



**SUNDAY**  
**26**  
**MARCH**

**3.00PM KICK OFF,**  
**MCFETRIDGE PARK**

**NORTHERN LEAGUE ROUND 01**



**Harcourts** Cooper & Co



**kemps weir**  
LAWYERS

**weston design**



# Harcourts Cooper & Co

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## LUNDQUIST

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# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



**A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE 2023 SEASON! THIS IS ONE MOMENTOUS YEAR, AND YET ANOTHER HUGE SEASON FOR BIRKENHEAD UNITED.**

There are several reasons for this; 2023 marks the celebration of our 60 years as an amateur community club. It is amazing to reflect on the journey that is rolled into this 60-years, serving the people of Beach Haven, Birkdale, Birkenhead and beyond. As well as excelling as a provider of quality football experiences for all our community.

Secondly, this year we are a Training Base Camp for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, the 3rd largest sporting event in the world, and the largest Women's sporting event in the world. Of course, we already know that we are hosting the Azzuri, the Italian Women's Team, at Shepherds Park, over July and into August. As a result of this opportunity, we are also 2-months away from completing the most aspirational club upgrade project, doubling the number of change rooms we have, and creating a gender-neutral facility that will host and support all of our community for years to come. What a year to enjoy and savour!

Last weekend I watched the Men's Premier side beat Takapuna on the Saturday, in their last outing before formal hostilities resumed this weekend, and I also watched the Women's Conference team outclass a champion Div-2 Northern Rover's outfit last Sunday, up at Greville Reserve. I couldn't but reflect on the journey that we have travelled, from a club that used to be known as "rag-tag-Birkenhead", to a club that presents itself, both off and on the pitch, with the pride and performances befitting of a vibrant community club.

This year has already catapulted itself into existence, with our three Open Days finishing with Junior and Youth registrations increasing by 12%, and with registrations still to close! Junior & Youth numbers

now exceed 1,000 members and the strength and connection responsibilities have never been greater.

The Skill Centre programme, under the enthusiastic leadership of Keith Lesslie and Jason Higgins, has exploded, with the programme now supporting 150+ junior athletes aiming to make our 1st teams in a few years. Similarly, the Youth programme, equally enthusiastic, but delivering across the slightly older 13th to 17th grades, is full and engaged in the more cerebral process of developing fully formed footballers, for as Johan Cruyff often said; "your body is merely the means to get your brain around the pitch". With the reality of this hive of activity, we can remain assured that the Club is in good hands, with our community delivering as best as we can for all of our players, their families, and through them, to our extended community.

It has been a journey. As I sit, writing this at my kitchen table in Beach Haven, my home now for 26 years, I am only too aware of the shoulders that I am standing on. All the people, and all the families that have gone before. All the players, coaches, mums and dads, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grandfathers and grandmothers, let's not forget ALL the mothers, that have created this great club. Sitting at the bottom of a geographical cul-de-sac on the Birkenhead peninsula in Kaipātiki. I recognise and tautoko your contribution, your resilience, your drive and your sense of purpose. I hope as we continue this journey, as we grasp the baton today, that we, the current custodians, can remain true and steadfast to the outcomes you have created for us.

#Birko Loud & Proud / #Red & White Army

**David Williams** Birkenhead United AFC President

**Harcourts** Cooper & Co

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# PAUL HOBSON COACH'S COMMENTS



## WELCOME TO MANUREWA PLAYERS AND STAFF FOR TODAY'S OPENING GAME OF THE SEASON.

Pre-season has been a bit trying this season, with no access to a Home venue for games, trainings, lights, and changing rooms. We also had to have a later start to training this year, to allow players to properly recover from the new-look National League season that ended in the first week of December last year.

I am really happy however, with the squad we have and I think one of the differences we have at Birkenhead is that we always have a strong flow of youngsters coming through into the Premier Men's team, with 7 of last season's U17s National Champions promoted into the first team this season. It is also worth noting there are only 4 players out of 28-man squad that are over 24 yrs old.

A warm welcome to our new players this season; Jack Duncan, Leon van den Hoden, Byron Heath, Jordan Toy (returned from France), Daniel Morgan, Xavier Maddox, Thomas Page, Troy Taylor, Luke Allport (returned from the US).

Amazing to see the work being done through the junior age groups led by Keith and Jason. The Skill Centre model has been changed this year, and we now have 140 kids getting the full experience. The expertise being put into the Talent Development Programme by Dave Wright is fantastic, and we're very lucky to have him at Birko.

We have a new apparel supplier this season, with UHLSPORT coming on board. There is a massive difference in both the quality of the apparel and the service we are receiving. I recommend that you check out the club shop.

Finally, thanks to Northern Rovers for hosting us today, I hope everybody supports this fantastic gesture of support and fills the bar after the game.

### Paul Hobson

Birkenhead United Men's First Team Coach

kemps weir  
LAWYERS



# ROUND 01 PREVIEW



## FIRST TEAM FIXTURE



VS



## BIRKENHEAD UNITED vs MANUREWA AFC

Sunday 26th November, 3pm,  
McFetridge Park

Matchday Sponsored By:

**Harcourts** Cooper & Co

## OTHER FIXTURES

## RESULTS



**MELVILLE UNITED  
vs EASTERN SUBURBS**

Saturday 25th March, 3pm  
Gower Park

-



**AUCKLAND UNITED  
vs TAKAPUNA AFC**

Saturday 25th March, 3pm  
Keith Hay Park

-



**AUCKLAND CITY  
vs WESTERN SPRINGS**

Saturday 25th March, 3pm  
Kiwitea Street

-



**WEST COAST RANGERS  
vs HAMILTON WANDERERS**

Saturday 25th March, 3pm  
Fred Taylor Park

-



**BAY OLYMPIC  
vs MANUKAU UNITED**

Saturday 25th March, 6pm  
Olympic Park

-

westondesign

# PLAYER PROFILE

## DANE SCHNELL

### PLAYER BIO

<b>Nickname:</b>	Daneo
<b>Age:</b>	23 Years Old
<b>Nationality:</b>	New Zealander
<b>Previous Clubs:</b>	Waitakere United, Western Springs
<b>Right / Left Footed:</b>	Right
<b>Honours / Trophies:</b>	U19 Nationals Winner

### FAVOURITES

<b>Pro Team:</b>	Cronulla Sharks
<b>Player:</b>	Nicho Hynes
<b>Food:</b>	Japanese
<b>Travel Destination:</b>	Anywhere with waves
<b>Movie / TV Series:</b>	4WD 24/7 (YouTube)
<b>Book:</b>	Hound of the Sea (Garret McNamara)
<b>Podcast:</b>	Between Two Beers
<b>Music:</b>	House and Indie Rock
<b>Pre-Game Song:</b>	Dancing To – Kurd Maverick
<b>Quote:</b>	"Any more right, it'd be wrong"



### Q & A SESSION

**Q: Where were you most recently playing before Birkenhead United?**

A: Western Springs.

**Q: How many seasons have you played at Birkenhead United?**

A: Heading into my second season.

**Q: Best football memory?**

A: U20 FIFA World Cup.

**Q: Best goal scored / save made?**

A: Last National League against Cashmere in front of the balcony.

**Q: Main work-on for the season?**

A: Hold up play.

**Q: Who's the one team you look forward to playing against most and why?**

A: Auckland City, always a challenge.

**Q: Best you've played with or against and why?**

A: Nick Forrester - can pull a rabona out of nowhere

**Q: Dream 5-a-side team, you and who else?**

A: Neuer, Ake, Bellinghman, Haaland

**Q: What do you like to do in your spare time outside of football?**

A: Surf, fish and hangout with mates

**Q: If you could meet anyone in the world?**

A: Mick Fanning, give me some helpful surf tips.

**Q: How would you describe yourself as a player?**

A: Direct.

**Q: If you could play a different position for a match?**

A: Goal keeper, only position I haven't played

**Q: Biggest influence on your career?**

A: Parents and Chris Zoricich





# 2023 MENS SQUAD



**ALEX  
CONNOR-MCCLEAN**  
FORWARD



**ARDRI  
MCARTHUR**  
MIDFIELDER



**BYRON  
HEATH**  
FORWARD



**CAMERON  
MACKENZIE**  
FORWARD



**CODEY  
PHOENIX**  
WINGER



**DANE  
SCHNELL**  
FORWARD



**DANIEL  
MORGAN**  
FORWARD



**DINO  
BOTICA**  
DEFENDER



**DYLAN  
HOBSON**  
DEFENDER



**EVERTON  
O'LEARY**  
WINGER



**FINN  
MCKENLAY**  
MIDFIELDER



**HAMISH  
JARDINE**  
DEFENDER

**ABSENT FROM PHOTOSHOOT:**

**NICHOLAS FORRESTER, JORDAN TOY, SHIVAM NAIR, LUKE ALLPORT**



# 2023 MENS SQUAD



**JACK  
DUNCAN**

**WINGER**



**CURTISE  
HUGHES**

**FORWARD**



**LEON  
VAN DEN HOVEN**

**MIDFIELDER**



**LUKE  
COSTELLO**

**DEFENDER**



**LUKE  
JORGENSEN**

**MIDFIELDER**



**NICK  
PETHERICK**

**FORWARD**



**SAM  
BURFOOT**

**MIDFIELDER**



**SAMUEL  
PEPPER**

**WINGER**



**SILVIO  
RODIC**

**GOALKEEPER**



**THOMAS  
PAGE**

**FORWARD**



**TROY  
TAYLOR**

**GOALKEEPER**



**XAVIER  
MADDOX**

**MIDFIELDER**

# 2022 MENS SQUAD



**PAUL  
HOBSON**

**HEAD COACH**



**KEITH  
LESSLIE**

**ASSISTANT COACH**



**SHAFEIK  
DU TOIT**

**U23 HEAD COACH**



**JASON  
HIGGINS**

**U23 ASSISTANT  
COACH**



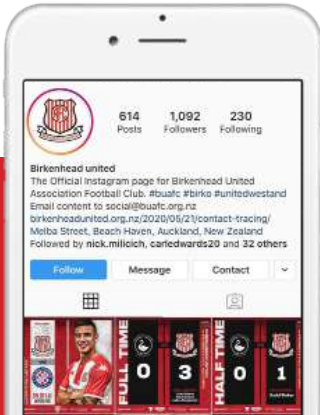
**HAYATO  
YONETO**

**STRENGTH AND  
CONDITIONING**



**GRAHAM  
ROUTLEDGE**

**TEAM MANAGER**



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# Kick starting your kid's dreams.



McDonald's has been supporting junior football in New Zealand for nearly 20 years. With the 2019 season about to start, we're working with New Zealand Football, the regional federations and clubs to help kick start the dreams of junior footballers around the country. A big thanks to you for the role you play in helping your child enjoy the beautiful game.



AKORANGA DR



# PLAYER PROFILE

## SILVIO RODIC

### PLAYER BIO

<b>Nickname:</b>	Silvi
<b>Age:</b>	35 Years Old
<b>Nationality:</b>	Croatian
<b>Previous Club:</b>	North Shore United
<b>Right / Left Footed:</b>	Right
<b>Honours / Trophies:</b>	Poland Cup Finalist 2022 National League MVP

### FAVOURITES

<b>Pro Team:</b>	Real Madrid
<b>Player:</b>	Luka Modric
<b>Food:</b>	Everything that mom prepares
<b>Travel Destination:</b>	New York
<b>Movie / TV Series:</b>	Gladiator
<b>Music:</b>	Croatian Music
<b>Quote:</b>	"Believe you can and you're halfway there"



### Q & A SESSION

**Q: Where were you most recently playing before Birkenhead United?**

A: 10 years in Croatia, 3 years in Poland and last 5 years in New Zealand

**Q: How many seasons have you played at Birkenhead United?**

A: Just one season, signed last year.

**Q: Best football memory?**

A: First game for Croatia U 21 National team and listening national anthem

**Q: Best goal scored / save made?**

A: Against Dinamo Zagreb. Last minut free kick top corner save. Free kick taker was Luka Modric. Still I don't know how I made that save. My team won 2-1.

**Q: Main work-on for the season?**

A: Help my team much as I can

**Q: Who's the one team you look forward to playing against most and why?**

A: Small side games at training with my

Birkenhead team mates. My hands are pretty busy then.

**Q: Best you've played with or against and why?**

A: Luka Modric, winner of Ballon d'or.

**Q: Dream 5-a-side team, you and who else?**

A: Messi, Ibrahimovic, Modric, Haaland, Ronaldinho

**Q: What do you like to do in your spare time outside of football?**

A: Spending time with my family and watch some good movie

**Q: If you could meet anyone in the world?**

A: Don't know.

**Q: If you could play a different position for a match?**

A: Striker- scoring goals

**Q: Biggest influence on your career?**

A: My first goalkeeper coach – my dad!



# CLUB DIRECTORY



## CLUB PRESIDENT

David Williams  
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## VICE PRESIDENT

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Paul Hobson  
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## CLUB ADMINISTRATOR

Makayla Williams  
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**WE THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND ORGANISATIONS THAT  
DONATE TOWARDS THE OPERATION OF OUR CLUB.**

# MATCHDAY SQUADS



## BIRKENHEAD UNITED AFC

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 SILVIO RODIC        | 15 ARDRI MCARTHUR    |
| 2 EVERTON O'LEARY     | 16 DYLAN HOBSON      |
| 3 CODEY PHOENIX       | 17 DANIEL MORGAN     |
| 4 DINO BOTICA         | 18 HAMISH JARDINE    |
| 5 NICHOLAS FORRESTER  | 19 TROY TAYLOR       |
| 6 LEON VAN DEN HODEN  | 20 CAMERON MACKENZIE |
| 7 ALEX CONNOR-MCCLEAN | 21 XAVIER MADDOX     |
| 8 LUKE JORGENSEN      | 22 LUKE COSTELLO     |
| 9 DANE SCHNELL        | 23 CURTIS HUGHES     |
| 10 SAM BURFOOT        | 24 NICK PETERWICK    |
| 11 BYRON HEATH        | 25 FINN MCKENLAY     |
| 12 JACK DUNCAN        | 26 THOMAS PAGE       |
| 13 SHIV NAIR          | 27 SAM PEPPER        |
| 14 JORDAN TOY         | 28 LUKE ALLPORT      |



**PAUL HOBSON**  
Head Coach

**KEITH LESSLIE**  
Assistant Coach

**GRAHAM ROUTLEDGE**  
Team Manager

## MANUREWA AFC

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 ROSHAN KUMAR      | 14 MOH REYNOLDS-HATEM |
| 2 BAYLEY FOSTER     | 15 MOHAMMED NABEEL    |
| 3 BEN HUNT          | 16 MOHAMMED SHAH      |
| 4 CALEB KOIA        | 17 MONTY PATTERSON    |
| 5 CONNOR PROBERT    | 18 NICOLAS BOBADILLA  |
| 6 DANIEL BUNCH      | 19 PAUL DAY           |
| 7 SAMMY KHAN        | 20 RONALDO MUNOZ      |
| 8 AGUSTIN CONTRATTI | 21 RONEEL LAL         |
| 9 DYLAN HORGAN      | 22 DAVID MASTERS      |
| 10 DYLAN MORRIS     | 23 ROSS STALEY        |
| 11 ERIC ZIU         | 24 DASTGEER LAI-SA    |
| 12 JAMES HOYT       | 25 JOE BUDD           |
| 13 JOSEPH BUDD      |                       |

