**CHAIRMANS REPORT 2016**

Hi Everyone.

We have decided to deliver the bulk of the 2016 information to you, in the form of an annual report. This document serves as a “wrap up” of 2016 as far as club operations go, so I will not double up within this report. Any feedback on this as a format would great.

**Board/Committee Structure**

I spent several months during the middle of the year talking a number of other clubs to see if our structure, as a club, was right. The major area where seemed to fall down was in the number of people on the board/committee. All the clubs I talked had ten members, hence the remit that has been submitted to the AGM. We do need to move towards an Academy/Club type organisation, rather than a straight sports club. The secret for our success, as club is to maintain our “family” values/atmosphere and yet let everyone one achieves the best they can be.

The club has as set up several sub-committees, which was one of our strategic goals, to help with the numerous jobs over year that a club of our size has. We would encourage members to get involved where ever possible. We are also pleased to have achieved our Quality Club Mark status.

**Administration and Football Operations**

Re-structuring this area has been a major focus this year for the club, as Mainland Football are looking to change the face of football in Canterbury where some clubs will a greater degree of influence into the game. The club has engaged the services of a new Football Development Manager, Shane Verma. He will also coach the Senior Woman’s team next year as well. We believe Shane’s expertise will be invaluable to help take WUFC to the “next level” especially with our Skill centres coming next year and a major focus on coach development. The club has also re-defined Pam Fraser as club Operations Manager. As part of the changes coming next year having a part time admistrator, reporting to a club committee will not be sustainable. These new roles will empower day to day matters to be handled by the FDM and Ops manager. The board’s role will become “governance” focused, with day to day matters handled by these two staff and our sub-committees.

**WPL and CCL Teams;**

This was the clubs first year in the Woman’s Premier League and the club is over the moon with a 6th place out of the 7 teams. The club is committed to a 3-4 year strategy for this team and have engaged a new coach and implemented a strategic plan to this end. Plus had 2 players in the Pride squad and 2 in a NZ development team. I would also like to thank Darryl Gommans and Blair Cutting for their leadership this season during some tough times for this team.

Our Men’s CCL/Reserves also had a rocky start to the year and I would like to thank Gordon Fraser and Steve Tounge for stepping up to coach the squad after the appointed coaches were unable to continue. The team finished 4th. The club is committed to this group of young men and it is still a major goal of the club to get a team into the MPL.

**2017 and beyond**

I believe we are in a great position to take the club to the “next level” by obtaining a Licensed Club status next year. This will help everyone achieve what the are seeking from football. Whether it is a social Friday night kick around, playing in a Premier League team or attending some of the New Zealand’s top tournaments.

I hope you and your family have a great Christmas and I look forward to seeing you next year

Ian Fong

WUFC Chairperson