



Five-year plan

Our club's five-year plan has four key goals. Here we examine what they mean for our members, and why it's important we all strive to achieve them.

GOAL: To nurture and retain our youth players with a football and self-development pathway that is considered the best in the sport.

WHY: In recent years, the playing strength of our club has been in its junior ranks, with more than 400 players registered. Our young players provide a significant number of rep players and three of our players represented New Zealand at the Under 12 World Cup in South Africa in 2010.

But many of our youngsters drop out of the club — and often from the game itself — when they reach 16. We estimate that of the 50–60 players who graduate from junior football each year, only two or three progress to our senior teams.

HOW: The way we'll reach our goal is to provide a clear development pathway from the junior club to the senior teams.

We want players and parents to understand exactly how young boys and girls can progress through our teams.

For the 2013 season, we entered two teams in the newly-formed Waikato/Bay of Plenty Under 15 League for boys, and entered an U14 girls team in the federation league.

We will continue to enter teams into the national Under 19 championships in Napier.

For the past two seasons, we have also built our Federation League senior teams around youth, introducing a number of teenagers to top level play.

GOAL: Enable every player to play for a club team in the highest league that reflects their ability and desire.

WHY: Everyone plays for different reasons! Some train all week with dreams of making the All Whites, others want to keep fit while many just want to have fun with their friends.

Our responsibility is to run the club in such a way that as many people as possible can get they want from their football.

As a result, we believe our senior men's and women's teams should play at the highest possible level, giving our best players their best chance of progressing to national and international football competition.

2011 – 2015

Let's not forget that Chris Wood, who made his debut for Cambridge's first team as a 14-year-old, represented the All Whites at the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa and is now making a living as a professional player in the English leagues.

HOW: We have structured our men's and women's teams so players can be matched with the team that best meets their levels of desire and ability.

In 2013, we will field a record nine senior men's teams and three women's teams. These range from teams that play in top-level regional competitions to socially-focussed sides.

GOAL: Provide self-funding social and football facilities that are considered by members as the best in the Waikato region.

WHY: The rapid growth of our club in recent years has meant we've often struggled to keep up with the standard of our footballing and social facilities.

Our junior clubrooms serve our young players well and we're grateful to parents, supporters and funding

organisations such as the Waipa District Council, Trust Waikato and Pub Charity who made it possible to provide our existing facilities.

However, we know we have to find ways to improve the number and quality of our senior players' changing rooms and facilities.

Over the first two years of this five-year plan, we have successfully raised sufficient funds to upgrade the showers to gas (\$7,000), ensuring we have enough hot water for game days.

We have upgraded the men's toilets (\$5,000) and used volunteer labour to clean, repair and paint the existing changing rooms.

Since 2013, we have also entered into a partnership with our neighbours at the Cambridge Athletics & Harriers Club who have kindly allowed us to mark out an extra football pitch on their grounds. This in turn enables us to use their changing rooms and showers to ease pressure on our facilities.

HOW: Our best long-term option is to extend and develop our senior clubrooms.

Four years ago, we drew up builders' plans to extend the clubrooms. Our original plans would have cost close

to \$300,000 to complete. We soon established that we could not hope to raise the necessary funds for that plan so we devised a second plan which will see a six-room building constructed in the first quarter of 2015.

This will cost \$198,000 of which about \$125,000 has been fund-raised through our members' efforts, and grants from the Lotteries Commission Facilities Fund (\$50,000) and Transpower (\$15,000).

GOAL: Realise our goals and secure our future through prudent management of membership fees, sponsorships, events, grants and donations.

WHY: Simple. Without money, we will fail to achieve the rest of our goals. Our main constraint as a club is our funding, so it's vital we run it in a business-like manner.

HOW: Your committee will do its utmost to manage costs and to raise money in the most appropriate ways to pay for its growth.

Over the past two years, we have increased our revenues from several sources, including sponsorship, grants, tournaments, hiring out our facilities and from social events.

After several years of rising increases to player subscriptions we decided to implement an increase for 2013 and 2014 but they remain

among the lowest in the region.

We welcome feedback and any ideas to help us achieve this plan.

At a Glance

As we approach the last year of this five-year plan, we have experienced significant changes during this period:

★ The number of senior teams has doubled from nine to 18 over the five years.

* We have become an all-year operation, with winter football (for 650+ players), spring/summer 5-a-side competitions (350+ players) and hosting summer football for WaiBOP Football, including ASB Premiership games and junior tournaments.

★ Our senior database shows about 81% of our members reside in Cambridge, 17% reside in Hamilton and 2% live elsewhere. This indicates how some of our growth has taken place because we're accepting the overflow of demand in Hamilton that can't be met by the clubs and council facilities there.



Our history

Cambridge Football Club has been proudly serving its community for 64 years. The club was formed in 1948 with two junior teams but held its first official meeting on March 20, 1951.

The first Club Patron was R.S. Entwistle. The first President was Viv Butler.

1957 — All games were played on the Town Square until 1957 when a two room wooden shed was erected on the Leamington Domain for £134.19.

Cambridge adopted the now familiar red and white club colours instead of the local Cambridge blue as Vic Butler was an Arsenal supporter. Vic became our first Life Member three years later.

1964 — On December 1, the Cambridge Borough Council agreed to provide land on the town belt in Vogel Street for the club and plans were then drawn up for the clubrooms to be built.

1967 — The club moved to the new grounds.

1972 — The clubrooms were debt free and the club applied for its senior team to join the Northern League competition.

1974 — Extensions to the clubrooms and playing fields became necessary and two years later the extensions were built and new junior grounds established from the Polo Club area.

1978 — The club elected its first women committee member.

1983 — Junior teams (11,12 and 13 year olds) entered the Waikato competitions for the first time.

1984 — Our senior men's team won

the Northern League 4th Division.

1985 — The clubrooms were connected to the town sewerage system.

1993 — Our senior men's team won the Northern League 2nd Division.

1995 — Car park concreted.

2005 — Club acquired use of the old polo fields next door as new Junior Grounds.

2007 — Old Polo Clubhouse knocked down to make way for new junior building.

2007 — Cambridge junior teams win all five 8th-Open grade WJSA knockout trophies, a first for both Cambridge and the WJSA.

2009 — The clubrooms survived a tornado!

2010 — The club launched a five-year plan for its membership which has now grown to more than 600 players and many supporters.

2013 — The club becomes an all-year operation, with winter football, spring/summer 5-a-side competitions and the hosting of summer football on behalf of WaiBOP Football.

2014 — The club achieves the second highest attendances in the ASB Premiership, behind only Auckland.

2014 — The club wins the TrustPower Supreme Award for Community Service in Waipa, only the second sports club to ever win the honour.

The club is also chosen from 115 clubs to be the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Club of the Year.