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March 2012

[www.petonefootball.org.nz](http://www.petonefootball.org.nz)

## From the Chairman

Hello and welcome to the first Petone Junior Football Club newsletter of the year. If I haven't spoken to you already, thank you for registering with us this year for another fun season of football and a very warm greeting to all new kids and parents across the club. It is a great pleasure to have over 90 new players join us this year right across the junior club.

As most of you are no doubt aware, there are some big changes in how football is going to be run this year. These changes impact our players up the 9th grade along with some smaller changes for the older grades.

Called the Whole of football plan the focus is on developing skills whilst still providing plenty of competitive opportunities. Capital Football is producing information brochures and we'll let you know when these are available. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the new format, or would like to know the 'truth behind the rumours', feel free to contact the Junior Committee directly on [juniors@petonefootball.org.nz](mailto:juniors@petonefootball.org.nz).

Another big and very exciting change for Petone Football Club is the appointment of Stu Pyne as our Director of Junior Football. As well as helping us implement the Whole of football plan, Stu will also be running school holiday programmes and skills-based sessions. Having held coaching roles at Manchester United Soccer Schools, Sunderland AFC and Middlesbrough FC, Stu is a very welcome addition to our Club.

Feedback from those children who are taking part in Stu's pre-season coaching clinics has been overwhelmingly positive and reinforced our decision to appoint him. It's also our intention that Stu will be an independent selector in all trials – adding another level of consistency to our trial process. I'm really looking forward to the season kicking off and hope you all are too.

Regards,  
Richard Arkinstall

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## Registration for 2012

Registrations have gone well so far and we received some great feedback around the improvements we made for the registration days. If you know of someone who would like to play football at Petone and has not yet registered, it's not too late to register! However it's important they get their registration in as quickly as possible. This is especially important if they are in 10th grade and up and would like to play in a graded team.

Registration forms are available on our website [www.petonefootball.org](http://www.petonefootball.org).

## Pre-season Activity

Pre-season activity All grades from 9th upwards have spent the past few weeks engaged in either grade musters or trial selections. As we complete this process for the 'older' grades and allocate players into teams, we expect to begin grade musters for all grades First kicks through to 8th grade on Saturday March 17th. Field and times will be sent out shortly.

For those of you who are new, grade musters are a fun, relaxed way to start the season and get the kids back into football after a busy summer. The whole grade comes together at one time and enjoys an hour or so of skills, drills and small sided games.

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## The season kicks off 21 April

We have a very late start to the season this year due to Easter and the School Holidays falling in early April. Normally the season would start on the first weekend of April, however this year the first weekend (7th April) is Easter which is also the start of the School Holidays. As many of you will be aware, there are no games during the middle Saturday (14th April) of any School Holidays, so the first competition day for the junior club will be on Saturday April 21st. (12th, 13th and 14th JPL will be the only teams with games on Easter Friday 6th April – no game 14th April).

## Have you got the right gear?

A reminder that all players must wear shin guards and those in grades 7th and above must have the correct Petone FC playing kit, as well as football boots. Players must buy their own socks and shorts and the Club will supply playing tops.

**For those who missed out on buying gear at registration, we are just finalising another gear night which will be confirmed shortly.** Otherwise you can buy shorts and socks from Champs Sports, Left Bank, Cuba St, Wellington.

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## The Nike Cup team made it into the finals!

Congratulations to the Nike Cup team for making it through to the New Zealand final, to be played in Christchurch. Consisting largely of last year's successful Petone 14th-grade JPL team, if they win the New Zealand final the next step is the Manchester United Youth Cup, and the opportunity for each player to be assessed by Manchester United scouts. You can read more on [www.petonefootball.org](http://www.petonefootball.org).

The team has been busy fundraising for the \$7000 required to get the team to the final. Thank you to everyone who supported them at their recent movie nights. If you'd like to show your support with a donation, however big or small, email [juniors@petonefootball.org.nz](mailto:juniors@petonefootball.org.nz).

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## Calling all girls

Do you have a daughter who'd like to play football but already plays a different sport on Saturday?

The Girls Only Football league's are gaining enormous popularity and is a great option for girls wanting to develop their football. This league is run on Sunday mornings and is exclusively played on artificial turf fields in Wellington. By using artificial pitches you can guarantee that the leagues are almost always played every weekend.

The Petone Junior Committee has now appointed Kathryn Gahan as our Girls Only coordinator and she will be communicating about the

options and teams.

Girls have the option of still playing on Saturday in mixed teams and can play on Sunday as well if they wish – or choose to play Girls Only on Sunday.

If you know of girls, daughter's, sisters or friends of your daughters who might be interested in playing then please feel free to send them Kathryn's email address below to find out more information.

If you're interested contact Kathryn Gahan at [kathryn@gahanenergy.co.nz](mailto:kathryn@gahanenergy.co.nz).

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## Dates for the diary

As we get closer to the start of the season more information will be sent out. For now, here are some dates to put into your diary.

- Saturday 17th March: Grade musters for 7th and 8th grade will commence. Time and field will be confirmed closer to the time. First kicks to be confirmed.
- Sunday 18th March: For any parent interested in coaching first kicks, 7th or 8th grade – There is an introduction to coaching course being held on Sunday 18th March from 3-5pm. This course is free and is highly recommended to start your coaching career! Please contact me (Richard) for more details.
- Saturday 31st March – Demonstration day for all 7th and 8th grade players and parents. Many of you will be aware of the new "Whole of Football plan being rolled out nationally to standardise and improve player and coach development as they progress up through the grades. On this Saturday from 2 – 3.30pm we will be holding a demonstration day at Memorial Park in conjunction with Capital Football to show how effective and how much fun the new playing structure and coaching will be. (Please note the 7th and 8th grade will not normally be played at this time on a Saturday. This time is a one-off for the demonstration day.)
- School Holiday program: We will be running a School holiday program for at least one week, possibly two weeks during the April School Holidays. This program will be run by Stu in conjunction with Capital Football coaches so the quality of coaching will be very high. The Holiday program will be a marvellous opportunity to improve the kids football before the season kicks off. Details to follow shortly.
- Saturday 21st April: First playing day
- Team photo night – Monday 21 May
- No games – Saturday 7 July (middle weekend of school holidays)

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