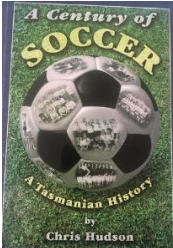










History of Launceston United Soccer (Football) Club


Introduction





	<p>Acknowledgement – Historical soccer club references in this document are taken from A Century of Soccer (1898 - 1998) – A Tasmanian History by Chris Hudson, an excellent 408 page book of great value to club historians. This book is owned by Mr Brian Dracup and loaned to the club to reference in writing this historical record of the club’s name in Tasmania.</p> <p>Glenn Reading has offered to donate his copy of the book to be kept at the club for future detailed reference.</p>
	<p>Whilst the club recognises 1958 as the establishment year for our 64 years of continuous operation, the reference book shows the first origins of the “Launceston United” name is recorded early last century in records of the Northern Tasmanian British Football Association (NTBFA).</p> <p>The club colours of royal blue/white and rampant blue lion in our logo reflects the early Scottish heritage of the club.</p> <p>The Latin phrase <i>Esse Quam Videri</i> translates as “to be rather than seem”</p>
<p>LUSC History Summary</p>	<p>The records below are summarised in “decades” chronological order and is open to contributions from past and present club members wishing to add details of their club memories, milestones or knowledge, please contact at Maurice.Krushka@gmail.com to fill any gaps.</p>
<p>Decade</p>	<p>Details</p>
<p>1910’s</p>	<p>The Northern Tasmanian British Football Association (NTBFA) records shows a three-team competition formed from only 65 registered players. The team names and home grounds were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elphin at Fry’s Paddock, • Tamar at Cypress Street • Launceston United at Windsor Park. <p>Elphin and Tamar dominated the three-team league between 1912 – 1914 with Launceston United invariably the wooden spooners. The period of the World War 1 has no recorded northern league competitions from 1915 – 1918, Launceston United’s name was last recorded as being used in 1919 when the club disbanded.</p>
<p>1920’s to 1940’s</p>	<p>In the ensuing years between the two World Wars and late 1940’s, the NTBFA competition continued with amalgamations and formations of many new club teams that saw the absence of the Launceston United name for almost 40 years.</p>

Decade	Details
1950's	<p>The Launceston United Soccer Club name is next recorded in 1958, the then club chairman, Mr. Harold Jackson opened their new Cypress Street ground at Newstead that would be known as Ampol Park, the club's current grounds are at Birch Avenue. Below is a photo of the 1959 senior team in the original vertical blue/white strip.</p>  <p><i>Launceston United, 1959. Back row, left to right: B. Homan, R. Stephens, J. Lyons, G. McDonald, J. deBoer, T. Hill. Front row: J. Hill, D. Slater, W. Butwell, G. Viney, J. Bowman. Walter Butwell was one of the state's top goalkeepers. Photo courtesy Mr T. Hill.</i></p>
1960's	<p>The 1960's are described as Tasmanian soccer's golden era with registered players at an all-time high and the state title changing hands many times. Launceston United had put the emphasis on youth and they were to become the archrivals to Juventus (now Launceston City) for the next two decades. Many successful years would follow for Launceston United, both the Senior and Reserves teams winning the northern premiership titles in 1964.</p>   <p><i>Launceston United, 1964 Northern Champions. Back row, left to right: Albert Clark (Coach), Richard Best, Udo Krenerslothov, Ross Smith, Tommy Bain, John Ryder, Barry Homan, Billy McNeil, Harry Bain (President). Front row: Duncan Fairley, Peter Donaldson, Jack Glass, Billy Kendrick, Brian Dracup, Charlie Vale (Secretary). Photo courtesy Barry Homan.</i></p>

Decade	Details
<p data-bbox="204 237 408 271">1960's (cont.)</p> 	<p data-bbox="432 237 1390 416">Proving premierships are hard to win it was a further three years before the Senior side was able to win the converted double of the Northern and State premierships titles in 1967. Players names of the time included the well known club identities of Jock Glass and Brian Dracup.</p>  <p data-bbox="501 898 1318 1003"><i>The 1967 Tasmanian champions, Launceston United. Back row, left to right: Mr H. Bain (Manager), D. Fairley, K Hackett, W. Neilson, V. Kremerskothen, T. Bain, P. Slater, P. Donaldson, Mr Fred Dracup (Treasurer). Front row: M "Pop" Sloan (President), B. Dracup, A. Roper, G. Smith, J. Witheford, W. Van de Pols, T. Hill, S. Bain, C. Simpson (Trainer). Photo courtesy Mr Trevor "Dickie" Hill.</i></p> <p data-bbox="432 1021 1385 1126">The remainder of the 60's had Launceston United figuring highly in the league tables and United players representing Tasmanian teams playing international visiting teams.</p>
<p data-bbox="204 1133 304 1167">1970's</p>	<p data-bbox="432 1133 1382 1312">The NTBFA annual Linney-Barber Cup competition, first offered in 1928, is fully inscribed with many winning club names of the past and present, Launceston United's name is the last inscription after winning it in 1970 and is retained in the club's trophy case to this day.</p> <p data-bbox="432 1317 1382 1753">The 1970's saw the introduction of two promotion/relegation divisions as a precursor to the introduction of a combined north/north-western league and a State-wide league of which Launceston United was one of the ten teams in 1978. The club was forced into a team "clear out" with many players preferring not to travel and signing with northern premier league clubs. Only four players were left from the previous season's state league squad and they signed five promising youngsters from the Launceston Matric club during the summer that would prove symbolic in the years ahead. The year saw Launceston United finish on the bottom of the State-wide League and they were relegated but not before taking some valuable scalps along the way.</p>
<p data-bbox="204 1798 304 1832">1980's</p>	<p data-bbox="432 1798 1374 1939">During the early 1980's the Northern Division 1 League by formed by north and north west coast teams, Launceston United, Georgetown United, Launceston Juventus, Launceston Croatia, Riverside Olympic, Devonport, Ulverstone and Burnie United.</p>

Decade	Details
1980's (cont.)	<p>The two Launceston United and *Launceston Matric club teams were to become closer aligned with player transfers between the two ultimately leading a “marriage of convenience” merger in 1988 where United had the “ground” at Birch Avenue (leased until 2000) and Matric had the “players” but were forced to vacate their Ogilvie Park ground when the council wouldn’t give them a long term lease. The merged clubs were incorporated as Launceston Soccer and Sports Club (LSSC) and the merged teams of LSSC became known as the Launceston Soccer Club.</p> <p>It was decided that the two existing club’s life members would automatically become life members of the new LSSC club.</p> <p>United life members were; Jim Witheford – (1965-72), Tommy Laverty, Paddy Farrington, Mike Watson, Dave McKay, Ross Smith, Peter Donaldson, Peter Pickering, Martin Buggy.</p> <p>Matric life members were; Michael Capstick – 338 games (1970-86), Peter Calcraft – 272 games (1968-79), Jim Witheford 261 games (1972-85), Kevin Cosslett – 233 games (1974-84), Dale Lohrey – 213 games (1968-79), Richard Hanlon – 211 games (1968-82), Steve Polly – 278 games (1972-89), Martin Witheford – 263 games (1974-89)</p> <p>*(Launceston Matric was formed in 1968 by George Smith and Peter Calcraft who had moulded players from the Matric College into a soccer team. In their first year the club finished third in the Northern League division two and were promoted to division one in 1972 when they were joined by United’s captain, Jim Witheford as coach. Mid-table positions followed until 1983 when Matric won their first major title, the Northern Division One).</p> <p>The merged club entered the new summer State-wide League for the 1989 season and competed well in the top flight league.</p>
1990's 	<p>Due to stretched resources, the committee of the time decided for the safety and stability of the local league in the respective northern competitions and won the Northern Premier League in 1993. Coached by Steve Morley, the premiership players were Conrad Hughes, Phil Davies, Glenn Reading, Michael Graccogna, Colin Langley, Branco Barac, Stuart Dracup, Andy Fraser, Jim Burden and Dion Mitchell.</p> <p>(insert details and team photo here)</p> <p>In 1995 with the advent of a return to a winter competition from the summer state league, the club went back to the top flight and signed Ken Morton as coach but struggled with an abrupt turnover of players and once again voted to stay in the northern league in its various forms.</p>

Decade	Details
2000's	<p>At a February 2007 SGM, the Senior club merged with Launceston Junior Soccer Club and revised the club constitution and bylaws. The Launceston United name was revived at the November 2007 AGM when the motion was approved to reinstate the "United" name to establish a clear club identity in Launceston.</p> <p>A development application for new clubrooms facilitated by Jim Burden was lodged with Launceston City Council, starting a journey outlined further below.</p> <p>In March 2008 the club celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Launceston United, 40th anniversary of Launceston Matric and 20th anniversary of the merged clubs with a function at the Hotel Grand Chancellor with 100 guests.</p>
2010's 	<p>2011 Under 18 Northern League Winners (insert details and team photo here)</p> <p>2015 Official opening of new Launceston United clubrooms</p>  <p>On Saturday, 1st of August 2015, Club President Tony Pearce and Michael Ferguson MHA officially opened the new clubrooms</p> <p>In his welcoming address, Tony outlined the journey the club begun by the 2007 Committee, that concluded to fulfil ongoing years of continuity, the club needed to replace the existing clubroom building that had been in service since 1965. In what was to become a step by step construction of the new building as funding became available in the following seven years, Tony expressed his gratitude for the support of special guests, Andrew Smith, Manager Parks and Recreation at the Launceston City Council, Michael Ferguson, (MHA) on behalf of the State Government's Sport and Recreation Department, George Kalis, Competition Manager at Football Federation Tasmania. Tony also expressed his gratitude to club Treasurer, Ian Dickinson for his handling of all financial matters related to the building process and the fundraising efforts of the club Committee members, sponsors and supporters. (continued on next page.)</p>

Decade	Details
2010's (cont.) 	<p>Michael Ferguson, MHA, in his official opening address, congratulated Tony and the club on being able to achieve the completion of the new building by working with all levels of Government. Michael commented that the building is a great asset for the Launceston area and it was his great pleasure to be club Patron of a hard working group of community minded people who achieve great things.</p> <p>Michael and Tony jointly officially opened the building for the present and future generations of the Launceston United Soccer Club and the community of Launceston.</p> <p>2019 Men's Reserves Championship One Winners (insert details and team photo here)</p>
2020's  	<p>2020 Women's Northern Championship Winners (insert details and team photo here)</p> <p>2021 The club's return to state league participation was led by our Women's State Super League team that went on to be Runner Up in their first year in the top flight league.</p> <p>2022 Women's State Super League Winners (insert team member names)</p>  <p>The photo shows a large group of women's football players and staff celebrating their victory. They are wearing blue and green kits and holding a trophy. In front of them is a white banner that reads "Women's Statewide Cup CHAMPIONS 2022". The banner also features the McDonald's logo and the Football Tasmania logo on either side.</p>

Club Memorial Awards

Harry Taylor Club Person of the Year: Harry was the father of one of the players back in the 80s—Richard “Potsy” Taylor. Harry worked tirelessly around the club, completing the jobs no one wanted to do. Even after “Potsy” was forced into early retirement, due to a knee injury, Harry continued to work around the clubrooms. He did this for a number of years, until his tragic death in a car accident. A true gentleman, he helped us to become the club we are today. This award is voted by the committee to the member who, in their opinion, has done the most work around the club during the past year.

David Double President’s Award: Dave was the club secretary back in the 90’s and with this lovely wife Margaret, ran the bar for a number of years. Usually, the first to arrive and most often the last to leave, the couple were a remarkable combination of joy, dedication and professionalism. Margaret donated the trophy after David died very quickly after been diagnosed with cancer. This award is decided by the president at their discretion to someone who has contributed significantly to the club during the year.

Fred Dracup Player’s Player Award: Fred was strong supporter and tireless worker for the club who held many positions within the committee during the hey days of the club’s State Championship years. Father of Brian and grandfather to Stewart, Chris and Matthew - all club players. The award is determined by the players voting for their peers. It is presented by Fred’s son and club stalwart, Brian, a state premiership player/coach, who also donates an individual trophy for each year’s winner.

Peter Calcraft Life Membership Award: Peter established the Matric Soccer Club in the 60’s and held the positions of coach, president, secretary and treasurer over his 30 year association with the club. The first player to reach 300 games and one of the first life members of Matric, which later amalgamated with United. The award was named in his honour following his death in 2001. Awarded to selected club members who have satisfied certain club criteria and are deemed to be deserving of the award. Not awarded every year and required to be ratified at the club AGM.

Alexandre Rubel Medal: Alex was our French “import” from the Maritime College. He was sadly killed in a car accident in 2011. In the short time he was with United, he left an indelible mark on the club. This award is decided by the coaches, to the player who has shown the same level of dedication to the club that Alex did - train hard, play hard and committed.

Club Life Members

Launceston Soccer and Sports Club

1989 - Glen Reading

1990 – Phillip Davis, Darren Davis, Ruby Davis

1993 – Brian Dracup, Ross Logan, Michael Vedovelli

1994 – Bruce McCormack

1997 – Margaret and Fred Kirkup, Lynn and Kent Mitchell

1998 – Robert Murray

2002 – Ross McCormack

2003 – Ian Calcraft

2004 – Ian Dickinson

2005 – Chris Hamilton (Sprocket)

2006 – Phillip Atherton

2008 – Dean Logan

2011 – Wayne Rice

2014 – Maurice Krushka

2017 – Tony Pearce

2018 – Rhys Morris

2020 – Richard Jones

Launceston United (pre-1988)

H Bain, F Dracup, D Sloan, P Donaldson, D McKay, V Laverty, C Simpson, T Laverty, J Charlesworth,
M Watson, V Kelly, S Ratcliffe, D McKay Jnr,

Launceston Matric (pre-1988)

P Calcraft, J Witheford, M Capstick, B Coslett, K Coslett, T Tully, S Polley

Launceston Soccer and Sports Club Committee

Year	President	Treasurer	Secretary
1988	M. Vedovelli	G. Torrents	M. Atkins
1989	M. Vedovelli	I. Calcraft	D. McLeod
1990	T. Tully	D. Davis	D. McLeod
1991	R. Logan	B. McCormack	D. McLeod
1992	R. Logan	B. McCormack	D. McLeod
1993	R. Logan	B. McCormack	D. Double
1994	R. Logan	B. McCormack	D. Double
1995	M. Vedovelli	I. Dickinson	R. Murray
1996	M. Vedovelli	I. Dickinson	R. Murray
1997	R. Morris/D. McLeod	M. Dracup	D. McLeod
1998	D. McLeod	P. Brown	R. Morris

1999	D. McLeod	R. Morris	J. Toulson
2000	I. Dickinson	K. Manion	J. Toulson
2001	I. Dickinson	P. Brown	J. Toulson
2002	I. Calcraft	P. Brown	J. Morgan
2003	M. Vedovelli	P. Brown	G. Pasinski
2004	I. Calcraft	I. Dickinson	J. Morgan
2005	I. Calcraft	G Torrents	M. Lee
2006	M. Lee	G Torrents	D. Nast
2007	J. Burden	K Booth	M. Krushka

Senior and Junior Vice Presidents created from 2008 amalgamation of Senior/Junior Clubs

Year	President	Snr. Vice President	Jnr. Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
2008	M. Krushka	J. Burden	T. Pearce	K Booth	M. Krushka
2009	M. Krushka	P. Towns	T. Pearce	I. Dickinson	D. Fleming
2010	D. Logan	P. Towns	T. Pearce	I. Dickinson	D. Fleming
2011	P. Towns	M. Krushka	T. Pearce	I. Dickinson	N. Kerrison
2012	I. Dickinson	Vacant	T. Pearce	T. Nieuwhof	M. Krushka
2013	I. Dickinson	R Jones	T. Pearce	T. Nieuwhof	M. Krushka
2014	T. Pearce	T. Nieuwhof	R. Jones	I. Dickinson	H. Reading
2015	T. Pearce	R. Jones	R. Morris	I. Dickinson	H. Reading
2016	T. Pearce	T Bonde	R Morris	I Dickinson	H Reading
2017	T. Pearce	T Bonde	R Gardiner	I Dickinson	H Reading
2018	T. Pearce	Vacant	R Gardiner	I Dickinson	B Heazlewood
2019					
2020					
2021					
2022					