final four, but their team spirit and doggedness continued throughout, and a press report stated that "they are finishing the season in good form".

Despite of mixed success over the season, the players and members were very closely knit because soccer was very new and small compared to other football codes.

Finances were enough to keep the club above water. This was the first year the club was thinking towards establishing a junior team, and delegates proposed a junior competition to the North Eastern Soccer League (N.E.S.L.).

The highlight of the end of the season was the game against Chelsea Soccer Club from Melbourne, and this weekend finished with a bar-b-que at Derek Thornley's place.

George Knobloch was in charge of the end-of-season social held on 29th October, 1968, at the Lavington Hall, when the following awards were made:

Best and Fairest: Dieter Knobloch
Honourable Mention: Derek Thornley

Wolfgang Dedourek had a big task in collecting money over the whole season to pay laundry charges for the strip (gear) of players, and warrants thanks of the club for his fine effort.

The first junior coaching clinic was held on May 5, at Melrose Park, conducted by John Schuurman. These clinics were continued during the whole season with an average attendance of 30 junior players.

Presentation was made to Wayne Binding (Best and Fairest Junior player).

Competitions were conducted to raise funds to support junior soccer, and the ladies auxiliary, as always, was active in raising additional funds. Their willingness and energy deserve commendation and thanks.

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SEASON 1969

The election of office-bearers for the 1969 season resulted as follows:

President: G. Knobloch
Secretary: D. Thornley
Treasurer: B. Schmitz
Coach: F. Demharter

With the apparent success of the junior coaching clinics during the 1968 season, it was felt that a continuance of the coaching was well worth while, and during the season the first junior game of under 16 years was played at Benalla. The youngsters played with all the enthusiasm of senior players and had a really enjoyable day.

It was quite evident from this match that the endeavours to interest the lads in the code were well founded, and it could be seen that in time recruits for the senior team would be from the ranks of these juniors whose prior experience and coaching would pay dividends in the senior team.

A junior sub-committee was formed, headed by John Schuurman.

The Albury United team was faced with stiffer competition right from the inception of the season, and results of their match with an improved Wangaratta City side were watched with more than usual interest. It was the final of the soccer trials.

The season opened with the Alitalia Cup match at Myrtleford over the Easter weekend. The match of the day was declared to be the Albury United-Milawa game, with Albury United having a very good chance of victory after their improved showing earlier in the Alitalia Cup game, in which Myrtleford went home to win with a last-minute goal. It was the closest game of the day, watched by over 1000 spectators.

In their match against Benalla on the 27th April, Albury United scored a nil-all draw.

There was a re-play of the final Alitalia Cup between Milawa and Wangaratta, Milawa taking the honours with a 3-1 score.

Press reports of the 26th April tipped that Albury United-Benalla match to be a very close one, adding that "Albury, who seem to be in the doldrums at present, will have to concentrate on play for the full time instead of being 'in-and-out' of the game before it can become a threat to any side".

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SEASON 1970

There were no changes in the three main offices for this season, but the office of vice-president was added.

President: D. Knobloch
Vice-President: F. Demharter
Secretary: D. Thornley
Treasurer: B. Schmitz
Coach: W. Sommerfield

Activity among the juniors was again a feature of the season. John Schuurman resigned as coach of this age-group and Harry van Gerven took over the office.

It was decided to build the interest and to stress the importance of discipline as a major factor in all aspects of junior participation in the game, and so become more valuable members of the club. The idea was discussed, and as a result seven rules were decided upon for immediate implementation. They were:

1. Training from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday nights.
2. No football boots to be worn off the field.
3. 14 days no play when no points left (25 points each).
5. Travelling will be set out by the trainer and you do as he says.
6. When you leave the training or games you must notify the trainer or assistant.
7. The naming or changing of teams for playing will be done by the trainer.

When these rules were not followed, three points were deducted from a total of 25, progressively, making it possible for a lad to lose all 25 points.

It could have been predicted by sceptics that the rules would have been too harsh for the boys of today, and that they would not be accepted in the spirit they were designed, nor have the effect of exciting enthusiasm among the boys.

However, the response was very good, and the boys benefited. The attitude towards the training methods which were governed by these rules was exceptional and rewarding to the extent that most of the boys who were introduced to the rules at the time, have become outstanding sportsmen.

An indication of their acceptance and enthusiasm can be gauged by the fact that Harry Winter finished with 22 points still in hand, Garry Williams with 18 and Rob. Robinson with 14 points.

Best and Fairest player from the junior team was Harry Winter.

SEASON 1971

New major office-bearers led the club in the 1971 season. They were:

President: Ben Hoek
Vice-President: H. van Gerven
Secretary: M. J. van Reemst
Treasurer: B. Schmitz
Coach: W. Dedourek

This was a year of several innovations, all of which proved to be well planned and beneficial.

One such move was the introduction of soccer programme booklets. The issue of these booklets was started under the patronage of Mr. Tom Pearsall. The booklet showed a soccer field with the players' positions marked and also contained a story of the club. Advertising space in the booklet was sold to retail firms and contributed to the funds of the club. The project was well patronised by advertisers and was very acceptable to members, supporters and spectators.

The colours of the club were changed to green and white.

As a fund-raised, Hans Sedlag organised a bottle drive and a goodly sum of \$81.30 resulted.

Repairs to dressing sheds, goal posts and grounds were effected by a willing working bee on February 28.

A novel and very enjoyable function in the form of a ladies match was played on 4th October, augmented by a bar-b-que on the grounds and drinks. Admission was by ticket: members \$3.00 a double, \$1.50 single; or \$4.00 for non-members double and \$2.00 single non-members.

The day was an outstanding success. The match was between United ladies and Wodonga Bulldog ladies. The players provided plenty of fun and entertainment and the social atmosphere about the bar-b-que was such that the event was not soon forgotten.

In spite of this, no other ladies matches were arranged.

Several members, Ben Hoek, Harry van Gerven, John van Reemst, senr., and Berny Schmitz conducted competitions for chickens at the Boomerang Motel during the season, to the benefit of the club. Money raised through these avenues was deposited in two special building accounts.

The ladies auxiliary was to the forefront as usual and during the season donated 12 strips for senior players as well as assisting in fund-raising.

On Saturday, October 30, 1971, the annual social night

was held at St. Patrick's hall, the ladies rallying to the call again by providing the supper.

Despite the big effort by the club to send juniors to Melbourne, funds did not reach the required figure and the plan had to be abandoned.



Back row (L to R)—SOMMERFIELD, GLABBATZ, LANDMAN, MESIG, RUITENBERG, G. ACHTERBERG, SOMMERFIELD, —, —, I. HARDER, LANDMANN

Representatives went next to the Albany City Council



Back row: ANTONELLO, WINTER, ACHTERBERG, RUITENBERG Van GERVEN, GLABBATZ, RUITENBERG.



Back row: D. BOSIC, JOHN RUITENBERG, H. LARAMEE J.
ACHTERBERG, A. LANDMAN, J. LANDMAN

Front row: K. CHAMBERS, M. ANTONELLO, GEOFREY RUITEN-
BERG, (Mascot), J. VERLOOP, H. BANASEK, J. JENSEN

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SEASON 1972

Office-bearers for this season were;

President: B. Hoek
Vice-President: F. Bertazzo
Secretaries: M. J. van Reemst, Ingrid Harder
Treasurer: B. Schmitz
Coach: W. Sommerfield

During the year members received the sad news that the President's wife had passed away. She was president of the ladies auxiliary at the time. Following the death of his wife, Ben Hoek returned to his native Holland and the office of president was filled by Harry van Gerven on April 6, 1972

This year Albury United was re-classified into 2nd Division by the N.E.S.L. The club reluctantly accepted this decision, but decided to promote and encourage the junior players in every way.

The second division was later abandoned because of the number of clubs opposing this competition.

N. Baker was appointed coach of the juniors and later, in April, Neville Baker took over this position.

Representations were made to the Albury City Council to provide a new soccer pitch at Jelbart Park. This they agreed to do, much to the delight and appreciation of the club which, incidentally, was not called upon to contribute in any way towards the cost of the work. It was ready for the 1973 season.

At the end of the season it was announced that the award for Best and Fairest player in the senior section had been awarded to Max Antonello.

Awards in the 5-year junior players section were: Harry Winter 1, Benny Schuurman 2, and Tony Schuurman 3.

Verlona House

● Many Thanks to Mrs. Yule for her help in compiling this book

SEASON 1973

Nineteen seventy-three opened with the prospects of the club having a new pitch at Jelbart Park with a much better playing surface and being more centrally situated than the old ground.

Harry van Gerven continued to lead the committee as President, and he was assisted by the following:

Vice-President: N. Baker

Secretary: Mrs van Gerven

Treasurer: B. Schmitz

Coaches: P. Bannister, F. Modlic

At a meeting on the 6th of October, 1973, it was unanimously voted that Albury United Soccer Club would join the newly-formed Albury/Wodonga Soccer Association, and as a result of this move the club officially withdrew from the N.E.S.L. on 6th December, 1973.

Special attention continued to be given to the juniors under the leadership of Vasa Pobulic as coach. The lads had a very successful season by climbing up the ladder and being in the final four, but lost the preliminary final against Shepparton United.

Harry Winter was selected to play for the N.E.S.L. at a junior carnival between selective teams from Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and the N.E.S.L., and returned with the distinction of being elected best and fairest.

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ALBURY UNITED JUNIORS—FINAL FOUR TEAM



Back row (L to R)—RUSSELL MASON, FRANK TIMMERMANS, ROBT. ROBINSON, JOHN VAN REEMST., STEPHEN BRUNNENMEYER, BENNY SCHUURMAN, NIGEL GILL
Front row: GEOFF SANDERSON, PETER MASON, MICHAEL VAN GERVEN, HANS SOMMERFIELD, HARRY WINTER, CRAIG PEARCE

John van Reemst

Frank Timmermans

Stephen Brunnenmeyer

Peter Mason

Harry Winter

Benny Schuurman

Rus. Mason, Robt. Robinson, C. Pearce, G. Sanderson, N. Gill

Reserves: Hans Sommerfield, Michael van Gerven

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SEASON 1974

Harry van Gerven continued as President for the 1974 season, ably assisted by:

- H. Winter, Vice-President
- P. Bannister, Secretary
- B. Schmitz, Treasurer
- F. Modlic, Coach
- V. Pobulic and F. Roberts, Junior Coaches.

Following their acceptance in the Albury/Wodonga Soccer Association, Albury United were excited at the prospects of night football at Lavington Sports Club oval. It was something of a new experience and anticipated with eagerness.

This series was a huge success, so much so that it was alleged that the reason for its not being re-introduced the following year was because it was recognised as a threat to other football codes in popularity.

With the installation of two lights at Jelbart Park, night training was now possible and the opportunity was accepted by players and coaches with much enthusiasm.

The steady growth of potential players into the junior grade was both rewarding and gratifying to note.

An original project was developed during this year. Building contract work was undertaken by members of the club in Jindera and Albury. Money raised was used towards the installation of the flood-lighting of Jelbart Park. Some \$160 was raised.

The end-of-the-season social evening this year was held at the German-Austrian clubrooms on 11th November. During the evening presentations were made to John van Reemst, junr., for Best and Fairest player, and to Les Riley, Most Improved player. The function proved to be one of the best social occasions held by the club.

The Association Night Soccer booklet was distributed during this year and members were very interested to have a

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summary of all players in the Association. From the booklet is reprinted references to Albury United:

ALBURY UNITED

PRESIDENT: Mr. H. van Gerven

Secretary: Mr. P. Bannister, 517 Logan rd, North Albury

Colours: Green/White striped shirt, white shorts.

PLAYERS:

JOHN VAN REEMST: Goal keeper. An outstanding young goalkeeper.

HARRY WINTER: Right back. Only 16 and small in stature, but packed with ability.

RENUS SLOMP. Left back. Capable defender, full of enthusiasm.

STEVE BRUNNENMEYER: Right half. Developing into a strong mid-field player.

FRANK MODLIC: Centre half. Captain. An experienced player with outstanding ball control.

ADOLF KEMPER: Left half. Good all-round player, fearless in the air,

RUSSELL MASON: Right wing. A fast, direct player.

PETER BANNISTER: Always uses his experience to get the best from his young team mates.

TONY SCHUURMAN: Centre forward. A direct player, good in the air and on the ground.

ROBERT ROBINSON: Inside left. Was outstanding as a junior last year.

KEITH CHAMBERS: Outside left. A powerful winger, capable of taking on a defence.

VASA POBULIC: Utility. A good all-round player who can play anywhere.

HANS VAN GERVEN: Half back. A promising young player.

JOHN DRACAUCIC: Utility. A versatile youngster.

LES RILEY: Utility. A hard-working player showing rapid improvement.

-
- Acknowledgment is made of the many hours of work by Mr. Hans Winter in researching material and compiling this book. The Club deeply appreciates his interest and effort.

SENIOR TEAM—1974



Back row: VASA POBULIC, HANS V. GERVEN, FRANK MODLIC,
PETER GALANAKIS, RENUS SLOMP, STEVE KOWALCZUK,
WASIL TIMACZUK

Front row: HARRY WINTER, PETER BANNISTER, JOHN V. REEMST,
NICK HATZOPOLIS, ADOLF KEMPER.

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SEASON 1975

It was quite clear from the report submitted by the President (Tony Ratcliffe) of the Albury/Wodonga Soccer Association in October of this year that soccer was undoubtedly a popular code of football.

His opening paragraph read:

"Once again the Association has experienced a season of strong and welcome growth with the total number of teams playing competition soccer within the city boundaries of Albury and Wodonga increasing to 55: 41 in the five junior divisions and 14 in the two senior divisions. Coupled with this growth has been the encouraging consolidation within most of the member clubs, all of whom are in a stronger position than they were a year ago. . . ."

Albury United improved their standard of play and were placed third on the premiership ladder for seniors and fourth on the Reserves ladder. All teams played in the Albury/Wodonga Soccer Association.

Pre-season competitions were played as warm-ups and trial games were played before the proper competition rounds commenced.

There was a steady growth in the club during the year and a noticeable lift in general support was experienced. With the growing interest in soccer local business houses were approached to sponsor junior teams by donating complete outfits of gear and soccer balls. The result was very good and added quite markedly to the general morale of the juniors.

Another factor which helped in no small way with the junior players was the loyal support given by their parents to coaches of the various age groups. The value of this interest and support cannot be rated too highly. It add something to the lads' attitude that is unique and irreplaceable from any other source.

A junior trophy presentation at the end of the season was held at the Lavington Hall when the gathering included all junior players and their brothers and sisters.

All boys who were members of a team received a trophy. This policy has been adopted by the club and will continue to be the norm for junior players.

During the year the "Border Soccer" newspaper was established and members of Albury United played their part in getting

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the news-sheet under way by canvassing businesses for advertisements.

Night training at Jelbart Park was improved with the installation of an additional light, members of the club carrying out the work.

A new club insignia was designed by Mike Donders and adopted by the club (see front cover of booklet).

Office-bearers for the year were:

President: H. Winter
Vice-President: V. Pobulic
Secretary: P. Bannister
Treasurer: B. Schmitz

Appreciation of the services of coaches of the various teams was registered. The coaches were:

1st Reserves: J. Newbold
Under 16: P. Bannister
Under 14: _____
Under 12: E. Richardson
Under 10: H. Winter, junr.

A very successful season was experienced socially, with good work being done by the ladies auxiliary and helpers whom they recruited. It can be said without fear of contradiction that the behind-the-scenes work done by the ladies contributed very largely to the overall smooth running of the club.

Finances were augmented during the year through competitions, prizes being a 14" colour television, a digital clock and 10 electric blankets. These competitions proved to be always popular.

-
- Special Thanks to Mr. Harley De La Rue for his assistance in selecting and sub-editing material for this book

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L to R—D. SHARP, M. FLOWER, M. RADIOCIC, P. ROBARDS,
R. ASSIGAL, G. WILLIAMS, E. LYDICK, P. BANNISTER, A. READ,
S. SIMPSON, M. GOODIE, P WALSH, G. MASSIE, G. RALPH

UNDER 12 TEAM—1975



L to R—N. BARRACLOUGH, R. BEAN, A. UNDERHOLZER, J.
CHAPMAN, D. ALLEN, M. BYKERK, E. RICHARDSON, L. POBULIC,
W. THOMAS

RUNNERS-UP, UNDER 12—OCTOBER CUP



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L to R—H. WINTER, C. EDWARDS, D. THOMAS, G. YULE,
S. UNDERHOLZER, R. LUCAS
M. JAY, G. RUITENBERG, K. KEMPER, S. BOWEN, I. YULE

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ANDERSON, S. MASSIE.

HONOURS OF LEAGUE COMPETITION

UNDER 14—1974—Albury Hotspurs, Albury United, runners-up.
UNDER 8—1975—Albury United, Twin City Wanderers, runners-up
UNDER 16—1975—Twin City Wanderers, Albury United, runners-up
UNDER 12—1975—Melrose Park Rangers, Albury United runners-up.
UNDER 8—1975—Albury United, Twin City Wanderers, runners-up.
SENIORS—1975—Albury City, Albury United, runners-up
ANZAC SHIELD—UNDER 12—1974—Albury Hotspurs, Albury United
runners-up.

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS, 1975—ALBURY UNITED

UNDER 16—Paul Robards, Greg. Willaims.
UNDER 14—Philip Walsh.
UNDER 12—Wayne Thomas, Neil Baillie.
UNDER 10—Geoffrey Ruitenber
UNDER 8—S. Massie, D. Thomas, B. Harper,
S. Armstrong, Peter Stephans
SENIORS—J. van Reemst, W. Fraser, H. Winter

PRE-SEASON COMPETITION

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Albury United	3	3	0	0	11	1	6
Twin City Wanderers	3	1	1	1	6	2	3
Melrose Park Rangers	3	1	1	1	8	3	3
Hotspurs	3	0	0	0	0	19	0

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Albury City	3	2	1	0	6	3	5
Lavington	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Diamonds	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Rovers	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

FINAL: Albury United 0, Albury City 2.

-
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SEASON 1976

Those chosen to fill the administrative offices of the club for 1976 were:

President: F. Bannister
Vice-President: H. Winter
Secretary: G. Robards
Treasurer: B. Schmitz

Because of the ever-increasing numbers of juniors becoming interested in the club, it was necessary to form two additional teams: an under eight years (coached by J. Graham), and an under 10 years (coached by B. Yule).

In addition to these two new teams the club sponsored two girls netball teams—Albury United and Soccer Sisters. A volleyball team, named Albury United Road Runners, was successful in the winter competition in becoming premiers in the B-grade section. They were then advanced to the A-grade Reserves for the summer competition. In this grade they won the premiership also.

Following their successes the volleyball team was stepped up to the A-grade competition for the following year. The team comprised:

Kary Lezius	Harry Winter
Renus Slomp	John Negerman
Martin Thompson	Wayne Fraser
John van Reemst, junr.	Russell Godson

The club was very thankful to have the use of a caravan kiosk, donated by Jen Charles Caravans.

The unit was a very useful facility and served a double purpose: being a kiosk and a revenue-producer through advertising space bought by local business houses.

Advertisers included Jacobs Joinery, Darryl Smailes Car Radio, Star Service Station and Car Wash, Alpine Industries, Kenyul Rent-a-Truck, SAS Travel Bureau, and Wodonga Wonderland Toy Shop.

Senior members as well as the committee were very appreciative of De Bortoli's winery for their very fine donation of complete outfits for senior players.

Successes were registered by three teams in their reaching the October Cup finals. They were: Under 16, under 12 and under 10; the under 12 winning the cup.

Under 10 team won the League Championship and were runners-up in the October Cup.

These performances were a fitting close to months of deter-

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mination and hard work and all participants have every right to feel satisfied with their efforts for the season.

Coaches for all teams are to be congratulated on their perseverance and dedication. The panel consisted of:

1st Team Reserves: G. Massie and R. Fraser
Under 16: P. Bannister
Under 14: E. Richardson
Under 12: K. Pretty
Under 10: H. Ruitenberg and B. Yule
Under 8: I. Page and J. Graham

At the end-of-season junior bar-b-que, held at Jelbart Park, trophies were presented and each junior player received a club pennant. Senior players received a bottle of champagne.

The season closed with a very happy ball, conducted in a relaxed atmosphere, the large crowd thoroughly enjoying the evening.

A competition was conducted during the year, first prize being a kayak, second a lady's orton bag and third was Tupperware. These competitions through the seasons were very successful ventures and boosted finances of the club.

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS, 1976

SENIORS—J. van Reemst, W. Fraser, H. Winter
UNDER 16—G. Williams, E. Lydick, M. Fraser,
P. Robards, P. Walsh
UNDER 14—R. Dillon
UNDER 12—R. Quihampton, W. Thomas, O.
John.
UNDER 10—G. Ruitenberg, P. Bates, B. Duff,
P. Stephens, G. Small, C. Pearsall, S.
Jarvis.

UNDER 10 TEAM—1976



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SEASON 1977

Before the close of the 1976 season, the annual general meeting took place. The office-bearers for the 1977 season were elected, as follows:

President: P. Bannister
Vice-President: H. Winter
Secretary: G. Robards
Treasurer: B. Schmitz

Coaches were also appointed:

1st Team Reserves: C. Vilano and H. van Gerven, junr.
Under 16: P. Bannister
Under 14: B. Eddy
Under 12: B. Yule
Under 10: M. Slomp, M. Thompson, E. Lydick, junr.
Under 8: J. Graham, D. Knobloch, G. Armstrong and J. Dodge.

It was announced that three further junior team sponsors had been secured: Under 14, George's Discounts; under 12, Albury Foam Supplies; under 10B, "Picador" Restaurant (John De La Torre); under 8c, Noel Searle For Glass.

Prospects for the 1977 season appear to be the brightest in the history of the club, and members, players and supporters generally will await with eagerness the commencement of activities for that period.

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