



Newsletter – February 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of the **BAFC Newsletter!**

We're excited to bring you regular updates and keep you informed about all the exciting happenings around the Club throughout 2025. From player features and sponsor spotlights to key announcements and upcoming events, there's plenty to look forward to this season.

A big thank you to the team at **Computing Australia** for their support in putting this Newsletter together – your efforts are greatly appreciated!

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Comments from our President

G'day Team

We're off to a great start in 2025, with preparations for the new season now well and truly underway. We also look to be on track to have more teams than last year, which is a wonderful reflection of our Club's continued growth. Our Committee is working hard behind the scenes to ensure the season goes smoothly, and I'm confident it's going to be a fantastic one.



In terms of pitch preparations, we're looking forward to getting the goals up on Pitches A and B very soon, with line marking to follow shortly after. However, we request that everyone try to stay off Pitch A as much as possible, as we're working closely with the City of Swan to keep our main pitch in as best condition as possible throughout the season. Noting this, and recognising that multiple Mini-roo, Junior, and Senior teams often train on the same nights, space may be tight at times, so can I ask that you please be courteous and try to work together as best as possible. We'll be looking to finalise allocated training areas once each team's preferred training days are confirmed and will share these with all of our coaches as soon as we can.

Our Amateur Men had their first official hit-out in their Australia Cup Round 2 match against Spearwood Dalmatinac SC on 23 February and I am very pleased to report that they came home with their first win for 2025. This was always going to be a tricky fixture away at Spearwood, and the heat made it even more gruelling, so to come away with a hard fought **2-1 win** was very commendable. The team now has a tricky South West road trip to play Football Margaret River on the **15th March** in Round 3 of the Australia Cup. Good luck lads!



It was also very pleasing to have some of our Committee recently meet with Rita Saffioti (Member for West Swan), who announced a generous commitment of \$20,000 to the Club for new specialist equipment for our Junior and Senior teams, pending a successful outcome in the upcoming State election. We are very appreciative of this commitment and hope to be able to purchase numerous portable goals, lights and other new equipment that will benefit the majority of our teams at BAFC.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank Jarrad Straight and Shaun Lacey, who going forward will together be serving as Co-Treasurers for the Club. We are very grateful to have them on our team and for stepping into these roles and bringing their combined expertise to look after the Club's finances.

Here's to a great start to another season - **GO BALLA!**

Cheers, Jason Earley (President)

Junior & Miniros Registration Day

What a massive day we had on **Sunday, 2nd February!** With close to 200 registrations processed, the energy at the Clubhouse was incredible. It was, to be fair, controlled chaos at times, but thanks to the patience and cooperation of our amazing players, parents, and volunteers, we made it through! A huge thank you to everyone who helped on the day - your support was invaluable. We've also already considered some great ideas to help streamline the process even more next year.

Over the coming weeks, training will begin for our **Junior & Miniros teams**. Coaches will soon be reaching out to their respective age groups to confirm first training sessions. Keep an eye out for updates! And if you haven't registered yet, there's still time to do so online via the **PlayFootball** portal. Please be mindful however that spots are filling up quickly, and some age groups will be closed off very soon, so don't delay! Stay tuned for more updates, and we can't wait to get the **2025 season underway**.

Coach / Player Feature – Shane Fitzpatrick



This month, we shine the spotlight on **Shane Fitzpatrick** who has been a key figure at BAFC for a good many years. We caught up with him recently and asked a few prying questions to learn a little more about what makes him tick.

- **Nickname & Current Role/Team?**
“Fitzy” - Head Coach of Men’s Amateur Division 1 First Team
- **How long have you been associated with BAFC?**
31+ years
- **Most memorable event during your playing/coaching time at BAFC?**
Coaching the women’s team and winning the league with them. A very fun season and something I never thought I would do.
- **Favourite football team’s (apart from BAFC)?**
Celtic and Manchester United
- **Favorite football player/coach?**
At Balla, Barry Bolton (Coach) and Sharpy (Player). More globally, Carlo Ancelotti (Coach) and Roy Keane (Player)
- **Favourite food & drink (even if not available from the Canteen/Bar at BAFC)?**
Fave drink – Kilkenny or Swan. Fave food – anything the wife cooks!
- **What are you looking forward to football-wise in 2025?**
Getting promoted with the 1st team in 2025

A big thanks to Fitzy for sharing his story! Stay tuned for more coach and player features throughout the season.

Fun Fact

Did you know that **just 12 years ago, in 2013**, the Club had only **a dozen teams** across both junior and senior divisions? Fast forward to **2025**, and we’re gearing up for an incredible season with

something like 30 teams expected across all age groups!

It’s been an amazing journey of growth, passion, and community spirit, and we couldn’t have done it without the dedication of our players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters. Here’s to an even bigger and better future for **BAFC!** 🏆

Sponsor Spotlight



McLoughlin Butchers has recently signed on for another year as a major sponsor, and we are incredibly grateful for their continued support and involvement with our Club. Their commitment to quality and community makes them a fantastic partner, and we truly appreciate their generosity.

A huge thank you to **Paul and his team** for backing BAFC – their support helps us continue to grow and improve each season.



Upcoming Dates to Note

February – Senior Teams Commence Training

March – Junior & Miniroos Teams Commence Training

5 March – Next Committee Meeting

15 March – Australia Cup, Round 3 – Men's Amateur Division 1 First Team vs Football Margaret River (away)

6 April - Amateur Men – Belt Up Cup Round 1

6 April – Men's Metro League – Season Commences

13 April – Amateur Men, Women & Master's Leagues – Season Commences

4 May – JDL, JCL & Miniroos Teams (including Clusters) – Season Commences

Your BAFC Committee



Jason Earley
President



Albert Ferraloro
Vice President



Jarrad Straight
Co - Treasurer



Shaun Lacey
Co - Treasurer



Arthur Harrison
Secretary



Christina Earley
Registrar

Committee Members

Alex Galaz
Nick Reid
Rob Bianchini

Belinda Carroll
Phil Haddock

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The banner features a background image of hands typing on a laptop keyboard with various digital icons (envelope, padlock, speech bubble, eye) overlaid. The right side of the banner is a solid orange triangle containing the Computing Australia logo and text, and the slogan "Quality IT Support for Home and Business".