



ANNUAL REPORT 2026



Committee Members

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Registrar

Competition Secretary

Assistant Treasurer

Assistant Secretary

MPIO

Gear Manager

Club Coach Co-Ordinator

Canteen Manager

Gaetano Sirna

Daniel Stevenson

Jack Sciara

Bridget Carson

Chris Luppino

Ken Chaves

Shaun Kilbane

Vicki Costaras

Mayoor Theivendram

Bridget Carson

Michel Ayoub

Louie Stavropoulos

Michel Ayoub

General Committee

Corey Klower

Antonella Papadimitriou

John Moufarrege

Marissa Elias

Tony Dabbos

Michel Ayoub

Other

Meco Tripodi - appointed
club's Technical Director
for the 2026 season



Canterbury Lions Football Club
ABN 30 423 406 551

Annual Report for the
year ended 30 September 2026

Club Directory

Canterbury Lions Football Club

ABN 30 423 406 551

E: info@canterburylionsfc.com.au

W: www.canterburylionsfc.com.au

A: PO Box 102, Croydon Park NSW 2133



President's Report

Dear Members, Players, Coaches, and Supporters,

It is once again my privilege to present the President's Report and reflect on another season at Canterbury Lions. As we bring our 103rd year of operation to a close, 2026 has been another year of growth, development and achievement for our club. Like every season, it has brought its challenges, but more importantly, it has provided plenty of moments for us to be proud of - both on and off the field.

Back on Croydon Park

This season we were finally able to return to the refurbished surface at Croydon Park.

Whilst inclement weather did challenge the performance of the newly installed system at times, we were still able to largely avoid the level of ground closures experienced in previous seasons.

Being back on our home ground has been an important step for the club and, hopefully, provides us with a solid foundation to continue building on in the years ahead.

Player Development & Programs

Under 6s & 7s, 8s & 9s

This season saw the extension of our partnership with MT Football, led by Meco Tripodi, to support our Under 6s and 7s programs, while also extending that support to our Under 8s and 9s Coaches and Managers.

Feedback has once again been overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to further expanding these programs in the coming years, with more initiatives and opportunities for our players and coaches alike.

A special thank you to Meco for his continued support of Canterbury Lions.

Goalkeeper Coaching

We extend our sincere thanks to Nikolas Stavropoulos for his dedication in running goalkeeper sessions throughout the year.

The feedback has once again been overwhelmingly positive, and the opportunity to provide specialised goalkeeper coaching has undoubtedly contributed to the development of our players and the success of our teams.

Representative Honours

Our philosophy of harnessing a love for the game, while providing our players with the opportunity to develop, is showing evidence of paying dividends.

Several of our junior players were selected to compete in the Association's representative league, which is a great reflection of the talent and development within our club.

I have no doubt that we are developing players capable of competing at higher levels, and I look forward to seeing representative opportunities continue to grow and become an offering more broadly available to our members.

As the format continues to grow, so too will representation from Canterbury Lions.

The return of the broader state representation program, through the Association Championships, after a 15-year hiatus (of anything of its kind) was also met with resounding success. Football Canterbury and Football NSW should be commended for facilitating its return and providing another important pathway for our players.

Under 6s & 7s Gala Day

This season we were also able to host an Under 6s and 7s Gala Day, welcoming teams from outside our immediate association for a great day of football.

The success of the day has given us every reason to make it an ongoing event, and we look forward to hosting it again in 2027.

Importantly, we also hope that the return of this event will provide us with the opportunity to bring back our traditional Vince and Val Laws and Frank Nobbs Gala Days, which have been interrupted in recent years due to field constraints and inclement weather.

These events are an important part of our club's history and identity, and it would be fantastic to see them return.

Team Performance

Once again, our philosophy and commitment to player development has translated into success on the field.

Canterbury Lions was proudly represented in finals across multiple divisions and even made the top four finalists for the much-coveted Football Canterbury Crystal Cup.

For a club of our size, we continue to punch well above our weight, and these achievements are a testament to the commitment of our players, coaches, managers and families.

Congratulations to the following teams on their outstanding achievements:

Champions

- Under 14 Boys – Division 3
- Under 16 Girls – Division 1
- Under 19 Women – Division 3
- AA Men – Division 4
- Over 45 Men – Division 2

Season Premiers

- Under 19 Women – Division 3

Congratulations to all of our teams who competed throughout the season, and particularly to those who achieved these outstanding results.

Game Changer Accreditation – Another Step Forward

This year we achieved another important milestone for the club, progressing to 3-Star Game Changer accreditation.

Moving to the next level of accreditation is recognition of the continued work being undertaken across the club to improve what we provide to our members and how we operate as an organisation.

A very special thank you once again goes to Vicki Costaras, whose leadership, commitment and persistence have been instrumental in achieving this result.

The accreditation also opens the door to further opportunities, resources and initiatives that we can utilise for the benefit of our members, and we look forward to making the most of these opportunities throughout 2027.

Financial Position

Our financial position remains strong and stable, which is an important achievement for a grassroots, volunteer-run club, such as Canterbury Lions FC.

This position is the result of careful financial management, the ongoing commitment of our volunteers, and the generous support of our sponsors who continue to back our club and the community we represent.

We will continue to actively pursue funding opportunities that can assist us in further improving our facilities, equipment, programs and resources for our members.

A special thank you to Jack Sciara for his diligent work in managing our financial position throughout the year, and to all of our sponsors for their continued support.

Final Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank the people who make Canterbury Lions the club that it is.

To our coaches and managers – thank you for giving your time, knowledge and energy to our players each week.

To our committee and volunteers – thank you for the countless hours that go into making the club function. Much of what you do happens behind the scenes, but without that commitment, none of what we achieve on the field would be possible.

To our players – thank you for representing Canterbury Lions and for continuing to embrace what it means to be part of our club.

And to our families, supporters and sponsors – thank you for continuing to support our players and our club. Whether it is standing on the sideline, volunteering your time, supporting an event or simply getting behind the Lions, it all contributes to making our club what it is.

We have now been part of the community for 103 years, and that is something we should all be incredibly proud of.

Our challenge is to continue building on that history, while ensuring Canterbury Lions remains a club where people want to play, coach, volunteer and belong for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued support throughout 2026.

As always, let us continue to live by the values that define our club:

Play Fair.
Play Well.
Play with Joy.

Gaetano Sirna
President



Secretary's Report

What a year 2026 has been for the Lions! After its major upgrades, Croydon Park reopened for the 2026 season and our home games finally returned to our home ground. Thank you to everyone for your patience during the works. Being back at Croydon Park has been a big uplift for our club.

Five teams brought home championships this year: Over 45 Division 2, All Age Division 4, Under 19 Girls Division 3 (who also claimed the Premiership), Under 16 Girls Division 1, and Under 14 Division 3. Congratulations to every player, coach and manager involved - you did the club proud. Well done!

Our members continue to tell us they love being part of the Lions. The 2026 Participation Survey drew 96 responses, with 97% satisfied or very satisfied with the club, 96% willing to recommend us to others, 98% feeling safe at training and matches, and every respondent agreeing CLFC promotes a positive and respectful environment. Mecos from MT Football has again delivered excellent coaching for our juniors and watching them develop over the season has been a highlight.

We're proud to have been awarded 3 Star Club Changer accreditation this year. We are one of only two clubs in Football Canterbury to achieve it. This recognises our commitment to best practice across governance, safeguarding, inclusion, volunteer development and participation. A special thank you to committee member Vicki for all her hard work in getting us there.

Not everything went our way, though. My weekly review of suspension and misconduct reports showed an increase in disciplinary issues this season. To protect the culture, we've worked hard to build, the club will be acting on these matters more quickly from now on. How we treat teammates, opponents and referees says as much about the Lions as any result does.

Every one of these achievements' rests on our volunteers. To our coaches, managers, canteen and BBQ helpers, and committee members – a big THANK YOU. The hours you give each week are what keep this club running.

With Croydon Park back under our feet, we head into 2027 in great shape. See you in blue and gold next season. Go Lions!



Bridget Carson
Secretary

Competition Secretary's Report

The **2026 football season** for the **Canterbury Lions Football Club (CLFC)** saw us complete 103 years as a club. We finally had our Croydon Park fields back and even the rain diminished throughout the season.

Last year we had 15 competitive teams (U13's and older), this year we entered **16** of these teams in the Football Canterbury Association competition (FC). The club had a total of **22** (22) teams across all ages from Under 8's to All Age. At CLFC we have a smaller volunteer base and generally a limited revenue stream. Sponsorships this year again have helped really helped. Thanks Mayoor T and Jack S.

This year **10** (12) of our **16** (15) competitive teams made the finals series. **6** (4) of these teams made their respective Grand-Finals with the **14-3, 16-1 G, 19-3G, 45-2 and AA4's crowned champions for 2026.** The 19-3's were minor premiers and the **AA7's** lost their grand final. The last time we won 5 grand finals was in the 2022 season. Congratulations to all coaches, players, game leaders and helpers your input has been invaluable. – **prior year in brackets**

Non-competitive teams

We had a combination of U6 and U7 players in groups that played and trained as group. I thank all of the parents and helpers who made this possible. These little kids are the future for football in this club, and I hope that all of you come back again next year. Special thanks to Mecos and his team of helpers that ran this group of young players. We are slowly building age groups for every year, and this will enhance and grow the club numbers.

We held a mini-roos gala day for our U6 and U7 teams. Thanks to Easts FC, Dundas FC and Cronulla RSL FC for participating. Thanks, must also go to the great committee and helpers for making this day happen.

In the next age group U8's and U9's we had **3** (3) teams, they were 8-9, 8-10 and 9-8's. Thanks to all the other coaches and managers.

- The outstanding team was the 9-8's. Thanks to Paul Q and Antonetta D-S.

The U10's forms the next group of non-competitive teams and in this age bracket we had **2** (2) teams. Both U10's boys' team did have some success, Thanks to John M, Alix H, Samuel G and Alpha K. for all your efforts this year.

The U12's are the final group of non-competitive teams and in this age bracket we had **1** (2) team. The 12-6's. The team was extremely competitive and hopefully this can translate to next year where they will have the opportunity to play finals. Thanks to Matthew S and Domenic S.

Competitive Teams

The next bracket of teams is the competitive junior teams from U13's to U16's. In total we entered **6** (6) teams. Firstly, the 13G's team. In a tough competition where teams 2-5 were closely matched, they still made the finals coming 4th. They lost their semifinal 2-3. Thanks to also Jodie C, Alessia S and Antonetta DS.

The 14's age group had **1** (2) teams. This team somewhat lost their spark midway through the season and ended up second on the ladder to their only competition Abbotsford. Having lost to Abbotsford in the round games we beat them 2-0 in the major semifinal and then won again in the **grand final 2-1**. Great winning team goal.

The 15 -16's age group had **4** (2) teams. The 15-2 boys who made the finals series in 4th place. The three teams above them were very competitive and they did not progress past the first round of the finals series. The 15-2 girls also had a tough year but ended up 5th. Thanks to George N, Peter T, Vincent G, Christina G and Greg L. The 16-3 ended up 6th with 8 points separating 2nd to 6th. Finally, the **16-1 girls** were the outstanding team in this group. They finished 2nd 17 points behind Apia. After being outclassed in the major semifinal, they won the final with a last gasp goal in extra time and then completely outplayed Apia in the **grand final winning 3-1**.

The 18's to 21's consisted of **3** (3) teams, all three teams had outstanding seasons with many challenges just to make the finals series. Firstly the 21-2's team had a good season with injuries

and disciplinary issues, they came 5th. They were competitive with 9-10 players in most games. The 18-1 boys' team. Having won last year, it was a tough ask to do it again. Injuries and absences made it a difficult season. They lost their final to Strathfield the eventual winners.

Finally, the **19-3** girls who had Marrickville as their only opposition. They ended up being **minor premiers** with 112 goals for and 20 against they were the better team on the table. Finals are always a different game. They narrowly won their major semifinal 4-3 against Marrickville. Then defended for the first 20 minutes of the grand final which seemed very one sided for a while but ended up 0-0 at full time. After extra time the score was still 0-0 and so it's down to penalties. After a few nervous moments we miss our first penalty and there is a long pause with proceedings as even the officials are confused as to what the exact score was. We still have a final penalty which wins the game **4-2**. Congratulations to Jack S, Michel A, Tania B, Kerry S, Christopher L and Corey K.

The final bracket of teams totalled **7 (6)**; Our first GMPL team, 2 All Age teams, 2 45's teams and a Women's team.

- The **Grace Martin Premier League** team were 7th, the team found it tough this year with too many draws, but the shining light was Jessica Kannan who won the golden boot by 6 goals. Thanks to Keiran W and George D.
- **Our second female team was the Women's 5's**. Congratulations must go to this group with a newly formed team they only narrowly missed out on the finals coming 5th. Thanks to Jack S, Gaetano S, Tania B.
- **Another first with an All-Age Sunday 1** team. After winning their first game 19-0 the many injuries and disciplinary issues the team ended up 7th. Thanks to Luca C, Alessandro M and Spyro R.
- The **45-3's** team finished 4th and struggled for players with many injuries. They were beaten by a very good Earlwood team in their semifinal. Thanks to Daniel S (man of the match) and Andrew C.

- The **AA7's** team actually finished 5th but ended up 4th on a head-to-head countback. Somehow, they made the grand final only to lose to the best team in the competition Strathfield 1-6. Thanks Michael T.
- **Our first senior winner was the 45-2's team**. Congratulations must go to all players in the season. They improved throughout the season. Their 2-0 win in the major semifinal was a statement against Balmain. In the grand final against Balmain, we were clearly the better team **winning 3-0**. Congrats. to Con L, Steven T and the team.
- **Our second senior winner was the AA4's team**. Congratulations must go to all players in the season. They were losing the grand final 1-0 with 6 minutes to go. A last gasp penalty and then a goal in extra time ended the game **2-1 winners**. Congrats. to Deni PK, Jose R and the team.

Finally, I would like to thank the current Executive Committee and assistants for all their hard work during this football year.

On the other side of the fence, we have Football Canterbury and Canterbury District Soccer Referees association (CDSRA) issues to deal with. Thanks go to both those bodies for their assistance in the season. The club's players and coaches were also issued with **15 (4)** red cards, and this has to be addressed next year.

I again urge you all to spend the off season recruiting other players, tell all you know about our great club. Our goal in the near future is to get to 500 registered players and increase our female participation rate closer to 40%. I have no doubt this can be achieved by all concerned for our future, See you in 2027. [Go Lions...](#)

Yours in Football

Ken Chaves

Competition Secretary

Treasurer's Report

This year marks my fourth consecutive year as Treasurer, and it continues to be an absolute privilege to serve in this role and as a member of such a historic community football club with over 103 years of proud history.

2026 has been a fantastic season on and off the pitch. Our dedicated committee and volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure all players and members enjoyed a successful and memorable season.

From a financial perspective, I am pleased to report another year of operational success — four consecutive years in a row.

Key Highlights

- **Strong financial position** – The club holds \$188,822 in available funds to reinvest in infrastructure, coaching programs, and resources for our coaches, managers, and committee members.
- **Prudent operational management** – the club achieved a net profit of \$6,719 for the financial year ended 30 September 2026.
- **Continued loyal sponsorship** – All our major sponsors have been pleased with our collaboration and continued to support our club with significant sponsorship with \$64,072 raised in sponsorship for 2026.



Giving Back to Our Members

As mentioned in my previous reports, our club is committed to ensuring that all funds raised are reinvested for the direct benefit of our players

and members. Our sponsorship contributions enabled us to:

- Maintain an affordable registration fee for ages 5–9.
- Offer early bird registration gift
- Provide every player with a club jacket included with registration.
- Purchase essential training equipment and new soccer balls for all teams.
- Upgrade canteen equipment to better streamline operations, improve service, and support our valued volunteers.
- Provide professional coaching for our U6 & U7 players, plus free goalkeeper training for members.
- Fund wonderful end-of-season gifts for all players and premiership jackets for our 2026 champions

Bright Future Ahead

With strong financial reserves, the club is well-positioned to continue investing in resources and programs that directly benefit our players and members.

Planned initiatives include:

- Acquisition of new movable goals
- Expansion of coaching programs and clinics.
- New programs to encourage female participation across all age groups
- Enhanced resources and support for our coaches, managers, and committee members.
- New look match jersey for 2027 to be included with registration for all players

CEC BARLOW AWARD

The Cec Barlow award recognises and celebrates the efforts, commitment and dedication of our volunteers who are the backbone of community football.

I would like to acknowledge the following members of our club who have been awarded the prestigious Cec Barlow Award for their efforts, commitment and dedication:

Paul Foley (2013), William Cox (2014), Christina Gill (2015), Jim Georgiou (2016), James Hondros (2017); Lorraine Cox (2018); Michel Ayoub (2019), Michael Brooks (2022), Jack Sciara (2023), Ken Chaves (2024) and Daniel Stevenson (2025).

This year, **the 2026 Cec Barlow Award was awarded to Gaetano Sirna.**

I would like to congratulate Gaetano on receiving the prestigious Cec Barlow Award for 2026.



Gaetano, our club president, has been an outstanding servant of our football club and the wider junior football community for many years. As a coach and committee member for over eight years and Club President for three consecutive years, he has dedicated countless volunteer hours to ensuring the continued growth, success, and stability of the club. His passion for junior football development has been instrumental in creating opportunities for young players to learn, develop, and enjoy the game in a positive and inclusive environment.

Through his leadership, commitment, and tireless work ethic, he has played a major role in strengthening the club's culture and long-term future.

His ability to unite members, support volunteers, and foster a strong sense of community has had a lasting impact on players, families, coaches, and supporters alike. He leads by example, always putting the club and its members first. The time, energy, and care he has invested into the club and junior football development make him truly deserving of recognition.

That wraps up my treasury report for 2026. Our club has once again demonstrated resilience, unity, and financial responsibility. Our continued success is made possible through the dedication of our executive committee, our committee members, the generosity of our sponsors, and the unwavering support of our players and members.

It is both an honour and a privilege to continue serving as Treasurer, and I look forward to working with everyone as we head into the 2027 season.

Jack Sciara
Treasurer

A female soccer player is captured in a side profile, dribbling a white and yellow soccer ball on a green grass field. She is wearing a blue and yellow Canadian national team jersey with "CANADA" and "DESARNE" visible. Her shorts are blue with yellow stripes and feature a "DEPLOY" logo. She is also wearing blue socks with yellow stripes and orange cleats. The background shows a blurred soccer goal and a wooden fence.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the twelve months ended 30 September 2026

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Income		
Winter Soccer Registrations	69,091	111,712
Canteen Income	19,341	12,507
Sponsorship	64,072	74,197
Gala Day registrations	115	-
Summer Soccer Registrations	4,290	21,395
Interest Income	423	1,317
Raffle Sales & fundraisers	-	3,718
Centenary Event Sales	-	10,124
Other Income	2,910	1,275
Total Income	160,242	236,245
Expense		
Advertising & Promotions	1,389	2,839
Bank Charges	626	526
Canteen Stock	8,758	7,286
CDSFA Registration Fees Winter	13,305	53,185
CDSFA Summer 6s Registration Fees	20,035	19,850
CDSFA Fines	1,145	300
Centenary Event	-	29,206
Coaching Program	17,540	7,650
Court hire for training during wet weather closures	840	3,090
Computer Costs (software/website)	3,002	1,716
Donation	264	2,024
Entity Registration expenses	57	160
Events (CDSFA, gala days & fundraiser expenses)	556	5,793
End of season trophies & gifts	3,957	5,446
Gear- Uniform kits/soccer boots	12,377	59,832
Gear- Soccer balls & equipment	32,652	7,431
Ground fees	9,706	2,398
MYOB online subscription	805	731
PO Box rental	224	181
Printing/Postage	47	1,118
Repairs & Maintenance	1,240	1,687
Rent- Lees Park Clubhouse	661	633
Weekly referee & Game leader fees	15,111	11,545
Total Expense	153,523	224,627
Net Accounting Profit	6,719	11,618

Statement of Financial Position

For the twelve months ended 30 September 2026

	2026 \$	2025 \$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cheque Account	35,183	33,091
Investment Account	151,237	150,814
Canteen Float	2,402	1,930
Accounts Receivable	845	795
Total Current Assets	189,667	186,630
Fixed Assets		
Goal Post & Training Equipment	5,670	5,670
Club & Canteen Furniture & Fittings	8,607	4,925
Safety Equipment	1,685	1,685
Total Fixed Assets	15,962	12,280
TOTAL ASSETS	205,629	198,910
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	205,629	198,910
Equity		
Current Year Net Profit	6,719	11,618
Retained Earnings	198,910	187,292
TOTAL EQUITY	205,629	198,910

2026 Season Review



2026 RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Net Profit
\$6,719

Total Assets
\$205,629

Total Registered Players
392

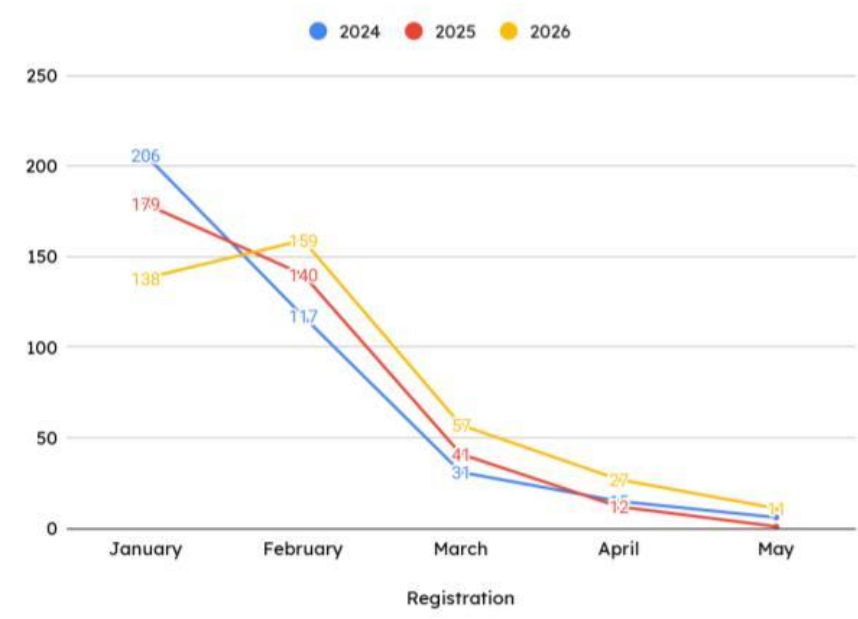
Total Registered Members
418

Total Teams
26

Club Game Changer
Third Star Achieved



MONTHLY PLAYER REGISTRATION UPTAKE



→ Early bird gift was not as effective as previous years cash discount

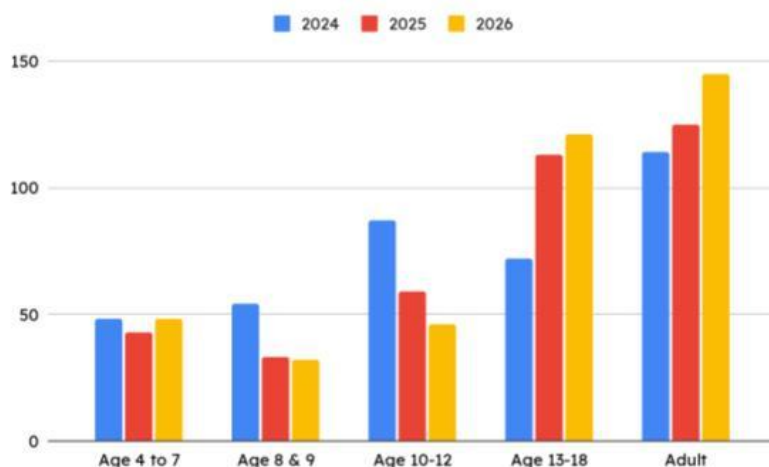
Registration Totals		
2024	2025	2026
375	373	392

→ 2026 saw a marginal increase in overall registrations

PLAYER AGE GROUPS

	2024	2025	2026
Age 4 to 7	48	43	48
Age 8 & 9	54	33	32
Age 10-12	87	59	46
Age 13-18	72	113	121
Adult	114	125	145

→ Significant increase in age groups 13 to Adult



2024 Oldest player age 65

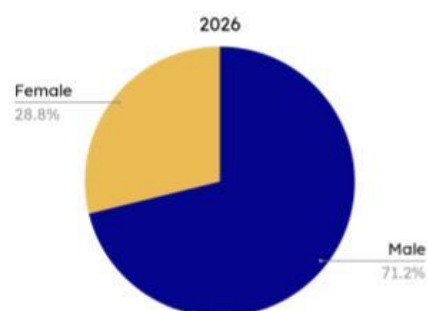
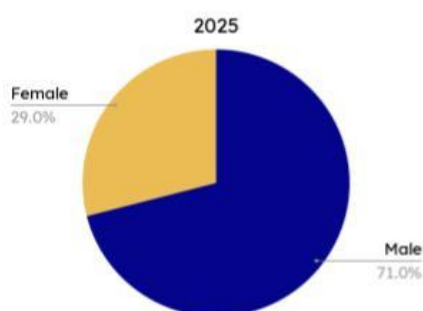
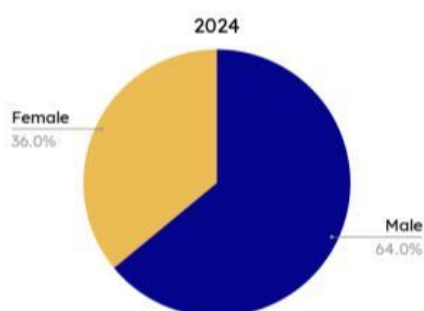
2025 Oldest player age 66

2026 Oldest player age 62

Youngest player age 4

Youngest player age 4

Youngest player age 4

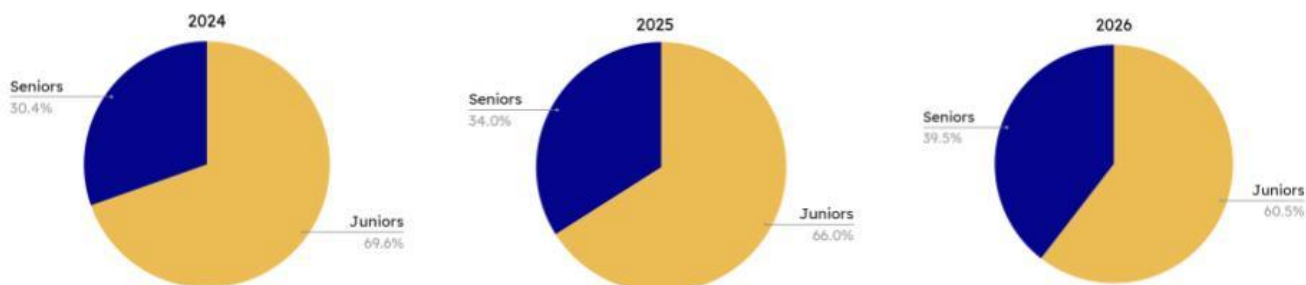


MALE/FEMALE PARTICIPATION

→ Continue to promote female participation at all levels - players, coaches, managers & committee members

	2024	2025	2026
Male	240	263	279
Female	135	110	113

JUNIORS/SENIORS PARTICIPATION



	2024	2025	2026
Juniors	261	248	237
Seniors	114	125	155

- High Priority - Ensure effective marketing in November and December to boost junior registrations in 2027
- Positive increase in senior registrations in 2026 will hopefully continue into 2027



Registration by Suburb

- Player registrations from neighbouring suburb Campsie & Croydon Park is consistent
- Croydon Park still dominates player registrations by suburb
- Strategy for 2027 season: High priority - promote in neighbouring suburbs to continue boosting junior registrations

Canterbury Lions FC wishes to thank all it's 2026 sponsors for their support & generosity





ARADA

CANTERBURY HOTEL

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CLUB CHANGER
Club Development Program

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



Awarded to

CANTERBURY LIONS FOOTBALL CLUB

For commitment to developing Football and progressing to become a

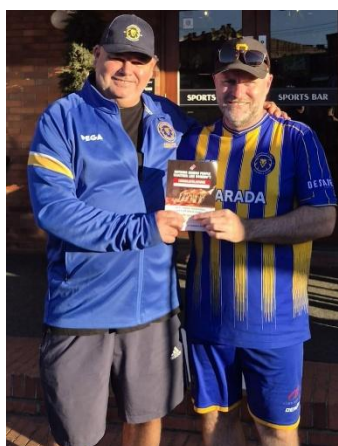
3 Star Club Changer

Canterbury Lions FC is incredibly proud to be part of the Club Changer Development Program. Achieving our three-star recognition reflects our strong commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive club culture, strengthening safeguarding practices, and promoting our core values and appropriate behaviour on and off the pitch.

This milestone would not have been possible without our amazing committee members—especially Vicki Costaras, whose countless hours of preparation, documentation, submissions and leadership has been instrumental in this achievement.



**Congratulations to our
Player of the Match Award recipients,
proudly sponsored by
Domino's Hurlstone Park**



2026 CHAMPIONS



CONGRATULATIONS!

**2026 FINALISTS
WELL DONE!**



2026 EVENTS

Under 6 & 7s Gala Day



2026 Cec Barlow Awards



Jacket Presentations



End of Season Presentations



2026 SEASON MOMENTS









