



TROUGHTON ROAD, COOPERS PLAINS

*This Correspondence From*

*Peter Smale*

*President*

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Dear Clubs,

Here we are at the 'pointy end' of the Queensland Christian Soccer Association season for 2011.

The strange part about us is that we are, in fact, entirely human - frail, and prone to mistakes and with even the best of intentions we sometimes let ourselves and others down. At the beginning of the season I'm sure that along with many others we promised ourselves that the football was about the players for whom we are responsible and not just about results. We said wonderful things to juniors about participating in the game being more about developing skills, growing in capacity, staying healthy and having fun than it was about winning.

We said to the seniors that anyone who participated was a winner, and that trying hard and doing their best was all anyone could ask of them, that we would be proud of them if they simply did the best they could regardless of the result.

They were glowing sentiments and probably represent all the very best of how we really feel – when push comes to shove we really do care more about people than points – but we also can become a little blinkered when it comes to finals football.

Suddenly wonderful, positive, encouraging human beings have the potential to become the exact opposite of all they hoped to be – out of the blue all that matters is winning, relatively equal chances for time on the field make way for playing only the best and 'encouragement for all' is bent out of shape by the fear of defeat, uplifting words and applause for good play from both sides become transformed into words that only focus on victory, and a willingness to accept the referees decision somehow morphs into harsh criticism of everything that goes against us.

We also know that we can rise above such things as these, we know that any team can win a game on a given day, even the hottest of favourites has had a bad day in a Grand final and sometimes even the most obvious underdogs just get everything thoroughly right for the last 90 minutes of the season!



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I want to congratulate all those team who will make finals this year, I also want to congratulate all those who have participated week in week out through the season without much success. It's easy to turn up all year when your season is going well, it's tougher and probably deserves more recognition to keep turning up when you know that your chances of victory are 'skinny', but still there you are each round, turning up to have a trundle and doing your best week in week out.

So as we enter into finals as much as we want to see out team, our child(ren), our mates, our club come home with the silverware – let's also remember that every person supporting the other team feels just as strongly as we do, and in the end all a player (or team) can do is play their best on the day and come off the field proud of the effort they have put on the park. Stay encouraging, insist that you players play fair, enjoy the moment (and the game) and even if you happen to come second on the day, (as disappointing as that is) spare a thought for the teams that struggled to win a game all season and try to find some satisfaction in the knowledge that you had the chance to participate in the 'big day'.

Good luck everyone

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Smale".

Peter Smale

QCSA President