

To the committee, players, members, sponsors and supporters of the Rostrevor Old Collegians Football Club.

I would like to bring to notice the reticence of the clubs management in introducing a 4<sup>th</sup> team or D Grade to the club for the forthcoming season. As most people are aware, over the last few seasons there have been quite a number of eager ROCFC players unable to get a game for the club due to excessive numbers. As a result of this, some have been forced to play for other teams or to even fall out of the game altogether. This can also discourage some future players to decide against joining the club.

Having been involved in playing and running of the D Grade of the 80's and 90's along with John Jonas and others , I am fully aware of all the pitfalls of having a fourth team. However during my time we did not once forfeit a game due to insufficient numbers. On a few occasions we played with a depleted team but that will tend to happen with whatever team is at the bottom of the list. There are a good number of sponsors and regular attendees of current ROCFC games who made a significant impact on the D Grade of that period. People such as Tim Jordan , Lee Peters , Peter Gava, Anthony Fitzsimmons , Geoff Bickle , Tim Guidera , Michael Carey , Anthony Paech , Greg Basso , Peter Barrett , Paul Cattrall , John Jonas and many more which is testament to how much enjoyment and camaraderie was gained by being involved. In fact in 1990 the D Grade had the largest attendance at post match functions such was their popularity.

There have been a number of reasons being told for the continued absence of the 4<sup>th</sup> team and most of these reasons can be overcome with hard work and commitment from those involved. There has already been a number of volunteers come forward.

For this to be viable from a player number perspective, we found in the past that a reasonable recipe was to have a base of experienced players at the end of their careers or recently retired players who would still like a kick, to complement the youth that would make up the team. I am also lead to believe that there are already 16 young players from school who want to play and have been approached by other clubs if there is no game opportunities likely.

Are there any people who fit this description who would like to play all or part of next season and possibly beyond? Are there also any people who would be able to offer some of their time to help in other capacities? If so, now is the time to put your hand up or yet another opportunity to extend and grow the club seems destined to slip by.

Please let the club know your thoughts on this matter.

Regards,

Mark Bradbrook