



From the Desk of the Technical Director

Number 8 – 13 November 2009

Trials for the 2010 Tasmania state teams are underway.

Last Saturday in Devonport, 28 players attended a tryout for the Under 13 male and female squads and the quality of some of the players was first class.

The Under 13 male squad Head Coach is Scott Gallagher, a new face on the Football Federation Tasmania block.

Scott, who is attending the National B Licence course next year, is also the assistant coach with the Tasmania Institute of Sport male football squad.

The coach for the Under 13 females is Sandra Chisholm, who has been involved in the FFT state female programme for several years as an assistant coach and has now been elevated to Head Coach.

It was exciting to see so many highly talented players in Devonport, all keen to make the state team and get on the advanced player pathway as laid down in Football Federation Australia's new national curriculum.

My thanks to all the parents and coaches who brought their sons and daughters to the trial and thanks also to the Devonport Football Club for the use of their excellent facilities. May I give a special mention to Paul Bubb, who took time out on a day when he was attending a wake for a close friend, to open up the ground and make sure we had all we need.

Such was the quality of the players, that 17 players were invited back to take part in this weekend's trials in the south for the same age group.

With the World Cup just months away, football is increasing in popularity by the week and it is a great time to be a young player with many opportunities opening up.

Australia is bidding to host the World Cup in 2018 or 2022 and substantial resources are being devoted to fulfilling not only the dream of hosting the championship, but winning it.

Who knows, one of those boys on the field in Devonport, or any of the others who end up in the state squads, could be one of the Socceroos going for that lofty goal.

As well as continuing the Under 13 tryouts this weekend, trials for the Under 14 male squad begins on Sunday, this time at Churchill Park, Launceston. Both northern and southern based players will be taking part.

Having already seen a number of these players in action at the Hobart and Launceston carnivals earlier in the year and more recently at the FFT Futsal, I have no doubt about the excellence that will be on the field. Like the under 13s, it will be no easy task to get this group down to 16.

The following weekend, tryouts for the under 15 boys and girls, also for southern and northern based players, will begin in Hobart. Details on how to register for these trials can be found on the FFT website.

I have stated clearly that talented players, wherever they live in Tasmania, deserve the chance to tryout for the honour of representing their state.

I have also clearly said that whether players live in the north or the south, everything possible will be done to make sure they are able to train and play for Tasmania, and not to be prevented from doing so merely because of where they live.

We are all obligated to find the best players and at the very least offer them the chance to go on a Football Federation Australia road that can make them even better.

Perhaps one of them is destined to wear the gold and green at the World Cup.

Footnote: I am really pleased to announce that Kurt Reynolds, former captain of the Australia Joeys, will be our new full-time northern development officer. Having already spent some time with Kurt, I know he will be a fantastic addition to the FFT team. Having someone of his ability working with players can only further enhance Tasmanian football. With Nick Lapolla already on board as the Skill Acquisition Trainer, plus several great candidates applying for the job of full time development officer in the south, we can all be really optimistic about the future.