



Club Announcement

CC Strikers Men's Premier
League Team
CROWNED WINNERS
of the
2021 First Grade Competition



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The CC Strikers Men's Premier League Team WIN the 2021 First Grade Competition

For the first time since the clubs inception in 1995, the CC Strikers have won the Men's Premier League First Grade competition. Leading the competition by two points after 14 games prior to the COVID break, the team was crowned champions by the Manly Warringah Football Association (MWFA) at the closing of the season.

CC Strikers finished top on 33 points (10 wins, 3 draws, 1 loss), ahead of Curl Curl (31 points) and Brookvale (28 points). Pittwater (26 points) rounded out the top four. It's the second year running that the Men's Premier League was decided over 14 games, with Brookvale winners in COVID-affected 2020.

The CC Strikers Premier League Reserve Grade team finished second on their ladder (36 points), behind competition winners Narrabeen (37 points).

The result caps off a productive period for the squad, having gone from AL1 winners to Premier League champions in five years. In that time, Head Coach Ryan Butcher's men have made the top four, three times (2018, 2020, 2021), won the Reserve Grade Final (2020) and made but lost both the MWFA Challenge Cup Final and MWFA Premier League First Grade Grand Final (2018). Yet a first grade trophy alluded them - not any longer.

"This is a significant result for not only the players and coaches, but the entire club, committee, supporters and ex players," Butcher said. "We had a specific plan and have been building this squad over the last 4-5 years to get to the point of challenging for titles, and it isn't easy with some of the competition heavyweights, but we've found our spot with the top sides now and it's a great reward for everyone involved".



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From the very start of the 2021 season, CC Strikers were being talked about as one of the competition favourites, and the statistics suggest that they were able to live up to that expectation. At the closure of the season, the team had scored over 3 goals per game (#1 attack), conceding at just over 1 goal per game (#2 defence), and spent the last 9 consecutive weeks at the top of the table.

The stats weren't lost on Butcher, "Our numbers this year were strong and up there with any of the competition winners over the last decade. We were focussed on continuing the momentum from 2020 into 2021 and were able to do that without many blemishes. In all competitions First Grade have only lost 1 game from our last 26."

The squad has also seen strong success through the Reserve Grade side, which Butcher says was key, "We've got both grades firing which is a sign that the depth is there, and that's played a massive part in the success of First Grade. Reserve Grade won the GF last year and finished in the top 2 again this year - Dane Sharp (Coach) and the players have done a great job."

Of course in a shortened season, there's likely to be some doubters on the legitimacy of the title, and when asked whether a 14-game season has taken the gloss off the win, Butcher was honest, "We as much as anyone wanted to keep playing football when COVID hit. When you're playing well and winning you start looking ahead at things like the FA Cup (Strikers had reached the Semi Finals before the COVID break) and the Semis and Grand Finals, so to not be exposed to those big games is a frustration. But it's all completely out of our control, all we could control was how we played during the season and remained at the top when it mattered. Plus the precedent was set in 2020 when Brookvale won it after 14 games."

For 28 year-old captain and left-footed talisman Luke Curnow, who finished the season with 10 goals in 10 games (missing 4 games through injury), the 2021 performance wasn't a surprise, but thinks there is more to come, "The squad has been on an upward trend in recent years. We've got a strong playing group, with a good mix of experienced players and youth coming through. There is a heap of talent, and we've combined that with a mentality to train hard and enjoy each others company off the field. The lads are stoked to win it, but if anything there is now even more fire in the belly to go on and have a bigger and better season in 2022."



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Asked for his season highlight, Luke's response was perhaps the best sign of the evolution of the squad, "We had some great wins, beating Brookie, Pitts and Mosman during a really tough run to go clear at the top. But I think the difference has been our ability to win the close games or dig out late draws when we weren't at our best. In the end, our 3 draws while at the time felt disappointing, have probably won us the comp."

CC Strikers Club President, Anthony Pollard was equally optimistic at not only the prospect of continued success, but the role the youth of the club will play, "We've had high expectations of the Premier League boys – Ryan as well as the other coaches and players were equally as ambitious. The club is proud of not only the results but the way they go about their football. They play hard but fair, they've brought through four or five of the under 18's from last year, and there is a conveyor belt of youth coming through. We think this is just-reward for the work that's been done and could be the beginning of a run of success, which at Premier League level is ultimately measured in trophies."

This win removes the Pittwater/Brookvale stranglehold on the Men's Premier League which has seen them win 8 of the previous 10 titles. And it's sure to create some increased fire for the 2022 season for nearest chasers Curl Curl and Brookvale as well as fast-finishing Pittwater and Wakehurst. For now, CC Strikers get to enjoy the spoils of a long-awaited MWFA Premier League Title.

Ryan Butcher's final word was for the players and staff, "Ash Parker (Assistant Coach), Dane Sharp (Reserve Grade Coach), Paul Wylie and Mick Dale (Team Managers) have been unbelievable and have helped instil the culture around the club. But it's the players that deserve the title of Premier League champions. They have driven results and should be really proud. I know they are keen to create long-lasting success and they've got a great opportunity to do that. But we'll worry about that next year, for now we're just keen to get together and have a few beers to celebrate, they deserve it."



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CC Strikers Premier League 2021 Playing Squad		
Number	First Name	Last Name
1	Adam	Spencer
2	Adrian	Caruso
3	Alex	Woolston
4	Arie	Van Weeren
5	Brody	Strachan
6	Cameron	Hall
7	Carl	Watson
8	Dylan	Su
9	Ethan	Jenkins
10	George	Richardson
11	Harley	Jago
12	Harry	Hobday
13	Henry	Jackson
14	Henry	Van Weeren
15	Jack	Nihill
16	James	Ryburn
17	Jamie	Brading
18	Jimmy	Van Weeren
19	Joel	Gregory
20	Josh	Cotton
21	Kane	Vorillas
22	Kory	Leung
23	Luke	Curnow
24	Matt	Smith
25	Michael	Morrison
26	Nick	Parker
27	Rhys	Vorillas
28	Ryan	Berry
29	Sam	Webber
30	Stefano	Foti
31	Will	Martin
32	Zac	Randolph
33	Zack	Trisic

CC Strikers Premier League 2021 Coaching Staff		
	First Name	Last Name
Head Coach	Ryan	Butcher
Assistant Coach	Ash	Parker
Reserve Grade Coach	Dane	Sharp
Manager	Paul	Wylie
Manager	Mick	Dale



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MWFA Premier League First Grade 2021 Table									
Position	Club	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Collaroy Cromer Strikers FC Firsts	14	10	3	1	43	18	25	33
2	Curl Curl FC Firsts	14	10	1	3	39	17	22	31
3	Brookvale FC Firsts	14	9	1	4	30	20	10	28
4	Pittwater RSL FC Firsts	14	8	2	4	33	19	14	26
5	Wakehurst Football Club Firsts	14	8	2	4	33	21	12	26
6	Mosman Football Club Firsts	14	8	1	5	28	26	2	25
7	Saint Augustine's FC Firsts	14	8	0	6	36	20	16	24
8	Narrabeen Football Club Firsts	14	7	3	4	33	20	13	24
9	Harbord Football Club Firsts	14	4	2	8	15	29	-14	14
10	Belrose-Terrey Hills Raiders SC Firsts	14	2	1	11	10	38	-28	7
11	Seaforth FC Firsts	14	1	0	13	7	47	-40	3
12	Manly Vale FC Firsts	14	0	2	12	11	43	-32	2

MWFA Premier League Reserve Grade 2021 Table									
Position	Premier League Reserve Grade	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Narrabeen Football Club Res	14	12	1	1	48	9	39	37
2	Collaroy Cromer Strikers FC Res	14	12	0	2	38	5	33	36
3	Wakehurst Football Club Res	14	8	3	3	33	13	20	27
4	Brookvale FC Res	14	8	2	4	29	17	12	26
5	Saint Augustine's FC Res	14	7	2	5	27	16	11	23
6	Mosman Football Club Res	14	6	2	6	14	20	-6	20
7	Pittwater RSL FC Res	14	5	4	5	25	14	11	19
8	Curl Curl FC Res	14	6	1	7	14	20	-6	19
9	Harbord Football Club Res	14	3	3	8	13	28	-15	12
10	Belrose-Terrey Hills Raiders SC Res	14	3	2	9	11	44	-33	11
11	Manly Vale FC Res	14	1	3	10	9	37	-28	6
12	Seaforth FC Res	14	0	3	11	4	42	-38	2