



West Brunswick Amateur Football Club Inc.

Affiliated with the Victorian Amateur Football Association

Home ground: Ransford Oval, Park Street, Parkville, VIC 3052

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westbrunswick@gmail.com

wbafc.com.au



President: Benjamin Lichtenstein	Senior Premierships:	1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14, '15
Secretary: Matt Holmes	Premiers & Champions:	1976, 2015 (res)
Senior Coach: Angus Hamilton	Reserves Premierships:	1989, '98

Season 2017

The Birdsnest

Vol 47 No.2

Festival of the West...

Our first home game at West Brunswick was branded as the Festival of the West as we had our family and friends day which was very well attended. The weather was perfect for football or a day in the park and it was very pleasing so many made it on the day and brought the picnic blankets along.

The football was just as good as the weather with the rain over the past week softening up the grounds a little bit and making it not so hard when being tackled. The four games were being played using both Ransford Oval and McAllister Oval, with the Womens game running concurrently and at the same time as the Reserves game. The club's thirds team had a solid 172 points victory, the Womens 106 points, the Reserves 138 points and the Seniors 44 points.

What more could we ask for? Our Club XVIII team lost to Box Hill, a team that has dropped down to that level from Division 4 due to lack of players, by 36 points.

Clubs and their mascots.

This season we are up against a four new clubs and its worthwhile knowing their mascots so as to understand to whom I refer in the football game reports.

Club

Bulleen Templestowe	Bullants
Eltham Collegians	Turtles
Emmaus St Leos	Animals
Glen Eira	Gryphons
Hawthorn	Hawks
MHSOB	Unicorns
Old Paradians	Raiders
Prahran Assumption	Two Blues
West Brunswick	Magpies
Yarra Valley	Bush Rangers

Results:

Seniors:

Round 1

Playing away at Glen Eira, which uses a reasonably short ground with wide wings; it was a very warm day that had a strong wind blowing pretty much straight down the ground.

The Gryphons had the breeze in the first quarter and whilst they were a little wasteful, the pressure applied by the Magpies was intense and led them to shoot at goal under pressure. The Magpies ball use into the wind was excellent and they trailed by five points at the break.

The second term was again very combative but the Magpies had fourteen scoring shots to three due to their hard running and skillful rovers at the fall of the ball: taking a handy 36 point lead into the second half. Due to some awkward moments during the term, the Magpies were two men down at half time, due to a knee injury and concussion, so were going to be pressed in the second half.

The Gryphons wind advantage in the third term, and more effective kicking for goal saw them cut the margin to six points at three quarter time. West was another man down on the bench so had only one man available for rotation. The heat of the day had sapped a lot of energy from the players, and the gods decided it was time for a change. Within about five minutes the temperature dropped ten degrees, the wind changed direction and for the final term the Magpies knew they were in trouble.

In the last quarter the Gryphons maintained momentum and kicked three goals to take a handy lead. With around only two minutes of play remaining the Magpies were eleven points down and were mostly exhausted. However West is known for doing remarkable things, managing to score a goal in the last minute kicked by Dave Ferrier. With seconds remaining Mitch Graham managed to get the ball, slam

it on the boot and it sailed through the big sticks for a goal. West home by a solitary point.

<u>Glen Eira</u>	3.6-24	4.8-32	9.10-64	12.17-89
<u>West Brunswick</u>	2.5-17	9.14-68	9.16-70	12.18-90

Goal Kickers: S. Devlin 3, D. Ferrier 2, S. Fleming 2, L. Martin, J. Iacono, M.Graham, D. Muscat,

Round 2

West Brunswick was at home to the Eltham Collegians for their first home game of the season in front of the largest crowd we have seen for games other than the finals. The weather was near perfect, with a slight breeze favoring the clubrooms end of Ransford Oval, the base for most of the supporters.

The Magpies kicked into the wind for the first term, to the Park Street end, and had six to two on the board at the break. The Turtles had basically gone into their shell as the Magpies were too fast and too strong up forward and very tight down back. The Turtles decided to drop a man back in the second term, making it a battle of the half back lines. This clearly reduced the scoring opportunities with the Magpies adding two goals to one for the term. One of those goals went to the freakish snap by Club secretary Matt Holmes, bending the ball 'inside out' from the clubrooms pocket whilst running towards the boundary.

At the break Coach Hamilton asked the players to look at our finishing in round one, and to come up with a better effort. Both teams added only one goal each in spite of the excellent conditions running from end to end akin to circle work of years gone by. In the last term West added a bit more fire to their game and finished more strongly than the Turtles to win by forty four points.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	6.2-38	8.6-54	9.9-63	12.14-86
<u>Eltham Collegians AFC</u>	2.1-13	3.1-19	4.4-28	6.6-42

Goal Kickers: R. Hartwig 4, S. Fleming 3, M. Holmes 2, D. Muscat 2, W. Dillon

Better Players: W. Sadler, A. Schipp, C. Mitchell, C. Millar, E. Lloyd, S. Herben

Round 3

The boys ventured out to Templestowe for the match against the Bullants who were also victorious in their first two games. The Bullants were full of bravado and the ground was in excellent condition given the rain of the past week. The first term was fast moving and somewhat wasteful with the Magpies having more scoring shots yet trailing on the scoreboard. In the second term the Magpies were only moderately more methodical, but slightly more accurate and held a three point margin at half time.

With a lot on new players in the team some of our flow and connection gets interrupted with pressure, and whilst the Magpies were playing good football, minor slip ups proved costly and allowed the Bullants to stay in the contest.

In the third term the Magpies were getting a bit more cohesion and managed to kick four goals to two, taking a thirteen point lead into the last quarter. In the final term the Magpies stuck to their game plan and withheld the pressure to run out winners by seven points.

The senior team is now the only undefeated team in this division, and atop the ladder.

<u>Bulleen Templestowe</u>	2.3-15	4.5-29	6.8-44	9.10-64
<u>West Brunswick</u>	1.5-11	4.8-32	8.9-57	10.11-71

Goal kickers: B. Irving 3, D. Muscat 2, C. Naldrett, S. Fleming, C. Germon, M. Holmes, D. Ferrier

Better Players: C. Millar, C. Mitchell, E. Lloyd, J. Malseed, W. Sadler, A. Schipp

Reserves

The reserves have started the season with a bang, winning their first game against the Gryphons by 108 points, following that up with another victory over the Turtles by 138 points. Saturday's victory over the Bullants by 127 points suggests this team to once again set the benchmark for the competition. There are two other sides currently undefeated, one being the Unicorns whom we meet next week. The team is very well led by Ben Lichtenstein and coached by Craig Mitchell (currently playing in the senior team). Their team standard is to play at your best and know both the offensive and defensive role expected of your position.

Thirds

The thirds team is in an eleven club grade and is a composite made up of teams from both Premier C grade and the Division D clubs. The season has been a bit of a mixture to date, with the opening round a loss to Ormond by 3 points, a smashing victory over Salesian by 172 points and a Round 3 loss to Williamstown by 50 points.

The team players feature both old and new, up and coming and some nearing the latter part of their careers. But it is also a great breeding ground to assess new talent, and thus far we have had players who have played thirds, seconds and seniors. We have also had a similar experience with the Club XVIII team as players move between the teams based on their week to week performances.

Womens Team

We have fifty five players registered and paid up as members to play in this team. With only twenty four players able to play each week it becomes

difficult to maintain both form and fitness. Coach Darren Smith keeps the ladies honest out on the track often finishing after the boys have left the field.

Selection is a week to week job in trying to introduce enough new players and yet remain consistent and competitive. The VAFA have decided the Womens competition will be a sixteen round process, with the first six rounds scheduled as a grading phase.

Without getting too far ahead of ourselves, the Womens team has played three rounds for three wins.

Our round one win over UHSOB was by 30 points, round 2 over Therry Penola by 106 points and round 3 a 64 points win over Fitzroy. Lets just say they are a very good side, but it's the grading phase, which may lead us to be placed into a very skilled level of competition, making the season's challenge somewhat more difficult.

One thing is certain at this point. We will be having two sides competing in 2018 in the Womens competition and we will be having a great time providing an atmosphere where women can enjoy playing our great game.

Club XVIII

Last season our 'thirds' team competed in the grand final at Elsternwick Park against Old Geelong making it a top of the table clash worthy of a much higher standard of football. Season 2017 and our 'clubbies' are our fourth side, and are in an eight club grade, up from six clubs last season.

We have not had much success so far, with our opening match a loss of 38 points to UHSOB, round 2 going down to Box Hill by 49 points and round 3 match a 92 point victory over the Razorbacks (Swinburne)

There have been a couple of clubs struggling to attract enough players into their ranks to field a seniors and reserves side that have been allowed to 'regroup' in this competition, so it's very much a week to week proposition. West puts out it's best side available and still have a number of boys who don't get a game each week.

Forthcoming Social Functions:

May 27

Past players Day

Commencing at 12 noon

BBQ luncheon.

To be held in the Clubrooms

Noticed That...

- Club merchandise was selling well, with more beanies than stubby holders going out.
- The ANZAC round saw the senior team in new jumpers, wearing white shorts, even though we were playing at home.
- The bar has been given a name. It's the Shane Devers-Roy Barrett bar, with details of their contributions to the club covered in a framed picture.
- A warm day, followed by warm beer. Good grief as Snoopy would say!!
- With four games going on between Ransford Oval and McAllister Oval it was officially 'car park full' at 12:00pm
- Two players running through through the same banner simultaneously. Another first for the club with Pickles & Mitch Graham playing their 50th games.
- Sad news. The passing of Margaret Green, Les Lampard and Dot Rhodes..all related to our club's life members and individually great club supporters. May they RIP.

Golden Magpies

Thanks to the following who have become golden magpies for season 2017.

Hamish	Bailey	Phil	Leatham
Cliff	Bastow	Clare	Manczak
Steve	Benjamin	Scott	McNamara
David	Blakey	Brenda	Muscat
Robin	Blakey	Arthur	Ozols
Grant	Buckler	Sam	Pietsch
Thea	Campbell	Roger	Pugh
Robert	Chilov	Tom	Russell
Paul	Cook	Alan	Smith
Ocker	Fyffe	Steve	Smythe
Frank	Gerdtz	Troy	Thompson
Anthony	Gibson	Fred	Tointon
Lesley	Kay	Patrick	Walpole
Bruce	Kay	Jayson	Ward
Dean	Lampard	Peter	Webber

This year the membership fee is still \$50!! Last season we had over 65 golden magpies, the contribution goes a long way in helping the football club provide first class

services to our players and take some of the pressure off fees.

Club Bank Account

Bendigo Bank

Account Name:

West Brunswick Amateur Football Club

BSB: 633-000

Acc No: 136422383

Current Sponsors



We are pleased to announce a new major sponsor the mens and womens teams. EFEX Group. EFEX is a young and keenly progressive managed services company that devises and deploys print, IT, network, cloud and voice and data solutions that are flexible, scalable, elegantly simple yet extremely robust, and surprisingly cost effective. We right-fit a mix of award winning hardware and services to deliver faster workflows. You will easily recognise the difference that reduced downtime and a single point of contact to support, maintenance and helpdesk issues can make to office productivity.

Builders Academy



Club Partners

Club Partners:

The Castle Hotel

Insurance House

FUR

Meat Smith

Bendigo Bank

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: Evan 'Red' Lloyd 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

Our Website:

With more people around the club is it any wonder our website is being updated more often. Some photos from Saturday's game are on there as well as lots of other stuff.

Go to www.wbafc.com.au. Should you have something to say or whatever, you can also contact the club on westbrunswick@gmail.com.

The 2017 fixture:

The full season's fixture is available on the club website and can be accessed any time. Whilst the matches shown above are for the Seniors and Reserves teams, the rest of the teams move around a bit with the VAFA claiming they have done everything they could have to fit the whole lot together.

April 29	v	Bulleen Templestowe	Away
May 6	v	MHSOB	Home
May 13	v	Hawthorn	Away
May 20	v	Yarra Valley Old Gram'ans	Away
May 27	v	Prahran Assumption	Home

The **Thirds** team is playing against different opponents than the Seniors and Reserves, but have been drawn home games when those two are at home. So for the next five weeks their Home & Away status is the same. So for any club games there will always be three matches for the remainder of the season.

The **Womens** team are playing what the VAFA describe as 'the grading phase' and are up against some local clubs including the very strong Melbourne University, and Fitzroy clubs. Their fixture seems to be 'little by little', with only next weeks game v Fitzroy listed and it's an away game.

The **Club XVIII** draw is opposite to the rest of the club, playing in an eight club competition up from six teams the previous two seasons. Their next five games, also against vastly different clubs than West, are Home, A, H, H A.