



West Brunswick Amateur Football Club Inc.

Affiliated with the Victorian Amateur Football Association

Mail – PO Box 32, East Brunswick, Vic 3057

Home Ground – McAlister Oval, Park Street, Parkville

President: Benjamin Lichtenstein

Secretary: Matt Holmes

Senior Coach: Angus Hamilton

Senior Premierships: 1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14, '15

Premiers & Champions: 1976, 2015 (Res)

Reserves Premierships: 1989, '98



Season 2016

The Birdsnest

Vol 46 No.5

Closing in for another finals campaign...

Over the last four weeks West Brunswick has played two of the lesser teams and had two 'Byes', hardly the sort of preparation needed to launch a finals campaign, but then again....

West Brunswick's last two seasons have been remarkable, having won premierships in the seniors and reserves and formed a competitive Club XVIII team. The 'Thirds' finished their season, after 15 rounds, on top of the ladder, on percentage, and are now into their finals.

The Seniors and Reserves are in a fairly strong position on the ladder, with both teams certain finalists, the only question is how 'deep' will they reach pursuing the premiership. The senior team is second on the ladder, trailing top team St.Johns whom they play at home on August 13. The team's ladder position is one game ahead of the Preston Bullants and only a very small percentage separates them. Should West lose any more games they are a chance to slip from second to third come the final round, meaning they will participate in the first semi final rather than the second semi final, which comes with a 'double chance'.

The Reserves are also second on the ladder and face the undefeated Unicorns, MHSOB in the last home and away game at the School ground. Whilst they have a healthy break on the third team, their finals starting position seems likely to be the second semi, against the Unicorns against whom they played the week before.

The finals for a team that has been starved of victory or even a finals presence over the past couple of seasons may find it difficult to adjust to the increased intensity and pressure. Not so West Brunswick. Our successful past two seasons suggests West know just what's required to win and make the most impact come that stage.

Seniors:

The last three rounds

These matches took one month to play. We had a VAFA all competition Bye, followed by the game v the Snakes (Richmond Central), then we had the team dropped out bye, followed by the game v the Bullants. Needless to say, the team was very distant from being a 'well-oiled machine'.

Round 13 v Richmond

Against the Snakes the weather was almost perfect, and playing on Kevin Bartlett Reserve for the first time in eight years seemed a bit nostalgic to some. Our round 6 encounter against the Snakes was a scrappy spiteful match, with their 'modus operandi' including sniping off the play, numerous head high tackles and a player knock out off the ball, leading to a report and four weeks holiday for the Richmond player. Roll forward to their turf, and we had the same scrappy game, and a very under skilled VAFA umpire to manage the game.

At three quarter time the score was six goals to two, hardly a performance of the team placed second on the ladder against the bottom, unwinning side. But in the final term the Magpies opened up the game to run out easy victors.

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|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|
| <u>Richmond Central AFC</u> | 0.3-3 | 2.4-16 | 2.8-20 | 4.9-33 |
| <u>West Brunswick</u> | 1.4-10 | 5.5-35 | 6.5-41 | 20.16-136 |

Goal Kickers: C. Germon 7, L. Buckler 2, D. Ferrier 2, J. Beer 2, C. Naldrett, B. Simpson, J. Taylor, R. Thompson, Z. Tisdale, B. Kline, B. Wolfenden

Better Players: C. Simpson, C. Germon, C. Gook, H. Paez, J. Tennant, V. Townsend

Round 15 v Bulleen Templestowe.

Its always hard to describe a game where one team is woeful and playing 'rubbish football' but against the Bullants that was the only way to describe the first three quarters of the game. The Magpies were second to the ball, missed targets

on the few times they got clear, forgot how to shepherd, tackle with intent or run to the 'fat side'

In the final term somehow they 'flicked the switch' to move from being 22 points down to come home winners by seven points.

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|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| <u>Bulleen Templestowe</u> | 3.1-19 | 7.5-47 | 9.7-61 | 10.7-67 |
| <u>West Brunswick</u> | 4.4-28 | 5.4-34 | 7.5-47 | 11.8-74 |

Goal Kickers: B. Kline 2, B. Irving 2, M. Holmes 2, Z. Tisdale 2, C. Naldrett, J. Beer, T. Costa

Better Players: E. Lloyd, H. Paez, V. Townsend, C. Simpson, C. Wills, L. Martin

Round 16 v The Animals

And in Saturday's round 16 match against last year's nemesis, the Magpies dominated from the outset and recorded a very solid victory, suggesting they are getting their 'mojo' back.

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|-----------------------|--------|---------|----------|------------------|
| <u>West Brunswick</u> | 7.3-45 | 12.4-76 | 16.7-103 | 29.11-185 |
| <u>Emmaus St Leos</u> | 0.0 | 3.3-21 | 6.6-42 | 7.7-49 |

Goal Kickers: B. Irving 8, Z. Tisdale 6, R. Thompson 3, S. Devlin 2, J. Beer 2, M. Graham 2, B. Wolfenden, C. Naldrett, M. Holmes, W. Dillon, D. Ferrier, T. Costa

Better Players: E. Lloyd, C. Gook, V. Townsend, H. Paez, Z. Tisdale, B. Irving

Reserves

Game v Richmond Central.

This match was not easy to describe. At the commencement of the game both teams had eighteen players on the field and the Snakes managed to get the ball deep into their forward line a couple of times. West was running and the Richmond boys were not, and nor was field umpire Jeremy Tobin, but that's a different story.

West Brunswick reserves kicked 51 goals 25 behinds 331 points v Chadstone in D4 two years ago and that score was put down as an aberration because it was the bottom of the bottom, so to speak. This scoreline against Richmond Central is in Division 2, and creates the new club record.

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|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|------------------|
| <u>Richmond</u> | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <u>West Brunswick</u> | 12.5 | 20.14 | 40.15 | 55.20-350 |

Goal Kickers: J. Nulty 14, R. Benjamin 10, K. Oppelaar 7, N. Arnold 4, S. Devers 3, C. Mitchell 3, B. Wynne 3, J. MacReadie-Smith 2, W. Vagg 2, P. McDonald, D. Monacella, J. Hyslop, B. Lichtenstein, B. Rodin, P. Kelly, T. Emmett

Better Players: J. Nulty, N. Arnold, J. Sandow, R. Benjamin, B. Lichtenstein, N. English

Game v Bulleen Templestowe

The reserves team was suffering the same malaise of the senior team, simply couldn't get their game going, and up until half time it appeared to be two reasonably matched teams. A nine point break between the teams reflected the play, with the bullants playing above themselves and the magpies well down.

After half time the magpies added twelve goals eight behinds to nil. Lets say they found their missing spirit and dominated from then on.

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|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| <u>Bulleen Templestowe</u> | 2.1-13 | 3.2-20 | 3.2-20 | 3.2-20 |
| <u>West Brunswick</u> | 2.3-15 | 4.5-29 | 9.9-63 | 16.13-109 |

Goal Kickers: B. Shepherd 5, S. Pritchard 2, P. Carroll 2, D. Monacella 2, B. Lichtenstein 2, J. Hyslop, S. Devers, B. Rodin

Best Players: P. Carroll, J. Nulty, T. Emmett, B. Shepherd, N. Arnold, S. Pritchard

Game v Emmaus St Leos

This was not ever a contest but it included some of the players eligible to play in the Thirds team, so next week's selection should be interesting.

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|-----------------------|--------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| <u>West Brunswick</u> | 9.4-58 | 16.9-105 | 21.13-139 | 28.18-186 |
| <u>Emmaus St Leos</u> | 0.0 | 1.0-6 | 2.0-12 | 2.2-14 |

Goal Kickers: S. Pritchard 5, B. Shepherd 5, J. MacReadie-Smith 4, B. Rodin 3, P. Carroll 2, B. Lichtenstein 2, P. Kelly, H. Lewis, N. Ansons, J. Nulty, R. Benjamin, T. Emmett, D. Monacella

Better Players: J. Nulty, S. Pritchard, X. Fowler, T. Emmett, B. Lichtenstein, B. Shepherd

Thirds

The Club XVIII team finished on top of the ladder by percentage, which gave them the home ground advantage for the second semi final played on Saturday. Selection for this team is rather difficult as many of the players qualify for both the reserves team and the senior team, so how do you decide who to give a game ahead of others.

The game was a very tight contest, as you would expect, but having battled hard to three quarter time it seemed likely one team was going to get an edge. Geelong managed to kick five goals in the final term to get the right to the Grand Final in two weeks time.

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|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| <u>West Brunswick AFC</u> | 3.3-21 | 4.6-30 | 6.8-44 | 7.9-51 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|

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|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Old Geelong | 2.1-13 | 4.6-30 | 6.9-45 | 11.10-76 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|

Goal Kickers: K. Oppelaar 3, J. Hopkins 2, P. Manczak, A. Thompson

Better Players: H. Mahoney, C. Bond, D. Fitzpatrick, K. Oppelaar, A. Jones, B. Wynne

The 2016 fixture:

The full season's fixture is available on the club website and can be accessed any time.

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------|-------------|
| August 6 | v | St Leos | Home |
| August 13 | v | St Johns | Home |
| August 20 | v | MHSOB | Away |
| FINALS | | | |

Noticed That...

- Talk about lucky. The West 2000 enjoyed perfect sunshine on a relatively warm 17 degrees. The past weeks has not seen the temperature get above thirteen and it was regularly raining.
- Winner of the West 2000 was Ben Shepherd, who donated 50% of the prize to his favourite charity... West Brunswick. Thanks 'Shep'
- The 'Rio' theme for the West 2000 was embraced by most of the crowd with some outfits 'spectacular'
- The poster competition was well down on entrants from previous years but the creative genius was still apparent.
- Special thanks to Rick Brockwell for his donation of a raffle prize being a helicopter ride. The winner was Hamma.

Golden Magpies

Thanks to the following who have become golden magpies for season 2016 now number 40 members.

Alexe Hamilton
 Steven Smythe
 Steven Byrne
 Paul Harris
 Rick Brockwell

Apologies to those who may have paid directly into our club bank account but have not been formally thanked in the Birdsnest. Please send me an email so as this can be rectified..

Whenever somebody makes a payment to the club account it is important to ensure a name is added to the payment. This is because the Treasurer needs to have a chance to reconcile payments from a considerable number of other sources and match GM payments.

Club Bank Account

Bendigo Bank

Account Name:

West Brunswick Amateur Football Club

BSB: 633-000

Acc No: 136422383

Current Sponsors



We encourage all players to support our major sponsor by having any required radiology scans (MRI's, Xray's, CT Scans and Ultrasounds) at your nearest Capital Radiology

location: <http://www.capitalradiology.com.au>"

Other generous sponsors:

Insurance House



Website: <http://www.insurancehouse.com.au>

Builders Academy



Club Partners

Club Partners:

Multifit
 Brad Teal
 Back in Motion
 Benjamin Jewellers

The club is looking for sponsors in any form. If you would like to promote your business in the Birdsnest, website or around the club get in contact with Chris Germon (cgermon@gmail.com). We can get you promoted in many wonderful ways...posters, tickets, t-shirts, special dedications, small ads on banners of milestone games, inside the inner sanctum etc.

Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help out around the club – in any capacity. Casual once off basis or a few Saturdays during the year. Jobs include time keeping, goal umpire, running the boundary, match day manager, scorer, helping in the canteen on a Saturday or perhaps cooking up a pot of bolognaise for the boys for Thursday night selection. Contact: Wendal Vagg if you can assist in any way.

Keeping in Contact

The club's has a linkedin Group – West Brunswick Amateur Football Club
If you've changed your email address send an email to the club westbrunswick@gmail.com to update your details

Milestones:

(Thanks to club secretary Matt Holmes for these commentaries & statistics)

Fifty games to Bucks

Luke Buckler played his 50th senior game for West Brunswick last weekend against Bulleen Templestowe. Finishing high school in 2013 and debuting as an 18-year old in 2014, Bucks played only two reserves games before his prowess in the midfield became apparent and he was whipped up into the seniors. He's been supremely durable too, playing 51 out of a possible 52 games in the past two and a half seasons. As far as his playing statistics are concerned, they're the figures that most players would only dream of.

Luke Buckler's senior career thus far:

Round 3, 2014 debut

49 matches

42 wins

4 finals (3 wins)

2 grand finals (2 wins)

The Amateur Footballer 'Club Warehouse Rising Star' nomination (2014)

Nick 'Hutchy' Hutchens

Nick Hutchens played his 50th game for West Brunswick last weekend. Hutchy debuted at West back in 2003. In a career spanning 13 years, Hutchy has played in all three grades mainly across the half back line. He's taken a few beautiful screamers over the journey, although he is yet to play in a grand final - having arrived after our 2002 flag; being away in 2008; and living overseas the past few years - it's something he (along with everyone else at the club) wants to achieve this year. Also, it was at West Brunswick that Hutchy met his fiancé Fiona, to whom he proposed this year!

Jacob 'Fluff' Tennant (currently on 58 games)

Fluff has been a loveable figure since his arrival in 2013. With a big mop of curly hair, the initial nickname of 'Sideshow' got a run, but 'Fluff' was the one that stuck. And stick it did, just like the man himself to his opponents on a Saturday. He's always putting his body on the line, no matter the size of the opposition (99% of the time much bigger than he), and this year's he's been playing some inspired football which saw him make his senior debut against Richmond Centrals last round. The 2015 reserves premierships player is out injured this week, but we're looking forward to seeing him back in the black and white before too long.

Vincent Townsend (currently on 54 games)

Vinnie arrived at Park Street in a package deal with the Daylesford motley crew, and has never looked back. He's been playing terrific footy in his 54 games, being a cool head in the reserves' (and more recently) the seniors' backline. A late in the season injury last year saw him miss the grand final, though this year's good run and great form has seen him go from strength to strength. Good on you, Vin!! Here's to a great run home!!

Women's Football at West Brunswick

It may have been something that we'd like to do last season but we didn't quite have a full plan to make it happen. Well now we have moved from wishing to now it going to happen following the strong showing of a full side, in a competitive four quarter match against Bulleen Templestowe last weekend.

The VAFA will be fixturing womens games next season, and the Magpies will be part of it. Well done to all concerned.