

ANZA-IJSL

REPORT FOR THE SEASON 1995-1996

The pre-season preparation work entailing reviewing the age groups in accordance with the number of applications received, is attempted as early as possible, so as to get a feel for the number of teams needed in each age group.

We did not increase the number of teams this year, as early indications where that the numbers were similar to last season. All of the age groups were quickly filled however, and a waiting list lingered all season in most age groups. Our apologies for those who did not manage to get a place this season.

One headache we continually face is lack of space, and our pitch allocation is such that we cannot squeeze in more games each week, much as we would like to. This is little consolation either to parents who juggle between two venues, but we hope the overall result is that the children enjoy their football.

We were a little later starting the season than earlier advertised, due to the start of our football calendar coinciding with the opening of ANZA's own office. However without the help of the ladies in the office and the group coordinators, nothing would happen at all. Our treasurer Vicky Parker left at the end of 1995, and she had spent an enormous amount of time at the beginning of the year making sure everything got off to a good start.

Competition is always keen, and although we get a lot of returning players, it is a real joy to see how the standards of new players have improved as the season has progressed. This is especially so as I do not see a lot of the teams once the season has got fully underway, until Cup Final day.

There have been a number of "international" fixtures this season as well as the senior competitions in which we take part. We hosted a very strong Western Australian side in October, and in December our Under 12 and Under 15 teams played against their counterparts from the Dubai International School.

Our coaches in the Under 12's Mr. Alan Clarke and Phil Parker were also successful in the Jepun Hitam Tournament which is an international tournament for eight teams organised by the Japanese Association. They managed to overcome strong opposition before going out to the only goal of the final to the Singapore Milo Select, which is in effect Singapore's national junior team.

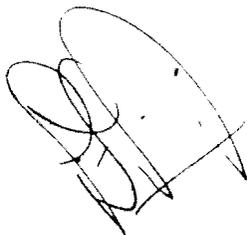
During the last week-end of January Singapore played host to the annual South East Asia Youth Soccer Tournament, which is played between Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. This year the tournament was held on Sentosa, and a good week-end was enjoyed by our visitors. We hosted the visiting players in your homes, and their thanks go to those who organised the billeting.

The competition itself again featured our Under 12 and Under 15 squads, the 15's being in the capable hands of Mr. Ulli Niedermeyer. Both teams did well, and both went into the final game of the competition needing to beat Jakarta for the Cup. The 12's were unfortunate not to win, but the 15's overcame a very strong Jakarta team in a pulsating final that was a credit to the players and all those who helped.

Success like this does not happen overnight, nor by accident. The success of our senior teams reflects the efforts of all coaches and players from the 5's on upwards, to ensure ANZA has a continuing seam of talented youngsters to draw on each year. Also the hard work of players to improve, and show what they have learned is very evident. Everyone involved with our football programme can feel proud of the way they are represented by the older players. In fact two of this years Under 15 team played in the Vikings 5's many moons ago, as those of you who read last month's magazine would have noticed.

ANZA football has been running for over 20 years now, (... and I am still waiting for the first father and son team to show up!!) and the fact that we continue to grow reflects the work that is put in by so many volunteers each week of each season. Our thanks go to each one of you, and may your support continue for another 20 years. The final word and vote of thanks goes to the all time favourites, the poor referees, who usually deserve more praise than they ever get on Saturdays.

Yours in Sport,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Dixon', written in a cursive style.

Peter Dixon.
Chairman ANZA-IJSL