

KCC KNIGHTS REPORT FOR 2009-10 – Jim Down, Manager

The KCC Knights started the season with a fresh name, new management and a set of brand new recruits combined with some of the old-guard from last season.

It all started well enough with a draw against Albion at HKFC and a very competitive performance. However, after our great start it soon became apparent that you need more than youthful exuberance to survive in the YYL 1st division.

Throughout the season we have had to deal with many frustrations both on and off the field.

Results have been disappointing – the team has in the main played very well, and has put in great efforts, but we have struggled for consistency in the available players and it was difficult therefore to build a strong core team that enabled the younger players to flourish and find their form. League Points were very hard to come by, and with only a sum total of 10 for the season, relegation was inevitable.

We did have many things to cheer about though- we have attracted some great young players who show much promise for the future. We also had a terrific and exciting cup run making it to the quarter finals. Most of the games were pretty exciting – never a dull moment from the dug-out perspective and most of the goals we scored were special in their rarity.

There were many challenges for the team as well- like frustrating games where lady luck seemed to have deserted us, and dealing with a disciplinary case that the YYL had dealt us was hugely time consuming, distracting and very frustrating.

To have ended up with a fine and a deduction of 3 points for playing an ineligible player despite conclusive evidence that neither the player nor KCC could have possibly been able to have prevented it was bad enough, but then for the YYL to have prevented this young player from participating for the rest of the season was incomprehensible and

utterly disappointing and has left a very bitter taste in my mouth mainly for the young lad concerned.

A combination of the frustrations on and off the field and some personal issues eventually lead to our team manager Robin Armstrong quitting.

Despite all of this the team continued to work hard at training and during the games, and the spirit in the team has been positive and commendable throughout.

The dedication that Hernan has provided to coaching the players this season has been exquisite – all the players young and old should really appreciate the experience that they have enjoyed – getting instruction and guidance from such an accomplished player and coach- we are very fortunate and I hope we can continue to enjoy that next season.

I am very confident about the future for this team. We have the foundation now for a very competitive team and a spell in Division 2 will give us some scope to bring in a few more of the younger players. This then provides the continuity for the KCC juniors and youth players to move into the senior teams, which is what we set out to do.

The KCC Football Committee also had some tough challenges this season with the Knights - the Club's member playing policy and our commitment to that as well as the disciplinary actions and our appeal against that certainly put a strain on all of us, but we have come through this wiser and more resilient and I know that the KCC can be proud of the Football Section's contribution to the Club and its Sporting mantra.

Many thanks to all the players for working hard and always trying your best and to Hernan for the hours and hours and many miles travelling to and from China to be at training or games.

I would also like to recognize the contribution from Luke and Shyam from the Dragons and to the Football Section Committee guys who have supported, encouraged, and guided us throughout the season.