

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

This past season has seen an increase in Youth Age Group Players playing throughout Northland with a total of 9 Teams .

3 in 13th Grade , 4 in 15th Grade and , for the first time in many years , 2 Teams in 17th Grade .

13th Grade is always a challenging grade with players coming through from 12th Grade and playing for the 1st Time on full sized pitches with full sized Teams . This also introduces to both the players , coaches and parents , the Northland Competition which involves regular travelling to Whangarei , Bream Bay and Dargaville to play games . The extra commitment and extended competition is vital to the development of these players through the grades .

After grading , the Club had 1 Team in the 1st Division and 2 Teams in the 2nd Division , which proved competitive to all concerned .

With 4 Teams in the 15th Grade , which is a graded competition , meaning a selection trial was held at the beginning of the season to pick a 15th Grade 1st Team , with the rest of the players being divided into 3 equal Teams .

The 15th Grade 1st Team ended the Grading in the 1st Division and went on to win the Northland 15th Grade 1st Division title which included wins over the Northland Elite Rep Squad of Northforce . They also won the Northland U15 Cup Tournament going through undefeated over 5 games .

The 3 other 15th Grade Teams also remained extremely competitive throughout the 2nd Division competition and produced some outstanding football . Many thanks to the coaches of Keri Stirling Sports , Keri Warehouse Stationery and Keri BDO Spicers .

There were contrasting fortunes with the two U17's Teams with a lack of focus and commitment from players in one of the Teams unfortunately having a detrimental effect on the success of the Team as a whole . The U17 Team 1st XI , which was kept together by way of these players also forming the Kerikeri High School first XI played outstanding football throughout the season , winning the U 17 title , undefeated in all 15 games , winning the knockout competition , and coming runners up to Northforce Reserves in the U17's Federations Cup only a few weeks ago .

The majority of this Team also won the secondary schools competition for the first time in 7 years .

Again the focus in the Youth Competition is not just about the players , but about the coaches...or lack of them . Some of these Teams have struggled for regular coaching throughout the season which has had a detrimental affect on their focus and direction . The players are willing and keen to play the game but they need guidance throughout the season from people willing to put their hand up and volunteer their time .

This is something the Club is fully aware of and working hard to correct , not only for the benefit of the Club , but the benefit of the players AND the benefit of the Youth Competition in Northland .