

David McCouaig named TOP DOVE (again) in 2006

David McCouaig has been named the Immanuel College Old Scholar Soccer Club's best and fairest player for the second year in a row

David was presented with the coveted trophy, known as the Big Bird, at the 2006 end-of-season presentation night held at the German Club in October.

More than 60 players, partners and friends of the club attended the event, with the live medal count a highlight of the evening.

David, a classy midfielder, was a runaway winner with 301 votes (a club record) ahead of fellow old scholars Paul Kleinig, Tim Dabrowski, Adam Hooper and Andrew McCouaig.

Each week players were asked to allocate 3-2-1 votes to who they believed to be the best three players for the match. David's exceptional skills and work ethic were hard to look past week in, week out in 2006.

The Golden Boot, awarded to the highest goal scorer for the year, was shared between strikers Tim Dabrowski and Koki Kawaguchi. Aaron Spirdonoff, the 2005 winner, presented the award – expertly crafted by fellow player Brett Webster and consisting of an old boot spray painted gold and mounted on a stand.

The Most Improved trophy was presented to Andrew Humby who joined the Doves this season and rapidly earned his wings in defence.

An honourable mention also went to Jimmy Plant, who answered the call midseason for a full-time goalkeeper and despite never playing this position before, was arguably the best keeper in the competition.

Ivan Christian spoke at the dinner on behalf of ICOSA and congratulated the Doves on their second successful season. He also thanked the soccer club for its donation of an in-house soccer shield for the College and a Best and Fairest award for the College's First XI soccer side.

Live music was provided at the Presentation Night by Sargent Sparrow and the Dove Tones – made up of anyone from the team that had the courage to join in and pick up an instrument, which by the end of the evening was almost everyone. For many of the team, the party continued on well into the early hours of the morning.

While the social aspect of the club is very strong, the Doves also play to keep fit and, as such, a light pre-season training is scheduled to begin in January.

The Doves are always keen to hear from more old scholars looking to join. Those interested in taking part in pre-season can contact the club via its website at www.icossc.org.au or call Ben Hooper on 0419 832 098.

The season doesn't officially get underway until April 2007 so there's plenty of time to get in shape.

The top five leaderboard for the Big Bird in 2006

D. McCouaig	301 votes
P. Kleinig	172 votes
T. Dabrowski	167 votes
A. Hooper	148 votes
A. McCouaig	114 votes

Highlights for 2006

Reaching the Quarter Final in the Collegiate Cup (and beating Adelaide University's top side, which plays in the A1 division, along the way)

Kicking twice as many goals in season 2006 as in the debut season of 2005.

Paul Kleinig scoring a hat trick of goals in one match – the first Dove to do so.

The launch of the team's website (www.icossc.org.au)