



Des Smith Kemeys Brothers Petone FC vs Napier City Rovers

Central League 2023 | 1.30pm, Saturday April 1 | Memorial Park



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Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the 2023 football season. After all the pre-season work carried out by so many, it's rewarding to see players back out on the pitch. Thank you to all those within the club who made this possible.

It was a great game last week in Whanganui for both sets of spectators, with a huge crowd at Wembley Park for our game against Whanganui Athletic – back in the Central League for the first time in twenty-five years. After just two minutes, we went ahead with a debut Goal to Matt Brazier. However, soon after, Zachary Farmer of Whanganui equalised. We went ahead again with a great goal from 'one of our own' Jared Eglinton, his first in the Central League. But, shortly before the break, Whanganui's Ethan O'Halloran scored to level yet again. It took till the sixtieth minute for Jared to score his second, steering Petone FC towards victory. It was a fantastic all-round team performance to hang on for the 3-2 win, and we showed some real spirit and belief against an attacking onslaught from Whanganui. So, maximum points from game day one, and we are up and running.

I would like to introduce our new Senior Men's and principal club sponsor, Des Smith – Kemeys Brothers Real Estate. Thank you for showing your support. We look forward to building a solid relationship between our club and your business. I would also welcome another significant sponsor, Burger Fuel Lower Hutt. They are our new Men's First Team sleeve sponsor. Thank you to Powerex for their continued sponsorship of our Women's teams and the Hilton Petone Tournament. Thanks also to BP Railway Ave for rolling over their sponsorship agreement and adding the Junior Holiday Package to their sponsorship.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE BY SUPPORTING OUR SPONSORS.

We are pleased to have re-appointed Ryan Edwards as our director of football and Men's First Team coach for 2023. As director of football, Ryan appoints coaches for the club's youth pathway programmes. In that space, we have re-appointed Sam Pickering as the head of junior and youth coaching and a new role for Maika Ruyter-Hooley as our girl's development officer. And we welcome aboard many new coaches to our TDP teams.

The Senior Men's coaching team consists of Ryan Edwards as Men's First Team coach, supported by Jamie Forsyth and Stu Pyne. Richard Kerr-Bell is our Men's Reserve (U23) Team coach, and Stu Pyne is our Third Team (U20) coach. Our supporting staff consists of Kieran McMinn as our strength and conditioning coach, Barnaby Verbain and Jamie Hassett as our physios from TBI Health and Shea Stapleton as our goalkeeping coach. Welcome to our new First Team managers, Gary Stapleton and Lincoln Matthews.

The club has assembled a great Men's squad ready to compete strongly in the Central League this year. After finishing sixth last year, which was the highest





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position for the club for eight years, we hope to finish this year even better. With some excellent pre-season preparation, we enter this campaign with a real sense of optimism. We are glad to see the return of so many loyal Petone players and extend a sincere welcome to our newest recruits.

Our Women's W-League Team will be pushing hard to improve their position from last year, again with the reappointment of head coach Ryan McGlinchey, assisted by Linda Roeters and manager and Women's football co-ordinator Julia Harrison. We have assembled a strong team with a sprinkling of recruits amongst most of last year's players. This year marks 50 years of Women's football at Petone, so it would be great to celebrate that milestone with glory. Building on a great base over the last two seasons gives me great anticipation for a successful and enjoyable campaign this year.

Our Women's Reserve Team is also strengthened this year to compete in the Capital Premier League under coach Kiarra Mueller. This is a solid squad of young and older players to support the younger players in this tough competition. We have a great Women's U18 development squad lined up to complete a strong presence in Women's football for Petone. We are currently looking for a coach for this group. All our Women's senior programme players are being coached at a high standard. With multiple teams, there is plenty of healthy competition for spots. We also have a Girls CDL U14 team coached by Linda Roeters and Richard Arkinstall.

Our Men's Reserve (U23) Team is looking strong this year, with coach Richard Kerr-Bell, assistant coach and manager John Greenwood looking after this team. There is a balance of youth and some more senior players, focused on player development and the pathway to the First Team. The guys will be looking to compete strongly in Capital 1 and push for promotion to Capital Premier League. We look forward to seeing them perform well this year.

Our Men's Third Team (U20) in Capital 3 is coached by Stu Pyne and is the perfect pathway to complete our Men's football programme and a great opportunity for players to move into the reserves and beyond. Although it is named U20, it will comprise a smattering of older players to help develop younger players. Our third team from last year have gracefully allowed us to make this change as they have moved to Lower Hutt to fill their Capital 2 spot – so good luck to those guys, and we hope to see them back in Petone Blue in the future.

In its sixty-ninth year, the Powerex tournament for the Hilton Petone Cup was well run by Barry Pickering – in his twenty-fifth – and Andy Badrick. The Division 1 Final was again between Wellington Phoenix and Wellington Olympic, with Wellington Phoenix coming out as winners on penalties after a 1-1 draw after regular time. The Division 2 Final between Seatoun and Upper Hutt will be played on Easter Monday. All teams enjoyed the tournament, which continues to play a hugely important role in pre-season preparation for the greater Wellington region. Well done, and thank you, Barry, Andy, and the many volunteers, for making this tournament run as smoothly as ever.



We are part of the Capital Football Talent Development Programme again with the support of our sponsors Mitre 10 MEGA and Capital City FORD. The Petone Settlers Technical Centre continues to be directed by Sam Pickering, in this his second year. Sam continues to provide outstanding leadership to the programme, taking it to the next level and providing value to the participants and their parents. We have three TDP Teams in grades U13, U15 and U17, and I'll keep you updated on their progress throughout the year.

Our junior section is well represented yet again this year. Thank you to all the volunteers and your efforts in making football accessible, enjoyable, and fun for the players and their families. Our dedication to engaging children in our football community and improving their skills is paramount. We are proud of the opportunities we give our young players and to see them grow under our tutelage with an eye on the future and advancement into our senior football programme.




Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and committee members, without whom this club would not function. Thanks to our existing sponsors for standing by us for yet another season, and a big welcome aboard to our latest club sponsors. Thank you so much to our departing key club sponsor, Steve Whitehead, and Liquid IT for their many years of support, for which we are very grateful.

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Two years ago, we started a strategic review of our club and how we can thrive in the amateur club football environment within New Zealand. We have begun work in many areas with groups focusing on the Club's organisation structure, policies and procedures, and facilities management and development. You will also notice significant advancement in our player pathway focus and social media advancements.

We continue to focus on our Club's purpose:

-  **BETTER PLAYERS**
-  **BETTER PEOPLE**
-  **BETTER COMMUNITY**

We provide opportunities for all to have fun, grow and succeed through football by living and loving the beautiful game. In doing so, we create better people and a better community.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a strong community support base enabling us to succeed on many levels. We look forward to an enjoyable and successful season on and off the field.

Matt Bliss

Chairman

chairman@petonefootball.org.nz



PETONE FOOTBALL CLUB 5 YEAR PLAN

Become a successful and sustainable community football club in New Zealand by 2026



Our priorities

Player Pathway
Community Engagement

What we are going to do

People and Processes
Financial Sustainability
Facilities and Equipment

How we will measure success

Promote PFC Clubroom as Community Hub
Build competitive men's and women's first teams
Increase revenue stream while preserving community status
Build and maintain PFC infrastructure as the best in Wellington
Build sustainable club structure with a mix of paid and volunteer staff



Shirt Sponsorship

As part of our club's supporters' package, sponsors have the opportunity to advertise on the back of player shirts in both the Petone Des Smith Kemeys Brothers Men's First Team and Powerex Women's First Team. These much-appreciated financial supporters are also named a matchday sponsor for one game per year, in which their business and the players proudly wearing their shirts will be profiled in the following pages of this programme. Hospitality will be provided to the sponsor at that game and, additionally, framed pictures will feature in the club stairwell throughout the season. Any businesses who may be interested in this opportunity – or any club members who may have potential contacts – please advise club chairman Matt Bliss chairman@petonefootball.org.nz.

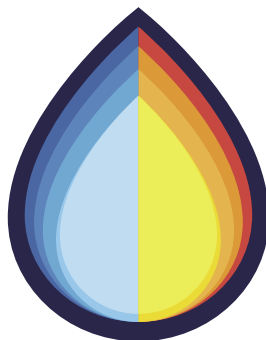
This weekend's featured sponsor is Jason Brown Plumbing & Gas – whose brand appears on the shirts of Dei Gatkek (please note the Women's Firsts squad has not yet been named. Please read on to learn more about this valued business partner and Petone FC player.

Jason Brown Plumbing & Gas

The Jason Brown Plumbing & Gas story began three months before the birth of their first daughter (Lexie). As the family has grown over the last eighteen years, so has the business's success. We take pride in our vast client base built up over that time.

The team of 11 specialises in plumbing, gas and drainage maintenance work, blocked drains, water leaks, toilet repairs, bathroom, kitchen and laundry renovations, gas installs and repairs, working with builders on new builds and all other aspects of plumbing, drainage and gas fitting.

Our philosophy has always been to offer the best customer service and provide excellent workmanship, which we strive to attain on every job we attend, whether a small plumbing maintenance



JASON BROWN
PLUMBING & GAS

job or a larger project. The team's pride in undertaking any job is paramount to our success. We are proud of our team and the quality of their workmanship and professional customer service.

Working with the client to obtain the desired result is always the ultimate goal.

If you require any of our services, please call the team, e-mail or visit our website for further information. We have helped thousands of happy clients around the Hutt Valley and greater Wellington region and look forward to assisting you on your next project.

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Dei Gatkek (2)

Nickname?

Deisel.

Job/studying what?

Rates transaction officer.

Past clubs/teams you have played for?

Lower Hutt, Miramar Rangers,
Wellington Olympic, Karori.

Why Petone FC?

The community, the football and the love for the game here is infectious.

What do you like about football?

Finding solutions to the problems football provides on the pitch.

What don't you like about football?

That it's a winter sport.

Who's your sporting hero, and why?

Lebron James because he's taught me that growth is a choice if you want to be successful.

What training do you do outside of club sessions?

I love to go to the gym and swim.



What do you do to relax outside of football?

Watch Reality TV shows.

Favourite sounds?

Anything Afrobeats and EDM tracks get me buzzing.

Favourite food?

It would be lasagna or chicken fettuccine w BBQ sauce.

Do you have any rituals/superstitions you must perform before a game, and why?

Yeah, I am a Christian. I always pray before I get on the pitch for protection and for me to have fun playing the game.

What is the greatest piece of football advice you have been given, and by whom?

Who you are as a person will come out on the pitch – Andy Hedge.

Who is the team comedian, and why?

Oliver Cassidy – he's got good chat.

Who are your biggest supporters – family, friends, teammates, etc?

My family & close friends.

What was the biggest obstacle you had to overcome during your career?


Doubting my ability to play the game.

How did you deal with the disappointment?

I need to surround myself with encouragement to get over disappointment. My fiancé is really good at that, and my boys are real good at that. Being around them helps a lot.

Petone FC Programme Info

 editor – Chris Clifton (CC Freelance) chris@ccfreelance.com, 021 938 568

 designer – Iain MacIntyre (MacIntyre Public Relations Ltd) i.macintyre@xtra.co.nz, 021 99 10 16

 printer – Blue Star, c/o Mark Allen Mark.Allen@bluestar.co.nz

 photography – largely courtesy of Jeff Bell jeff-bell@live.com

 thanks also to club stalwarts Ray Bell, Barry Pickering and Matt Bliss, valued team managers Julia Harrison jujuharrison@gmail.com and Gary Stapleton stapesnz@gmail.com, as well as our other numerous and important contributors

Grant Turner Remembered

Grant Turner is one of Petone's most notable players. He began his junior football at Wainuiomata. Then, at age ten, he joined a Petone junior team coached by Graham Hickling.

Grant's grandfather, Reg Chapman, had played for Petone and was a crew member on the HMS Chatham when the crew donated the Chatham Cup. He lived in Bracken Street and was keen for Grant to play for Petone.

Grant made his First Team debut as a 14-year-old. He also spent time at Hungaria and Stop Out, playing in the Central and National Leagues. In 1980 he joined newly-promoted Gisborne City to play more National League football. He also had seasons at Miramar Rangers and Wellington United.

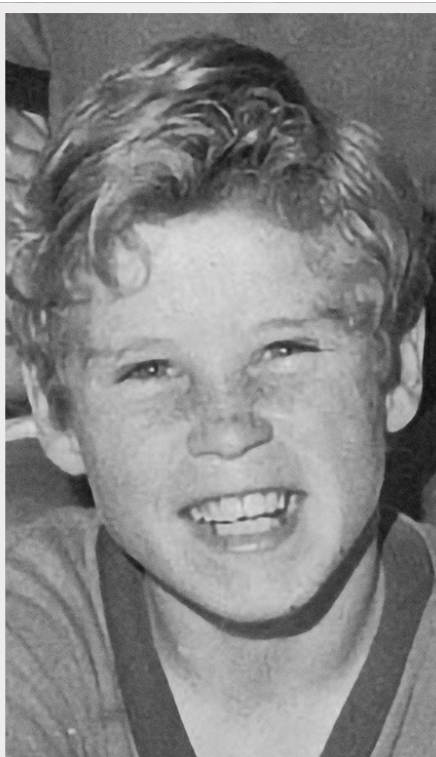
At Gisborne, Grant came under the guidance of Kevin Fallon. They had a fiery relationship, but Kevin always seemed to be able to get the best out of Grant, and it was while at Gisborne that he made his debut for New Zealand in 1980.

He was a vital member of the All Whites in the successful "Road to Spain" campaign to qualify for the 1982 World Cup. Unfortunately, he got injured just before the tournament started and couldn't play.

One of many people's favourite memories of Grant was his goal against Australia in 1981, knocking them out of contention for the World Cup. You can watch the goal on YouTube by searching for "Grant Turner goal".

Grant played 42 full caps for New Zealand from 1980 to 88, scoring 15 goals. He also played 29 other games, scoring a further four goals.

At Petone, Grant played 92 First Team games from 1973–2000, scoring 55 goals. In the 1979 season, he scored fifteen goals and was awarded Petone's Footballer



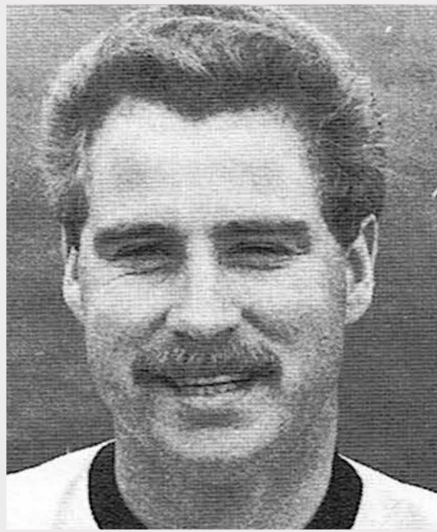
Grant, as a junior in Wainuiomata



As an All White (above and overleaf)

In action in the 1985 Hilton-Petone quarter-final match against Stop Out Reserves, watched closely by his cousin Russell. Petone won the match 3-0 and went on to win the tournament, beating Manawatu United 2-0 in the final





of the Year. In 1985 he was the Central League's top goal scorer with sixteen. He also scored nine Chatham Cup goals for Petone.

He coached Petone's men's second team in 1998 and then the First Team from 1999-2000. Petone won the Hilton-Petone Cup in 2000 with Grant as coach.

After retiring from football, Grant moved to Tauranga, but if in Wellington, he was often seen about the club.

Sadly, Grant passed away on 28 February this year.

Produced by Ray Bell



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Alan Kearton Tribute

Alan Kearton is one of Petone's highest-capped players. He made his debut for Petone's First Team on 14 April 1956, against Upper Hutt, scoring on his debut. Alan played his 100th game on 29 May 1965 and went on to play at least 150 First Team games.

However, records prior to 1968 are incomplete, and he probably played as many as 195 games. Despite being a defender, he scored nine league goals during his career, plus one in a Chatham Cup match.

He also served one year on the Management Committee in 1966.

Alan played his final First Team game in 1969 and then spent a few seasons playing at Eastbourne. I first met Alan at Eastbourne in 1974, and I remember him being happy to pass on advice to younger players and enthusiastic about his time at Petone.

For several years Alan would visit the Club on Old Timers' Days. In the last couple of years,





Alan pictured back row second-from-left in the photograph from the early 1960s overlaid and front row bottom-left in the above 1967 Division Two winners picture

his health prevented that, but Alan still took an interest in the Club, and Bob Walley kept him up to date when he could.

Sadly, Alan passed away on 13 February this year.

Produced by Ray Bell



Powerex

Central League 2023

Saturday April 1 | 1.30pm | Memorial Park

Kemeys Brothers Petone

GK (1)	Oscar Boyce
GK (22)	Luca Siegel
2	Coran Perks
3	Sean Matthews
4	Brynn Sinclair
5	Kieran McMinn
6	Jordan Pickering
7	Jamaya Shearer
8	Amir Mandalawi
9	Matt Jones
10	Sam Pickering (c)
11	Jaga Scott-Greenfield
12	Ollie Pickering
13	Isaac Snell
14	Luke Grindlay
15	Seth Loughran
16	Jared Eglinton
17	Ashnarvy Mustapha
18	Billy Check
19	Cam Healy
20	Alden Suri
21	Aidan Rodrigues
23	Matt Brazier
24	Jack O'Connor
Coach	Ryan Edwards
Asst coach	Jamie Forsyth
GK coach	Shea Stapleton
Managers	Gary Stapleton Lincoln Matthews
Physio	Barnaby Verberne TBI Health

Napier City Rovers

GK (1)	Oscar Mason
GK (22)	Ben Graney
2	Iani Kalu
3	Liam Schofield
4	Kaeden Atkins
5	Jack Albertini
7	Ta Eh Doe
8	Sam Lack
9	Cameron Emerson
10	Deri Corfe
11	Jonny McNamara
12	Alex Mort
14	Kenny Willox
15	James Hoyle (c)
17	Fergus Neil
20	Christian Leopard
Coach	Bill Robertson
Asst coaches	Shane McKenzie Stu James
GK coach	Kyle Baxter
Manager	Greg Wall
Physio	Alexander Gairdner

Officials

Referee – Ashton Davenport

1st Assistant Referee – Alex Dahlberg

2nd Assistant Referee – Conor Healy





Men's Central League Matches

March 25 | Whanganui Athletic | away – **3-2** J Eglinton 2, M Brazier

April 1 | Napier City Rovers | home –

April 8 | Western Suburbs | home –

April 15 | Wgtn Phoenix Res | away –

April 22 | Wgtn Olympic | away –

April 29 | Miramar Rangers | home –

May 6 | North Wellington | away –

May 20 | Waterside Karori | home –

May 27 | Stop Out | away –

June 10 | Whanganui Athletic | home –

June 25 | Napier City Rovers | away –

July 1 | Wgtn Phoenix Res | home –

July 16 | Western Suburbs | away –

July 22 | Wgtn Olympic | home –

August 5 | Miramar Rangers | away –

August 12 | North Wellington | home –

August 26 | Waterside Karori | away –

September 2 | Stop Out | home –

Programmes Published on Club Website

Please note that Petone FC 2023 matchday programmes are posted under [/more/match programmes](#) on the club's recently renewed website (kindly administered by Sam Pickering).



Capital Football Award Winners

Congratulations to the Petone FC club members recognised in the 2022 Capital Football Awards.

- 🏆 Club Administrator of the Year – Mark Allen
- 🏆 Club Service Awards – Graham Hickling
- 🏆 Save of the Year – Shea Stapleton
- 🏆 Goal of the Year – Alden Suri
- 🏆 W-League Select XI
 - ⚽ Caelin Patterson
 - ⚽ Libby Boobyer
 - ⚽ Rebecca Otte
- 🏆 Social Media Account of the Year – Petone FC
- 🏆 Women's Futsal Player of the Year Finalist – Libby Boobyer
- 🏆 Matchday Programme of the Year Finalist – Petone FC

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It's our 125th – and We're Celebrating!

Turning 125 is a milestone worth celebrating and we're going to party it up on King's Birthday Weekend.

Here's the run of events:

- 🏆 Friday, 2 June: we'll officially open our 125th with our mix and mingle and book launch, Petone Football Club 1898-2023, 125 years of football, 50 years of women's football, written by club stalwart Ray Bell, and we invite you to come along to meet up with friends, old and new
- ⚽ cost: \$10 door entry which will include a light supper, and the bar will be open.
- 🏆 Saturday, 3 June: come along to Memorial Park, the home of football, and support our teams' pitch side or on the balcony with a good dose of banter thrown in
- 🏆 Sunday, 4 June: get ready for a big day. We'll kick off by honouring eight Petone legends in the Jackson Street Programme's Walk of Champions, unveiling plaques immortalising their prowess on the football field. Come to the corner of Kensington Ave and Jackson St at 10am for the unveiling. We'll then move to the clubrooms for the citations and morning tea
- ⚽ we'll complete the weekend with our celebration dinner at the Lower Hutt Events Centre. Join us as we spend the night reminiscing and enjoying great company. Jason Pine is our MC for the evening, and you'll hear from club personalities across the eras
- ⚽ cost: \$80, including dinner, and a cash bar will be open on the night
- ⚽ you can buy your ticket on our website



Got a question? Email 125th@petonefootball.org.nz.

Look the Part in Your Retro Shirt

Our commemorative retro shirts are now available to order.

You can personalise your shirt with a name and number on the back or leave it

plain with the club logo, all for the one price of \$95.

Head to the Club Shop on petonefootball.org.nz to place your order.

Order by 16 April for delivery at the start of June.

Top Tip

Due to the style and fit, we recommend you go up one to two sizes from your usual size – eg, if you're usually an L, go up to an XL or 2XL. If you want to try one on for size, samples are in the bag room upstairs in the clubrooms.

Merch Alert – be a Part of History

Celebrate 125 years of Petone FC by bagging some 125th club merch.

Grab a backpack, drawstring boot bag and drink bottle for a cool \$35.

Head to the Club Shop on petonefootball.org.nz to order.



Order one to two sizes larger than usual



Club Events Calendar 2023

- 🏆 *Old Timers' Day – Saturday May 20*
- 🏆 *125th Meet and Greet and Book Launch – Friday June 2*
- 🏆 *125th Junior Events – Saturday June 3*
- 🏆 *Unveiling of JSP Plaques and 125th Dinner – Sunday June 4*
- 🏆 *Senior Quiz Night – Saturday July 1*
- 🏆 *Women's Fundraiser – Saturday August 5*
- 🏆 *Junior Quiz – Saturday August 19*



Settler Q&A – Graeme Boomer

Petone FC's only Men's Central League-winning coach*, Graeme Boomer, features in this essay-form edition of the Settler Q&A.

My fascination with soccer came in the late 1950s when I saw a game at the Green Island movie theatre (a suburb of Dunedin) between Real Madrid playing Eintracht Frankfurt playing for the European Cup, and the final was in Glasgow. The game was in "black & white", ten goals were scored with Real Madrid winning 7 -3 and the Real Madrid team featured players such as Di Stefano and Puskas.

At primary school, rugby was the dominant sport, and even though I enjoyed playing rugby the game of football but my strong English family heritage turned my attention to soccer. Soccer was not an option at primary school, so I joined Green Island Association Football Club and commenced playing in the Under 10 competition on a Saturday morning in 1959.

*[*Ed – a National League existed above Central League at that time, but Petone would not have been eligible to compete due to its involvement in Hutt Valley United].*

MITRE 10
MEGA

In my first year out of high school, I went straight into the King Edward Technical First Team (now known as Dunedin Tech) and played in a very competitive competition in Dunedin. Soccer was very strong in Dunedin in the late '60s and teams from Dunedin were regular participants in the Chatham Cup Finals held in Wellington during that era. I played against Mount Roskill (Auckland) in the 1967 final but, unfortunately, were beaten 2-0.

I continued representing Otago at under 18, under 20, under 23, and Senior and South Island teams. I also played two seasons in the Southern League competition. I played for Dunedin Suburbs in the playoffs to gain entry into the National League competition before moving to Auckland at the commencement of the 1970 season.

Auckland was the stronghold of NZ Soccer in the '70s and breaking into the top teams was not easy. However, during the eleven years I lived in Auckland, I managed to do so, playing both National League and Northern League, as well as three games for Auckland before taking a job transfer to Wellington.



My first season of playing in Wellington in 1980 was with Wellington City, and I met up with some real characters of the game who were either involved in the National League or Central League. The intense rivalry between clubs in Wellington, Porirua Basin and the Hutt Valley was something I had not experienced before. However, that intensity of competition helped me in my thinking as my playing career was coming to an end, and I wanted to coach in the Central League environment.

Even though I had a lot of playing experience, it did not help me transition to coaching as quickly as I'd hoped. In my playing days, I was in the midfield, and as I got older, back to left fullback and listening to the Coaches' instructions was paramount to how you would perform. My first coaching stint was as a player/coach for Lower Hutt. Playing and coaching, in my view, did not work because I did not follow the instructions I gave to the players.

After three years of coaching at Lower Hutt, where I could not get the club out of Central League Division 2, we parted ways. I continued my coaching career with Tawa in Central League Division 1. We got off to a rough start and were second to bottom on only five points. The second round was different, and we went on an unbeaten run, including a win against a team that was running away with the Central League title, Petone. In the second round, we only lost to Stop Out, the eventual winners of the Central League. This was only my second encounter with Petone, either playing or coaching.





My coaching stint at Tawa concluded midway through the second season when the team struggled again, and I was at loggerheads with the committee over player recruitment. Seven or eight players from the previous season had left the club, and a rebuild was required again. The club did not support my pursuit of winning and was satisfied with a status quo approach. Island Bay had just sacked their coach when I left Tawa and were bottom of Central League 1.



Take control back from those ongoing aches! All registered Petone football players in any team with an ACC injury are eligible for fully-subsidised physiotherapy treatment at any TBI Health Wellington clinic:

- Wellington CBD – L5, 111 Customhouse Quay, CBD
- Newtown – 90 Hanson Street, Southern Cross Hospital, Newtown
- Lower Hutt – L1, 21-23 Andrews Ave, Lower Hutt
- Ropata – 135 Witako Street, Epuni
- Mana – Level 1, 107 Mana Esplanade, Mana
- Kapiti – 112 Rimu Rd, Paraparaumu

Potted Graeme Boomer Stats/Achievements

-  87 Central League games total (for seven different clubs), of which nine were for Petone — one First Team in 1988 and eight for the Reserves (in Central Three) in 1993
-  Men's First Team coach for eight years – 1988-1993 and 2001-2002
-  Central League winning coach in 1990
-  Management Committee in 1994 and 2005

Information kindly supplied by club historian Ray Bell

I was approached and accepted the role of Coach but was unsuccessful in maintaining Central League Division 1 status for Island Bay, missing by one point.

I decided to take a break from coaching at the end of 1986, and through my acquaintances at Northern Park Cricket Club, captained by former Petone Club Chairman John Bradbury, I started playing in the third team at Petone. In that team was a young player John Groves who was very talented.

Towards the middle of the 1987 season, I assisted Barry Pickering with the First Team because Barry was mixing his coaching and playing for Hutt Valley in the National League. It was challenging for Barry, but it also whetted my appetite to coach again. At the end of the 1987 season, my old playing mate and good friend from Wellington City days, Dave MacIntyre and I put our names forward for coaching Petone in 1988.

1988 was a disjointed season for Petone AFC. After beating our close rivals, Stop Out, we started well and were at the top of Central League Division 1 (at this stage, Petone had never won the Central League Division 1 title). Our commitments to the Hutt Valley National League side started to disrupt the Petone team with Dave, and other players were required for National League. We became a disjointed team from being a well-settled side and finished middle on the points table.

After a review of the 1988 season, Dave decided he wanted to concentrate on playing again, and I took over the coaching reins. The 1989 season was good for Petone. I was able to revamp the team with good, exciting young players such as John Groves, Greg Stewart, Paul Baker, Wayne Ebert, and Greg Revell, along with regular First Team players Andy Badrick and Brett Williams. Stevie Slack started showing his wares in Petone's second team and was gradually introduced to the First Team. It also saw the introduction in 1989 of Mark Wroe, whom I signed for both Petone and Hutt Valley National League teams. The emphasis was on winning the Central League Division 1.

ESTD



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As most people are aware Hutt Valley National League team was drawn from three clubs in Petone, Lower Hutt and Stop Out. The then coach of the Hutt Valley National League spotted Mark while playing for Nelson in the National League. I was tasked with going to have a look at a game between Nelson & Miramar and immediately made up my mind that I was going to get Mark for Petone. What evolved from that was that Mark was contracted to both Petone and Hutt Valley National League and could play for Petone on a Saturday and Hutt Valley on a Sunday.

The playing arrangements hit snags, but Mark was a dedicated supporter of Petone and continued to play for Petone despite reservations from the Hutt Valley National League coach. Mark was a consummate professional and played very well for both teams.

I had the nucleus of a good team that went very close in the 1989 season. In 1990 Petone retained Mark Wroe with the same playing arrangements as previously and saw the introduction of Paul Bleyanga and Kevin Morgan. Paul had come to my attention the previous season, playing for Tawa, an outstanding winger, and I saw Kevin playing for the Petone second team (Kevin joined Petone in 1990 coming from Palmerston North) and with his hard-nosed attitude was proven to be a good fit for Petone First Team. Later in the season, I gained the services of another winger Joe Carlin from Wainui.

At times players were required for Hutt Valley National League during the 1990 season, but we were able to cope better than in other seasons because the nucleus of the side was a consistent playing unit. The team spirit was immense, and our success was down to training hard during the week and transferring it to Saturday. Petone deserved to win the Central League Division 1 title in 1990. Celebrations were delightful, and Petone also won the Fair Play Award, epitomising the team's discipline.

I continued to coach Petone for another three years; for two of those years, we finished in the top three of Central League Division 1. At the end of 1993, it was a time for a change, I was running out of steam, and my personal & professional life was changing.

I returned for a further stint in 2001 & 2002 and developed a very good side that finished in the top three. Especially in the second year, we were robbed of playing consistently towards the end of the season due to poor weather conditions, which caused long periods of not either training or playing.

2002 was and has been my last coaching stint, and I am glad it was with Petone. The relationships formed in 1988 continue today; yes, we still talk about 1990. I still follow Petone today with much interest and enjoy the Old Timers concept.

While there were lots of good times, there were also some frustrations, and in particular, one springs to mind. Each year I was requested as coach of the Petone First Team to put forward names for the various trophies awarded at



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prize giving. One particular year I was very frustrated in that the Committee decided without consultation to give it to someone else within the team whom I had not nominated. What was particularly disappointing was that the committee did not witness the improvements in training and following playing instructions as I did. I was gobsmacked. Despite some frustrations, the good has always outweighed the bad, and I have always been proud to be associated with Petone Football Club.

Finally, I will always enjoy watching soccer. I live and breathe it and will always be in front of the 65" Television watching my beloved Everton – even though they are struggling – and the same with the Wellington Phoenix. I wish Petone FC all the best for the upcoming season, and the best strategy for any player is winning. Good luck.

Comment from Petone FC chair Matt Bliss: "Thanks, Graeme – what a wonderful recollection of the '80s, '90s and early '00s at Petone FC, and your success as the First Team coach and contribution to the club is well remembered.

"Regarding the disappointment over award nominations, I can assure you that the current Petone Executive Committee always consults with the coaches and managers before making decisions about the successful recipients. I know this doesn't change the history of what happened, but rest assured, we do our best to do what is correct as we navigate the highly complex world of running a busy football club."

Volunteering and Events

Petone FC relies on the support of our community to maintain our family-friendly club and we are always in need of both volunteers and funding.

We would love to see you attend this season's functions, as listed in our events calendar, and would welcome any offers of a little time to help out.

This could be helping run gamedays, manning the bar or you may have a particular skill the club could use on one of our committees.

If interested please contact Matt Bliss chairman@petonefootball.org.nz.



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+64 21 446 929

+64 21 99 10 16

d.macintyre@xtra.co.nz i.macintyre@xtra.co.nz

macintyrepr.co.nz

PO Box 686, Wellington 6140

1/1 Waione Street, Petone

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

A Brief History

Formed in 1898, Petone FC is one of the oldest football clubs in New Zealand and is the longest-surviving in our original form – non-amalgamated – in Wellington.

Major on-field achievements have included:

- Chatham Cup winners – 1928, 1930 and 1949
- Chatham Cup semifinalists – 1994
- Chatham Cup quarterfinalists – 1995
- Junior National Cup (New Zealand U18s) winners – 1979
- National Youth Championship (New Zealand U19s) winners – 2008
- Wellington annual preseason tournament (progressively known as the Hilton-Petone Cup) winners – 1956, 1985, 2000, 2003, 2007, 2010 and 2013
- Central League Premier Division winners – 1990
- Capital Federation Premier League winners – 2006, 2007 and 2019
- Women's Central League winners – 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998
- Women's National U19s Tournament winners – 2021

Petone FC also finished runners-up in the Central League Premier Division in 1992, 1996 and 2008 as well as the Capital Federation Premier League in 2005, 2017 and 2018.

The club organises the annual preseason Hilton-Petone Cup tournament which, since 1955, has attracted an almost maximum number of entries from clubs in the Wellington region and which is an established part of the local football scene.



CAPITAL FOOTBALL PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR

🏆 Winner – 2020 | 🏆 Finalist – 2021, 2022



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