



As we draw the curtain on another successful season, 2016 has been one of further change in the way we play our junior football.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work of Scott Faulkner and Isaac Stewart who, as District Managers, have worked tirelessly to consolidate on the excellent work of the previous season.

From a junior competition perspective, 2016 saw the expansion of the Central Conference to include Years 8, and 9 age groups in the cross district competition with both the Swans and Perth Districts was a major highlight.

This expanded concept saw all our youth teams play under the Central Conference banner. This allowed us to have a number of divisions in most of the age groups allowing for a more even competition and providing our players the opportunity to pit themselves against new teams and players in a vibrant and strong competition.

Thanks must go to both the Swans and Perth District Junior Competition Committee, and in particular Competition Directors Trevor Gosatti (Swans) and Justin Sambell (Perth), for working in partnership with the East Perth District JCC to make this happen. It has not been without its challenges, but the relatively smooth transition to the new model is a credit to the junior clubs in all three districts. We look forward to growing this partnership in the years to come so that we are able to provide a first class competition for all players and junior clubs involved in this great game of ours.

A big thank you to Maree Power, who as the Central Conference Coordinator, had the enormous and unenviable task of coordinating the entire Central Conference, along with keeping the three Competition Directors on track. I know that it was very challenging at times, but Maree handled whatever was thrown at her in a professional manner, and always with a smile on her face.

To the junior clubs, thank you for your support and co-operation this season which has ensured the smooth running of the competition, as well as the successful implementation of a number of key initiatives. A special thank you is extended to the junior club presidents, executives and delegates for working together, and in partnership with the JCC, to deliver a high quality competition.

To that end, I see the coming together of three clubs (Ballajura, Coolbinia and Mt Hawthorn) to form the Year 12 'Royals District' team as the success story of 2016. It just shows what can be achieved when people put personal allegiances to one side and work together towards a common goal. Ultimately, we kept 32 players playing football which may have otherwise been lost to the District or the game. This should set the examples to all our clubs of what can be accomplished moving forward.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Ellenbrook JFC, Morley JFC and Beechboro JFC for hosting the Final Series. Also, a big thank you to the Noranda JFC for allowing us to host our Grand Finals at Lightning Park.

To our intrepid group of umpires, who do a marvellous, but sometime thankless job week in, week out, a big thank you. We are very fortunate to have David O'Rielly as our Umpire Coordinator. Dave, along with his dedicated group of coaches, has seen our umpiring number grow, along with the retention of our more experienced umpires.

To the East Perth Football Club, in Joe Barbaro, Dean Turner, Mark Winnett and Clint Degebrod, thank you all for your continued and growing support.

To our very passionate and dedicated District Development Officer, Corey Ranger, thank you for your support of the JCC and the junior competition. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of District Community Development Officer, Shaun Norman.

The ongoing support from the WA Football Commission is again welcomed and appreciated during the season. To Troy Kirkham, Tim Marley, and Warren Nel, a big thank you for the guidance and support provide to me and the other Competition Directors.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and contribution of our new Chairman, Luke McNiece. Luke has brought a renewed enthusiasm to the role, which has been somewhat of a breath of fresh air for us 'old timers'. In his first year Luke has seen the introduction of a number of initiatives, most significantly the implementation of the District Strategic Plan. Luke has also been instrumental in consolidating the processes and procedures within the DFDC, which has resulted in a new level of professionalism and accountability. I can only see the District going from strength to strength under Luke's leadership.

To our Senior Delegate Paul Robison, thank you for your outstanding work in bridging the gap between our junior and senior clubs. Your tireless work in this area is definitely starting to reap rewards for the District. Also, a personal thank you to 'Robbo' for his assistance and support of the JCC throughout the year, in particular during this year's finals.

In his first year as Coaching Coordinator, Geoff Abbott has brought a new level of professionalism to the role. Geoff's coaching knowledge and experience is exceptional, which he has willingly shared through the introduction of the hugely successful Royals Coaching Academy. I know Geoff has bigger and better things planned for 2017.

And finally a special thank you to the JCC. A big personal thank you to Troy Starceovich, Belinda Goddard and Lyndall Jones for your tireless work and the fantastic support you have given me throughout the year. This season my time has somewhat been taken up with the expansion of the Central Conference, however we were still able to deliver the highest quality competition to our District due the outstanding efforts of these people.

Whilst 2017 will no doubt bring with it new and varied challenges, we will work together as a District to ensure we provide a first class competition for our juniors.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Enjoy your break during the off season and I look forward to seeing you all back refreshed and raring to go in 2017.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Barbaro', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Angelo Barbaro
Junior Competition Director
Royals District