

AN ABRIDGED HISTORY OF COMO WEST SOCCER CLUB, (1956) COMO WEST JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB, (1960) THE COMO WEST - JANNALI JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB (1974)

by Marie Pinkerton

The local newspaper article, (SCAM? and very likely in 1955) read:

"Combating juvenile delinquency, the N.S.W. Junior Soccer Association yesterday organized Soccer matches for 348 children at Miranda. Thirty teams of children, aged between six and 17, played in continuous matches between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. at Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda. It was the association's third annual gala day, and trophies were presented to winning teams. The organizers believe the sports day is the only one of its kind in Sydney, and is helping to reduce child delinquency in the Sutherland Shire... When we started two years ago we had only eight teams of boys, now we have 30."

Did this article have any effect on the residents of Como West? Did it prompt them to do something? Possibly, because it was on 7th March 1956 that a meeting, chaired by Mr Eric Gray, was held at the home of Mr & Mrs Moliver, in Como West. A decision was made to "print placards to be displayed around the streets of West Como inviting all those interested to form a Junior Soccer Football Club to be present on Sunday next 11.3.56".

Presumably for the purpose of attending to immediate matters, and as a temporary measure, Mr E. Gray stood as President, Miss M. Moliver as Treasurer, Mr Jeffs as Secretary, and Mr E. Gray as Assistant Secretary.

Club Details

Originally the club was known as the Como Junior Soccer Football Club, however in October of the same year, 1956, it became known as the Como West Soccer Club.

Descriptive names were also suggested and from names such as "Waralah" (sic), "Rangers", "Tiger", "Canerus", (sic), "Conquers"(sic), "Dragons", "Koakaburra", (sic) the name of "Como West Kookaburras" was chosen. However no mention was made of this in following available records. In 1966 it was again proposed to have a club name of "Wild Cats" but this also was defeated. Players were asked for suggestions on a name or symbol for the club in 1979, for the purpose of a logo. There was such a poor response from just a handful of members, it was voted that at least 50% of players must register a vote for a logo to be considered.

Dr Bernard Maybloom became the Club Patron, the first, in 1958. He donated a trophy, to be played for between Como West, Georges River and North Sutherland, the areas from which he had most patients. It was also during this year a competition to design a club badge was held and open to all players. The winning design was submitted by David Wardrop and, as the winner, he received the prize of one pound one shilling, (equal to \$2.10 in todays currency).

A recommendation was made in 1960 by Mrs Doris Wardrop that the word "Junior" be incorporated in the club name "in respect to the Club being for the benefit of our youngsters more particularly than the game itself". Mrs Wardrop was President of the first Ladies Auxiliary of Como West Junior Soccer Club

A Disciplinary Committee had been established within the Club. In June 1958 a young player was suspended for 6 weeks for "letting down 10 team mates in a match which had been impressed on the boy was vital to the club" His crime? He was required by his school to play rugby on Saturday mornings! Another was severely reprimanded for not arriving for his game. He was unwell after having a tooth removed and his mother would not allow him to play!

Not dealt with quite so harshly was another who charged a goalkeeper and, when tackled retaliated with a tackle on that player. He was suspended for one match and severely reprimanded. Perhaps the Association Disciplinary Committee (P.D. & J.C.) had not been formed prior to 1959.

Players were issued with weekly news sheet, detailing game times, results, and club items of interest. In 1964 the news sheet was given the name of "SIDELINE", a name which still exists. This was a successful medium of communication with all players and families, necessary for the advising of forthcoming events, rule changes, games, field duty etc.

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In June 1969, members were advised a motion would be put at a Special General Meeting to change the name of the Club to Como-Jannali Junior Soccer Club. The Meeting, the first of many to discuss this contentious issue, was held in September 1969. The motion was defeated.

By 1974 the club was drawing on a growing number of players from a wider area than just Como West. Many members held strong convictions the name should represent this change; many others just as strongly disagreed. The name of the club became the most divisive issue possibly in the club's history.

In November 1974, a special meeting was held which resulted in the name being changed to Como West - Jannali Junior Soccer Club, after many heated exchanges. A further Special Meeting was held, in January 1975, to revert to the previous club name of Como West Junior Soccer Club, however the motion was defeated. An additional motion was put at that meeting, and carried, which prevented any change in name taking place for at least 5 years. Enough discussion and time had been spent on this hot issue.

At a meeting of 19 March 1975, it was recorded, "1976 Boundaries could be altered to include Como West Jannali, Georges River & Kirrawee in the St George District. Suggestions made that the other clubs involved be approached to possibly go to state levels for support against N.S.W.J.S.F.". Further discussion resulted at later meetings, until 15 October 1975, when Delegates reported "The boundary change proposal has been dropped".

The club continued to be progressive. On 9th September 1986 Como West-Jannali incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984, given under the seal of the Corporate Affairs Commission at Sydney of this same date.

In 2000 the club changed to a sports club, embracing both soccer (50 teams) and netball (3 teams) and registered the 6th (including Incorporation), and, the members hoped, the last name change. This action was unanimously accepted by the members at an Annual General Meeting; the club thereafter to be known as the Como West - Jannali Junior Sports Club.

At the A.G.M. of 2000, Marie Pinkerton was elected as President, the first female to hold this position. All clubs affiliated with the Sutherland Shire Football Association were introduced to new system of computerised registrations for Registration Days 2005. All players were supplied with new "credit-card" style identification cards and relative details of all players previously registered with Sutherland Shire Football Association were readily available to all Clubs. By 2009, soccer registrations numbered 788 players in age groups U6-O45 with Como West-Jannali. The Club Committee, (and coaches and managers), had as a result, responsibilities for the management and welfare of 63 teams each week, and for provision of necessary equipment, training aids, field preparation, uniform provisions, etc.

Player Success

In 1956 the Association chose representative teams and players R. Bricknell, G. Williams, C. Rasmussen, J. Magner, L. Morris and K. Hagner were included. Their first year and already off to a good start and an even better future in soccer! All the specialist coaching paid off. Uniforms used by the U10, 1956 Representative side were black shirt with white collar and white 'V' strip, with white shorts and black and white hoop socks. A Miranda strip? Perhaps. According to one parent, yes!

Success has been achieved by many of the players over the years. In 1963 Como West had no less than 14 players in representative soccer, viz. Messrs Clark, Follett, Morris, Hages, Wardrop, Leighton, Pratt, Jones, Jameson, McPherson, Kennedy, Stewart, Dickens, and Clarke. Ken Clarke, one of those players, was also selected in the Provisional Sydney team.

In 1970 ex Como West player John Roche achieved the greatest success and honour of playing for Australia. John was a player in the under 18 side in 1966. He left Como West to play Sutherland Grade in 1968 and in 1970 became a player with the Marconi club. During 1970 he realised his ambition when chosen to play for Australia. On returning home he returned to Marconi but during a trial game against Yugal was injured which considerably hampered his progress. In 1976 Como player Peter Raack was selected in the U14 National Squad. Peter had played from U6 to U9 with Como, then advanced through A grade football to Sutherland Shire Reps, thence to the N.S.W. Squad. John Bowron also enjoyed success at Marconi. Two other Como West-Jannali players, Joel Morgan and Klute Smith represented New South Wales.

Interesting also is the career of another player, Harold David Champion. David, as he was known, left Como West club to play Sutherland Shire Reps U/12 then U/14. At sixteen he was signed with St George for a few seasons. He transferred to Canterbury, which involved a transfer fee and a swap with Charles Perkins, later Aboriginal Spokesman.

John Dyson, team member of the club's successful 18A, 1971 Champion of Champion team, progressed to play in Sutherland and St. George Grade, and was also selected in the N.S.W. U20 squad. John also became a cricketer of considerable note as a member of the Australian Cricket team.

Dylan Caton, when aged 8, was nominated for Leader Tynan Honda Sportstar of the Week in February 2004. Dylan had been selected by Coerver Coaching Association for the under-9s Oceania Squad which toured Australia in April. Coerver is the largest coaching academy in the world. It scouts talent for Soccer NSW. In January 2014, Dylan came off the bench to play in the A-League match Sydney FC, against Western Wanderers.

These are just a few of the club's success stories.

Early Clubs and Team Names

Como West participated in the 3rd Annual Gala Day, 1956, run by the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Association. Other clubs and teams included in the program were "Scouts, Rovers, Sylvania Heights, Miranda, Helensburg, Rosellas, Kirrawee, Caringbah Rangers, Gynea, Jannali, Crusaders, Tornadoes and Magpies".

Who or what Scouts, Rovers, Helensburg, Rosellas, Crusaders, and Tornadoes were, is unclear. Even Miranda AND Magpies is unclear to the writer. (Later Como West newsheets referred to Miranda Rovers: this could be the above Rovers.)

In 1974, Como West withdrew from Gala Day and the March Past. Gala Day was re-named in 1975 to Knockout Day, and the usual March Past was cancelled. In 1967 club ties had been purchased for committee members to wear on Gala Day occasions, (one is currently in the memorabilia cabinet.)

It was in 1957 the club's B team was known as Como Commandos, in accordance with a request from the Association to

conform to the action taken by Kirrawee and Caringbah whose B teams were known as Kangaroos and Caringbah Rangers respectively. It appears the A team was known as simply, Como West. However in 1958 the Association resolved that all B teams would be called "Boxers", C teams "Colts", D teams "Dragons", E teams "Endeavours".

In 1958, graded teams did not necessarily play against their own grade. For example the draw for May 17th 1958 shows U10A v Kirrawee Boxers (B), the U10Bs v Kirrawee Dragons (D), the U12B v Caringbah Colts (C) and the 14As v Como Boxers (B). No doubt this was due to the number of teams registered with the Association. Games were also drawn against teams such as Carrs Park and Bexley for example.

Nine, or possibly ten, teams were entered in the competition in 1960. Availability of grounds, transport etc became a major issue. Players were advised time of trains to catch when being issued with their game details. On some occasions coaches and managers offered to take maybe three or four players to their game but mostly boys travelled by train to their fixtures. The spirit was willing, but did eventually prove too much for a 12yr old boy. His family moved to Mount Colah but he continued to travel to Como West to play. "It took me 2.1/2 hours each way. I walked a mile to the station from my home. I then caught the motor-rail to Central, then a train to Jannali" states Lionel Morris. Lionel went on to become a Foundation Member of Hornsby RSL Club. He became a Committee Member of the Kurringai Association and was awarded Life Member of the Association in 1993

It is recorded in September 1967 "this was the first season that the Nursery division was divided into Under 6 and Under 7..... the divisions were more evenly matched, thus avoiding the situation of, for instance, a team of 7-year olds playing a team of 6-yr olds in the same division".

New rules for the U6 and U7 team were introduced by SSJSFA in 1980 to accommodate only 6-a-side teams, on smaller sized fields, and modified rules. Games were ruled as non-competitive, that is, no points for wins, draws etc. Smaller goal posts were required and Derrick Dennison, club committee member, donated these.

The new-look U6 and U7 teams formed were obviously successful and 1981 became the year to change the U8s to 7-a-side non-competition teams, again with modified rules.

The age groups U6-8s played under the banner of "Roo-Ball". In 2008 further variations were implemented; in the 6-9 yrs age group games were to be known, in future, as Small Sided Games with changes occurring in field size, smaller goals, and with no goalkeepers. These policies were to enhance the skill of players in these age groups and improve all aspects of their performances. In 2010 Small Sided Games were extended to include the U10 age Group.

Ground Allocation

When the club was formed in 1956 solving the problem of a training area was a priority. An approach was made to Como West School for use of the school playground. Permission was granted but a big clean up was necessary, as the ground was all gravel. The Flats (Scylla Bay) was also used. Games were also played on Scylla Bay 1956 and 1957. (Some games were also played at Tonkin Oval, Cronulla)

In March 1958 the Secretary applied for the ground at Jannali Oval as home ground and it was later confirmed that application had been granted. During June 1958, Mr Farr-Wharton reported on the meeting with Sutherland Council to discuss Scylla Bay ground. "Council's idea is to fill the reserve with 2ft of sand which will be dredged out of the river and after being allowed to settle, topped with soil. Also attention to bank levies, drains etc".

As is the case now, the electricity transmission tower at Jannali Oval was a matter of concern in 1958. Sutherland Council advised at this time suitable guards on the tower would be installed.

Weekend games were thrown into turmoil when in 1960 players were advised Council had started to put soil on the Jannali Oval with the view of then grading same. Games were hastily transferred to Sylvania Heights, Sylvania Oval and GyMEA Oval. The first "seeding" of the Oval is recorded in 1961. Again in 1964 it was reported the seed for Jannali Oval had been planted.

There was also a working party organised to plant runners in the bare patches at the ends and side of No 1 field. Hand-planting of runners on the new field by several club members also occurred the following year, a most tedious and back-breaking undertaking.

A second smaller field was opened at Jannali Oval in March 1961. This extra field "will assist us in other ways during the season, mainly as a warming up area on competition days, and as an extra practice field on Sunday mornings". Sticks

and stones (parents referred to them as rocks) were removed and holes filled. It was later felt the new field was mostly a better surface than the big field and amply big enough on which to play the younger age competition matches.

The club was having difficulty with receiving sufficient help to erect rope each weekend as crowd control. Representations had been made to Council and the Department of Education in 1959 to have a crowd control fence erected at Jannali Oval. It was not until the beginning of 1967 that a fence was erected across the top field at a cost of some \$350.00. The Sutherland Cricket Association donated \$40 towards the cost and assisted in the siting.

As had been the practice of earlier years, the annual application was made to Sutherland Council for continued use of Jannali Oval as home ground. In March 1968 joint administration of permanent tenure was granted with the Cricket Club and Como West Soccer Club with (then) Councillor Skinner another member of the Committee.

It was not until 1971 that Council advised they would allocate \$1000 which the Club requested be used to tar-seal the car-park area and turf the "basketball" area situated north of the (current) complex. The carpark area was eventually sealed with the completion of stage 2 in 1983.

Between 1967 and 1979 extensive work had been carried out again by club members. At a cost of \$1300 the goal mouth areas were fully re-turfed in 1985. Again in 2006 and 2007 \$8000 was allocated and spent on field repairs.

Growth in the number of the club playing members and the ensuing games and training necessarily undertaken during the playing seasons eventually had a detrimental effect on the field grass cover, particularly No.1 Field. This resulted in extensive ground repairs and regrassing being essential in 2008/9, the cost of which was \$71,000 and was fully borne by the club.

President Bob McArthur had been untiring in his efforts to create an all weather training area to the south of the oval which would alleviate the load of training by large numbers, and attended many meetings with Council representatives. In 2006 plans were discussed, drawn-up and presented to Council. After nearly two years work and approximately \$4000 of club funds, Council refused the application, "primarily on the grounds of the need to remove some trees and the contribution the extra lighting would have on global warming".

The Clubhouse

During 1957 the ambitious men and women of the club, which had income of 329.18.0 (three hundred and twenty-nine pounds, eighteen shillings) and expenses of 292.2.0 (two hundred and ninety-two pounds two shillings) first discussed building a clubhouse. This equates to \$659.80 and \$584.20. A refreshment stall at Jannali Oval was approved in 1958.

This was replaced in 1960 by a small kiosk, which had to be dismantled and re-erected weekly, and was stored in the grounds of a neighbouring property, that of Mr & Mrs Vic Linquist. (Photo below).

The Club had to look to the future needs of its players and the expansion of its facilities. Confidence was strong the club would continue to expand given the growth of registrations from 96 players in 1959 to 161 players in 1961. Their projected growth was justified, since in 2009, Como West-Jannali had 788 registrations, (83 teams) from a total combined Sutherland Shire registration of 17,597 players, and was the 8th largest of the current 26 clubs affiliated.

It was not until 1965 that a small brick canteen was built by club members. In 1967 this building was extended westward to make provision for a storeroom and ground control at an approximate cost of \$700. Again members and players rallied to help. One of the then 21B team players gave up his time to form up the concrete base, another was the honorary brick-layer and, with help from a few fathers, another member took a week off work to lay the concrete roofing so as to keep cost down.

A flat concrete roof was installed as it was the intention, at that time, to make provisions to put on a top floor but due to the close proximity of the electricity tower line, this was not approved when plans were later submitted to Council in 1976.

It took from 1967 to 1976 to raise money, apply for government and council grants and have endless meetings and submit endless plans, for dressing rooms and toilet blocks. Prior to 1977 a small construction for toilets was situated in the area northeast of the electricity tower, in the car park region.

In 1976 Council agreed to allocate funds for the new facilities. Council rejected club plans and drew up its own. The small existing brick building had to be demolished to make way for a new "stage 1" to be built, comprising canteen, ground control, two dressing rooms and two toilet facilities.

Stage 1 was officially opened on March 20th 1977 by the President of the Sutherland Shire Council, Councillor Michael

Tynan at a cost of \$14,000.00 to the club and approximately \$18,000.00 from Shire funds. A daytime event was chosen, with Sutherland Shire Council supplying marquee, P.A. system, chairs and bunting.

In 1982 "stage 2" which provided for a clubhouse for meetings and community use, had been approved with the club providing dollar-for-dollar. The new addition was officially opened on July 30th 1983 by Councillor Kevin Skinner, then President of Sutherland Shire Council and was dedicated to six Life Members of the Club, by Councillor Skinner, viz. Elaine and Frank Hall, Lyn and George Napier and Marie and Max Pinkerton; an acknowledgement of many years service and their contribution to the Como West - Jannali Soccer Club.

"Stage 3" comprising a covered b.b.q. area, new equipment room and video platform was completed in 1985.

To assist the social activities of club members, and to provide a considered much needed commodity for players in a friendly atmosphere with not only teammates but opposition players also, a bar, built by Mick Boulter, was installed in the clubhouse, in 1993 with George Napier as Licensee. George held this position until 2006 when George experienced poor health and subsequently passed away.

A "Supporter's Wall" was approved by Committee members and organised by Marie Pinkerton 1993, and proved a great success and a talking point with visitors. Mick Boulter added additional trophy cabinets to that installed by Ian Whiteman. With the success of teams during 2000 and 2006, the club was looking at refurbishing all cabinets to cater for all perpetual trophies, plaques and memorabilia held in the clubhouse and for future needs. This improvement and renovation was undertaken in 2009, with relocation of and additional trophy cabinets, (supplied by Stuart Rendell).

Season 2001/2 saw projected spending become a reality. The club had become materially and financially viable. Extensive renovations were made to the club canteen at a cost of \$4,750.00, (again by Stuart Rendell) and for the comfort of all members availing themselves of the facilities of the clubhouse, ceiling fans were installed. All club records were computerised which made administration matters more efficiently controlled. New goal nets and goalposts were also purchased, players' needs being carefully monitored and updated.

During 2003 the interior of the clubhouse took on a "new look"; carpet was laid, down lights installed in a new ceiling, and a sample of every styled shirt worn 1956 to 2003 (since updated to include 2009, plus netball shirt) was framed and hung in the clubhouse. These shirts had been collected by Marie Pinkerton since family members had joined the club as players. The copy of the original shirt of 1956 has been copied by the mother of the owner of Gold Leaf Framing of Como West, from an original photo. A Sunday evening Snack Bar was introduced to all members and visitors. Air conditioners were also installed in the clubhouse in early 2009. Television sets were added to the clubhouse in the latter part of 2009 for the benefit of members, players and visitors.

A motion to make the clubhouse "smoke free" for a trial period in 1998 was defeated. This issue was again raised in 2003 but with success.... the club did in fact become smoke free during the 2003 season.

"Stage 4" plans had originally been discussed in early 1998, and thanks to a State Government Grant of \$10,000, and the remainder of cost provided from club funds, extensions to accommodate dressing rooms for the ladies and a toilet for the disabled were commenced in 1999. "Stage 4" was finally completed and in use in 2001, thanks to the tireless support from some club members, under the direction (and energy) of the Club Secretary Bob McArthur. Extensive delay had occurred due to Sutherland Council demanding a relocation of intended dressing rooms.

In early 2002, the Club's Committee was again looking ahead, with positive discussions involving additional facilities. The eventual completion of a viewing deck in 2004 (situated on top of ladies dressing rooms) was a great acquisition and something well received by members and visitors.

Recognition should be given to the Secretary in office at the time of completion of each stage of the complex at Jannali Oval, as well as many club members. A considerable increase in the workload of this position of Secretary cannot be overstated during the process of planning, funding, meetings with Council representatives, re-drafting plans, obtaining grants etc, to mention a few of the necessary requirements to reach the results envisaged, and the following deserve special mention.

Stage 1: George Napier

Stage 2: Graeme Ward

Stage 3: Graeme Ward

Referees

In 1958 when the Referees Association was formed, five Como West members responded to an invitation to sit for their referee's ticket - Ron Pratt, Harold Jackson, Alan Swinfield, Bill Dickens and Ken Hurt, adding to their responsibilities with their local club. Alan Swinfield became President of the Referee's Association in 1961. Ron Pratt, club Secretary, was Assistant Secretary and Registrar with the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Association, positions he relinquished in 1959 due to absence overseas in 1960, and Harold Jackson was the club's Assistant Secretary.

Como West (-Jannali) continued to encourage players to referee. One team of 13 players was encouraged by their coach to sit for their referee's examination in 1975/6. All passed.

Between 1976-78, twenty-one members became referees. Many more took up the challenge over the next decade or two. Morrie Moliver, Foundation Member of 1956, also refereed a couple of games in 1978, at the age of 72 in addition to coaching an U12 team. Always a true "club-man". Kathy Jarvis became the club's first female referee in 1984.

In 1985 the club instituted their own "trainee cadet referee" programme. This was and still is a most successful introduction for young players and many have since become cadet referees with the Sutherland Referee Association.

Coaching

At regular periods over the many years of the club's history emphasis has been placed on coaching and skills sessions. In 1956 to 1960 players benefited from the coaching expertise of Alan Bryant, then coach of N.S.W. and Canterbury-Mar-rickville, and Leo Baumgartner, a player with Apia in 1961. In 1965 Leo accepted the position of Advisory Senior Coach for the 1966 season.

During the years following, with the attendance of members at special Coaching Clinics organised by the "Sutherland Coaching Federation", (sic) and the club's own programmes, coaches and players have been presented with every opportunity to improve and achieve better results and greater satisfaction for all players.

During the 1983 season Como West-Jannali conducted a skills coaching session for 9 weeks in the second round. This proved a great success and the club Football Committee and the experienced coaches combined again to provide the service for the boys and girls - all grades from Under 8-14 during the 1984 season.

To provide an incentive and reward the keen players the Club decided to sponsor 3 players to the Johnny Warren Camp during the August school holidays. Over 50 boys and girls enrolled for the sessions, with 15 girls showing interest. Unfortunately there were no provisions for girls at that time at Johnny Warrens Camp so the club sponsored a track suit for 2 girls.

The successful recipients were Allison Street, Donna Howard, Darryl Harvey, Andrew Holben, Mathew Plenty, Paul Stad-don and Ross Scott. During the decade of the "90s", successful coaching clinics continued to be part of the club's future planning.

In 2007 Coaching Courses were run by NSWFA, through Sutherland Shire Football Association, with the qualification recognised by FFA. During 2007, 2008 and 2009, many CWJ coaches achieved Accreditation Certificates, numbering 32 Grassroots level, 7 Junior level, 3 Youths level and 2 Senior levels with some having progressed through all levels.

Celebrations and Awards

Between 1963 and 1988 eleven girls were Como West entrants in the Sutherland Association Miss Soccer Quest. During this period Yvonne Thirkeldsen (the first), Joy Akers, Linette Clarke, Tamara Duffy, Sue Watt, Karen Swinfield, Sharyn Corr, Jane Scotland, Darlene Kirton and Michelle Pigott represented the Club.

Both Sharyn Corr (1980), and Jane Scotland (1981) became the overall winners in the Sutherland Shire Miss Soccer Quest.

In 1977, the year of the Queens Silver Jubilee, Como West club members Bill Lunney, Harry Shirlaw and Bob McClelland were awarded medals in the Queens Honours List for community services.

In the Year of the Centenary of the Federation of the Australian States, and the International Year of the Volunteer 2001,

committee persons, coaches and managers were presented with a Certificate of Leadership, from Danna Vale MP, Federal Member for Hughes.

A State Government Award was presented to Bob McArthur Club Secretary, in 2000, for services to soccer generally and dedication to Como West - Jannali. Bob was also presented with a Rotary Award for "Pride of Workmanship" in November 2009.

* Note: Bob had been awarded Life Membership of Como West - Jannali Club in 1994, and Merit Certificate by Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association in 1990.

The year 2003 was a very proud one for Club President, Marie Pinkerton when the Order of Australia Medal (O.A.M.) was awarded her in the Australia Day Honours List for Community Services to soccer in the Sutherland Shire, and particularly Como West Jannali Soccer Club, (then 37 years).

* Note: Marie had been awarded Life Membership of Como West-Jannali Club in 1976, and Merit Certificate by Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association in 1979. This followed Club nomination acknowledging contribution as an active member of the Management Committee during the period 1967 - 1979.

In October of the same year, 2003, George Napier was honoured with an Award from N.S.W. Soccer and was also included in the Powerhouse Museum a short time later, in an Exhibition "Sport: Heroes and Legends".

* Note: George had been awarded Life Membership of Como West-Jannali Club in 1980, and Merit Certificate by Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association in 1978.

A Special Dinner was held in 2006 in the "Hall, Napier, Pinkerton Clubhouse" at Jannali Oval in recognition of service to Como West Jannali by Marie Pinkerton (40 yrs) and George Napier (35 yrs). George was unfortunately too ill to attend.

Committee members organised a special function at Doltone House in 1980 to celebrate the club's Silver Anniversary. Many players from the original team of 1956, plus foundation members, patrons, committee members and the then current players, and players from various teams over the years were in attendance. Representatives from the Sutherland Shire Association and Referee Association were also invitees.

A follow-up celebration, again organised by Marie Pinkerton for the club's 40th year, in 1995, was held at The Aristocrat Lounge in Miranda; an equally successful evening as the previous event, with a great display of photos, records, etc. and a high attendance of players from the "early days", and many other invitees.

Celebrations for the club's 50th Anniversary 2005 was held at Doltone House was justifiably stated as "the best ever" and expertly organised by Sharron Rendell and Dearne Jones. Doltone House proved to be a most successful venue and as in previous years, was attended by special guests, viz. Craig McCallum, President of the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer and his Wife Cazna, Mrs Danna Vale Federal Member for Hughes, husband Bob and the President of the Sutherland Shire Referees Association Mr Terry Smith and Mrs Smith.

Also included were former Socceroos John Roche (the Sutherland Shire's first Australian representative and early Como West-Jannali player), Leo Baumgartner (Advisory Senior Coach to Como 1965), and Geoff Morgan; also previous and then current players and families. Geoff had been President of Como West-Jannali during the years 1991-1995

Tours

Since 1967 there had been an intraclub arrangement between the Como West and Mt Gravatt clubs that the top under 13 team, usually 13As, would tour annually between the two clubs. The first such team was organised by Col Henricks, assisted by Cleve Page, and was the only team to travel by train to Queensland. Following tours involved plane travel. This of course increased the cost considerably. Fundraising had become more difficult, and the cost of touring had become quite prohibitive for the parents and so the 1976, 13A team, became the last Como West team to become involved in such tours. The reciprocal agreement between the clubs was cancelled in 1977.

A weekend visit to Cessnock had been undertaken by 6 club teams, and organised by Harold Jackson, also in 1967. Arrangements were also made for a reciprocal visit in 1968. However later entries do not indicate progress or otherwise of these tours, only of "Tours Organiser Report Received"! Therefore period of such tours is unknown.

Club Uniform

The club's uniform has taken on many appearances since 1956. The club colours remained royal blue and gold, with

either white or royal blue shorts. Players were originally outfitted in white shorts; then at a stage prior to 1967, blue shorts were worn. These were later donated to Como West Public School and players once again were outfitted in white; not popular with parents endeavouring to keep them a respectable colour. In 1974 permission was finally granted to allow royal blue shorts to be worn, after many approaches to the Association and many rejections.

During the early stages of the club's development, material for uniforms was not easy to acquire, particularly the gold dye lot. Cesarine was purchased, and various mothers volunteered to cut out patterns and then sold to parents to put together. At a later date, designated mothers made up the uniforms, which continued until finances improved and uniforms were purchased from outside sources, occasionally being hired to players (shirts only), or issued on a purchase basis. With the sponsorship by DUFFS, through the Senior Coach Gary Cole, the club entered a new phase in 1998. This was the first time full club sponsorship had occurred. In 1999 Gary again provided sponsorship, which supplied the U6 and U7 players with free registration. Also provided were subsidised club bags and backpacks to those who registered on time in 2000, and a subsidised new club jacket in 2002.

The biggest and most noticeable change occurred in 2001. Thanks to the generous sponsorship by HUMAN, through club member and senior coach Gary Cole, players were outfitted in a completely new strip of mostly gold; gold shirt with royal blue underarm, and gold shorts with royal blue trim. Definitely a unique and striking effect on the field and something which could not be missed.

Club uniform was once again updated in 2009, returning to royal blue shorts, gold shirts and gold socks with royal blue tops.

Samples of (uniform) shirts as worn since 1956 have been framed and are on display in the Clubhouse.

Results

Teams, and their coaches, strive for the ultimate prize of a premiership at the end of the season. In 1981 there were 21 clubs affiliated with the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association, with their teams aiming for that goal. In the year 2001 twenty-five clubs were part of this competition.

Winning minor premierships and premierships became more difficult and players more competitive. The reality that a team would win a State Cup or Champion of Champion trophy in a broader competition seemed out of reach.

* Como West-Jannali had experienced the most successful statewide results during the 1970's.

* In 1971 the 18A team came from 4th position to take out the competition by doing it the hard way. After being down 0-3 into the second half they drew at full time taking them into extra time which they won 4-3.

The team then entered, and won, Champion of Champions, defeating Granville 7-2; the only Sutherland Shire team in any age group in two years to become Champion of Champions. As an under 16A team in 1970, they had been runners-up in Champion of Champions.

Team Details are:

In 1971 the 18A team: Coached by Cleve Page, Champion of Champions.

Players: John Dyson, Stephen Baillie, Paul Rendell, Graham Bridgeland, Andrew Page, Michael Prince, Chris Hanley, Gary Quinnet, Herman Unsworth, Jimmy Goodwin, Ian Shirlaw, Dave Millington, Geoff Turrell. Des Leighton and John Robinson reserves.

* In 1974, the U21 team won the State Robertson Cup.

Team details are: The 1974, U21A team Coached by Doug Nisbet.

Players: John Williams, Gary Turner, Ian Whiteman, Andrew Page, Graham Bridgeland, Geoff Turrell, Ian Hillen, Grant Tillett, Ken Reid, Ian Shirlaw, Jimmy Goodwin and Ron Lombo.

* In 1976 a team was entered in the Robertson Cup and was runners-up; as was the 1977 Amateur Cup team to North Bankstown.

Details of the 1976 Robertson Cup team are -

Coach John Phillis, Manager Frank Hall

Players: Bruce Freeman, Rohan Goodwin, Graham Dawson, Ian Whiteman, Tony Maidment, Mark Longman, Robert Henderson, Kim Bennett, Peter Tyldsley, Ross Stubbs, Greg Whitehead, Grant Tillett, Graham Urquhart, Colin Lincoln, Geoff Hall and Lee Hagman.

* As mentioned earlier, the 1977, Amateur Cup final also resulted in our club's team being runners-up. The disappointment felt by all coaches with a result such as this is best summed up by the match report of the final, written by John Roche and

found in the (then) club newssheet "SIDELINE".

"Lost 2-3. It's a shame the halftime whistle was not the full-time one as we were leading 1-0 after a fine goa

Inaugural Events

A Sutherland Shire Sports Day was organised for September 5th 1959, when all sports were invited to be represented in a procession from Cronulla to Sutherland and every sporting body to stage a short match at Sutherland Oval. Como West Junior Soccer Club entered a float in the procession. Ted Farr-Wharton offered the back of his truck. Members were invited to indicate what shape the float should take, not exceeding five thousand pounds in cost, (\$10,000). This figure was most definitely incorrect as records of credit balance of the club at that time was recorded as one hundred and fiftyfive pounds, nine shillings and seven pence, equating to \$310.97 in today's currency.

In all probability this figure would have been either five pounds (\$10), or fifty pounds, (\$100), had a "point (.)" been inserted to show pounds, shillings and pence - currency of that time, e.g. 5.0.00, or 50.0.0.

Social games for the mothers of Como West players were organised in 1958 and 1959 against Punchbowl, Cabramatta and other areas. The game in 1958 against Punchbowl was televised by ATN Channel 7, at Jannali Oval, a great thrill as television was only introduced in Australia in 1956. Film of the game was made available for four pounds four shillings (\$8.40). (A copy of this film unfortunately has not been located.

Players in the first social ladies team were: Mesdames Stewart, Rasmussen, Bryant, Wagstaff, Pratt, Clark, Rogers, Morvan, Leighton, Barnes and Weston; coach was Alan Bryant.

In September 1960, an amount of twelve pounds twelve shillings (\$25.20) was approved to be donated to Georges River to "help them get started". At the next meeting however, it was suggested that the money be withheld until "it was decided whether they will join with Green Point Sports Club". It was also reported, in October 1960, that the Caringbah Club would break into three clubs, Caringbah, North Caringbah and Lilly Pilly (sic).

Local residents were endeavouring to establish a new club in 1969. Rules and a Constitution were drawn up for what was to be known as Como-Jannali Memorial Sports Club. Records also refer to this proposal as the Como Jannali R.S.L. The objects of the Club were "to promote social and sporting activities at Como, to organize social functions, and to procure and erect premises which were to be licenced and house offices and social halls". Membership was sought from Como Cricket Club, Como-Jannali Sub-Branch Returned Serviceman's League, Como-Jannali Junior Rugby League Football Club and Como West Junior Soccer Club. Max Pinkerton and Alan Deeth, as members of the Steering Committee, were endorsed by the soccer club to act on its behalf.

This information does not appear at first glance to relate to the history of the Como West Soccer Club. The question does have to be asked however, if establishment of such a club had been successful, just what effect would the presence and growth of another "sports club" have on the local soccer clubs and subsequent history.

N.B. No further details of the above are available from club records. However Max Pinkerton reported the idea was abandoned when Council rejected approval for site.

In Y2010, women's soccer celebrates 35 years in the Sutherland Shire competition.

Como West-Jannali entered a team in the inaugural year of 1976, and was coached by Frank Hall and managed by Marie Pinkerton. The team consisted of Elizabeth Pinkerton, Gail Stewart, Vanda Roche, Peri Roche, Wilhemina Kooiman, Jenny Parkes, Kim Orman, Gail Tyldsley, Ann Cooper, Karen Rendell, Carole Henderson, Joanne Lumsden, Tracey Gunther, Sharyn Corr and Karen Agius. Two members of that team are still playing members; Y2010, Elizabeth Pinkerton (35 years) and Gail Keane, nee Stewart (32years).

Club opponents in the 1976 senior division were: Como West-Jannali, Miranda, Caringbah Rangers, North Caringbah, Heathcote, Engadine and GyMEA. (Como West-Jannali was runner-up to Miranda in 1976 and 1977.)

The Sex Discrimination Act (1984) made it possible for girls who had not attained the age of 12 to play in boys teams. However upon reaching the age of 12, the girls were required to play in a "womens" team; a W12 competition was subsequently introduced in 2005. This opened the way for the first girl, Rebecca George, (and Rachel McArthur) to be registered by the Club, in 1985 in an under 7 side. Rebecca and Rachel are currently playing in a senior women's team.

When an over 35 competition was introduced in 1987, Como West-Jannali entered a team in the 35A competition. The team was beaten by GyMEA in the grand-final after a penalty was awarded. Coached by Bob McArthur, and managed by Frank Hall, players in this team were Bob Britton, Alan Payne, Mick Danzey, Brian Wallace, David London, Glenn Sheehan, Colin Emanuel, Michael McDonald, Arthur Smith, Brian Donnelly, Colin Scope, Neil Patulny, Bob McArthur, Sam Le Monaco and James Bosson.

Intra Club Awards

The highest honour a club can bestow on any member is that of Life Membership. The following members of Como West (-Jannali) have been recipients of that honour, between 1961 and 2008, Jack Magner becoming the first Life Member in 1961.

*Jack Magner, *Bill Lunny, Les Wardrop *Harold Jackson, *Tedd Farr-Wharton, *Alan Swinfield, Bob McClelland, *Bruce Prince, *Joan Prince, Alan Green, *Dick Robinson, Peter Davies, Elaine Hall, Marie Pinkerton, *Frank Hall, *Morrie Moliver, Max Pinkerton, *George Napier, *Lyn Napier, Ian Whiteman, Brian Daniels, Graeme Ward, Brian Howard, Margaret Jackson, *Marie Zadel, Bob McArthur, Gwen Ward, Geoff Morgan, Jenny McArthur, Jim Simpson, Bob Ford, Robyn Johanson, Garrie Johanson, Gary Cole, Kevin Higgs, Stuart Rendell, John Cole, Irene Lumb, Grahame Napier, Craig Witherington, Marilyn Witherington.

* Deceased

Whilst names of players and others have been mentioned earlier, there are many others who have worked tirelessly and who dedicated many years to ensure the success of the club since its inaugural year of 1956.

The Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association presents, each year, a special Merit Certificate to those members who, in their opinion, contribute to soccer generally. Members so honoured are:

Bob McClelland, Dick Robinson, Alan Green, *Robert Stewart, Graham Weidenhoffer, Jeff Ward, George Napier, Marie Pinkerton, Frank Hall, Max Pinkerton, Lyn Napier, Elaine Hall, Ian Whiteman, Graeme Ward, Glen Reeve, Brian Daniels, Brian Howard, Margaret Jackson, Helen Mellords, Louie Kreidl, Bob McArthur, Marie Zadel, Gwen Ward, Jenny McArthur, Paul Dillon, Mary Pickering, Irene Lumb, Jim Mitchell, . Karen Crighton, Kevin Higgs, Bob Ford, Gary Cole, John Cole, Steve Simonovski.

*Robert Stewart was elected as the first Club Captain in 1961.

There are also many players who have shown loyalty to the club, evidenced by their long playing service, for which they are acknowledged with an award from the club and after 25 yrs by having their photos displayed in the Clubhouse. Year 2002 was the Inaugural Year of Life Playing Membership to players who had played 35 years with CWJJSC

Long service playing members include

45 yrs service: David Eccles, Graeme Dawson (2013),

38 yrs service: Elizabeth Pinkerton, Wayne Pearce and Peter Tyldsley (2013); Gail Keane and Peter Wild (35 yrs 2013)

The first players to receive recognised awards are

20 years: Alan Stewart and Steve Pratt

30 years: Ross Ismay, (male) and Elizabeth Pinkerton (female)

35 years: Robert Pinkerton, 40 years: David Eccles, Brad Pinkerton, Graeme Dawson . 45 years: David Eccles Graeme Dawson

As the title suggests, this is an abridged history of Como West (-Jannali). Recognition is given to all those who worked tirelessly to form a club and provide necessary acquisitions with very little funds, but an abundance of enthusiasm. Also acknowledged are those who have worked and continue to work hard to establish a progressive and successful club. Members whose interest was, and is, in the game of soccer can be assured, as the club develops further it will continue as a family club and all associated will provide the best they can with training, coaching, equipment, facilities, social interaction, and a genuine interest in all members.

Information has been extracted from Minutes of Meetings and club newssheets. My thanks to Lionel Morris, and Harold Jackson for their contribution of copies of early editions of the club newssheets which provided me with valuable information. Unfortunately verbal information from "early" members resulted in some differences in recall so the written (club records) were relied upon.

MARIE PINKERTON O.A.M.
CLUB HISTORIAN
2013.

