

May 2011

EMU-GAZETTE

Newsletter of
the Stuttgart
Australian
Football Club



EMUS WALK TALL IN 2010

This is our newsletter aimed at informing you – our members, loyal supporters and fans – about what's been happening both on and off the field in Emus land in recent months.

After our second season in the Australian Football League Germany (AFLG), the Stuttgart Emus and their supporters can look back on a successful year of sport and social events, and can look forward to an exciting footy season ahead in 2011.

Footy in green and white

"Never Take a Backward Step" is the motto of the Stuttgart Emus, and the team certainly lived up to this rallying call on the footy field in 2010. Although this was the Emus' second year in the AFLG, it was really the Emus first year in the big league, so to speak. The reason: in 2009, the league was divided into A and B pools of four teams each. The Emus, as a new team, played in the B pool. With a reduced number of teams in 2010, the Emus stepped up a grade to play games against much more experienced clubs in a single, national league of just five teams. It was a big challenge but the players and

their captain-coach, Aaron Wedge, rose to it with professionalism and pride.

In the end, the Emus came in fourth, the highlights of the season being two magnificent wins – both home and away – against the more favoured and more experienced Frankfurt Redbacks. But the Emus also did themselves proud in home games against the Berlin Crocodiles and the Munich Kangaroos – the team which eventually won the league. The scoresheet showed a bigger victory margin than was reflected in the heat of the contest on the field. As always, the Emus played each AFLG game with commitment. We were the best travelling team of the league in 2010, always showing up in distant locations, like Berlin and Cologne, with a full team of players.

Coat of Arms Cup!

And – not to forget – we won our first trophy in 2010! We travelled to Kössen in

Austria in August and defeated the Kössen Roos in a one-game final to be awarded the Coat of Arms Cup. The winners' trophy now takes pride of place in the trophy cabinet of the Naturfreundehaus, Killesberg – the pub we go to after weekly training.

There have been comings and goings since the end of the season. Some of our big game Australians have gone back home or moved to other parts of Europe; some of our experienced German players have moved on, but other promising players have stepped in to take their places. We have hired a hall to train in every Wednesday evening during the winter, and we look forward to March when we should be able to start training with a full squad again for the upcoming season. For the 2011 game schedule, see stuttgart-emus.de.



STUTTGART EMUS NEWS

2010 Awards Night

Our Awards Night was held in December at the Schlampazius pub in Stuttgart-East. Congratulations to the following players, who collected trophies for their excellent footy in the 2010 season:

Chris Mail – Best Defender
Johannes Mast – Best Center
Geoff Rodoreda – Best Forward
Florian Walz – Coach's Award
Andrew Miller – Best and Fairest

Special mention

Three more people deserve special thanks for their support over the last year.

Aaron Wedge, our team captain, took on the extra responsibility of coaching the Emus last year – despite business and family commitments. (While we're at it, a big thanks also to his assistants, Fabs and Brownly!)

Second, thanks to Kirsten Meyer who, with great courage and resolve, refereed many of our home and away games.

Third, the biggest of thanks goes to a man who all agree is the best referee in the AFLG, Graeme Green who, believe it or not, flies in from Romania, where he's now working, just for the weekend to referee our home games. Graeme, we hope to see you again more often in 2011!

Cheers! Our social successes

Many people help make the Emus a thriving club not just on the field but off it as well. Most importantly, our program of off-field events provides an opportunity for players and their families, friends and supporters to socialise. But these events also help to raise funds, attract new members and players, and celebrate Australian culture in Stuttgart.

SommerFestival der Kulturen

A first in 2010 was an Emus stand at Stuttgart's annual Summer Festival of Cultures in July. Over two days, we sold delicious Aussie Meat Pies, great Aussie wine, and various non-alcoholic drinks. Almost everyone from the team as well as their families/partners chipped in to help set up or dismantle the stand, sell food and drinks, or simply chat to the passing public about Australia and football.

We raised a good deal of funding for the club's coffers and a good deal of awareness about Australian Rules football in Stuttgart. We plan to do the same again in July 2011.

Summer and winter fundraisers

Two Aussie Quiz and fundraising nights were organised at the Erdgeschoss bar in Stuttgart. We set up a stand within the bar to sell cakes and club paraphernalia; we played Aussie music, staged a raffle and organised our own unique Aussie Pub Quiz. The summer event was especially well attended. Both events were great fun; both helped raised money for the club.

AFL Grand Final

Another successful – and very early-morning – social event was the organising of a live screening of the 2010 AFL Grand Final from Melbourne. We packed out the Champions Bar at 6 o'clock on a Saturday morning in September to see Collingwood and St. Kilda struggle it out to end up deadlocked in a famous draw. As there's no extra time in an AFL final, we rocked up again the following week to see Collingwood win convincingly in the replay



The Emus will host the AFLG Grand Final 2011!

match. It was a great get-together, with a top atmosphere, helped along by wonderful hosts behind the bar – considering the rest of the city was asleep at that hour!

Mini-Emus: The newest of new arrivals

Congratulations to three Emus and their spouses who provided the club with future playing talent and support during the last year!

Michael Membrey and Antje became the proud parents of Fynn-Luca.

Simon King and Nina welcomed Henry into the world.

Steffen Belgardt and Anja became dad and mum to Helena.

See ya later!

Thanks once to all those who helped make 2010 an enjoyable sporting and social success for Stuttgart's newest Australian club. Hope to see as many of you as possible at our home games of the 2011 season.

With Best Regards,
Stuttgart Emus

Last Results

1. Round:
Munich Kangaroos 18.10.118
Stuttgart Emus 1.2.8
2. Round:
Stuttgart Emus 2.2.14
Rheinland Lions 17.8.110

Next Games

04. Jun 11
Berlin Crocodiles vs Stuttgart Emus
18. Jun 11
Stuttgart Emus vs Hamburg Dockers
02. Jul 11
Stuttgart Emus vs Munich Kangaroos

Emus-Gazette

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