



# 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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President: Benjamin Lichtenstein

Secretary: Matt Holmes

Senior Coach: Angus Hamilton

Senior Premierships:

Premiers & Champions:

Reserves Premierships:

1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14, '15

1976, 2015 (res)

1989, '98

## Season 2017

### The Birdsnest

Vol 47 No.3

### A lot of water has flowed under the bridge...

The last release of the Birdsnest covered up until Round 3. Up to that point the expanded club was still finding its feet and getting used to the ever-changing balance of home and away games.

The autumn weather was reasonable, with most games played on firm surfaces in mild to cool conditions. The wind hasn't been a major factor and the quality of games has been quite high. The off field support is always a challenge particularly for away games and it is common for players from early games involved in running the boundary or whatever in the later games.

Back in the distant past days, we had some seasons when we were struggling to the point where we were lucky to field two teams, and didn't have a full complement of reserves on the bench. This is not the case with the club in 2017. Even though the club is fielding four men's teams and two women's teams there are still players who are missing a game week to week. Amazing!

## Results Round 4 to 9

### Seniors:

This mid-point of the season has the Magpies and the Two Blues at the top of the table with eight wins and one loss each, ladder positions separated by percentage. Next on the ladder is the Bushrangers with six wins and a host of others with four wins and five losses making up the remainder of the grade's potential challengers.

The Magpies have been at less than their best but managed to get the job done when required. In Round 4 the Magpies defeated the Unicorns 46

to 45, a low scoring struggle all day. Following that victory was a solid eleven goal demolition of the Hawks, which was backed up with a five point victory over the Bushrangers.

At Round 7 the Magpies played the Two Blues and saw they are the team to be reckoned with. Prahran Assumption have assembled a very well-balanced side and led for most of the day. West managed to score a couple of late goals in the final quarter and came away with their only loss for the season thus far by nine points.

The game against the Raiders saw the Magpies dominate with a solid 64 point victory and last Saturday against the Animals it was the Magpies by 55 points. So, at this point we have had two victories by one point, and one by five points, games which could have gone against us. Self-belief, luck or both; it doesn't matter.

### Reserves

In the Reserves competition, there are three clubs looking significantly dominant – the Unicorns (last year's Reserve grade premiers), the Two Blues and the Magpies. Each of these teams have eight wins and one loss, the loss being inflicted by the other team of this trio. Next in the mix are the Bushrangers with six wins and after that its four wins with a few others.

Over the past rounds the games of significance were the Round 4 clash v the Unicorns where the Magpies lost by one goal in a very tight competitive encounter. In Round 7 the clash with the Two Blues saw the Magpies victors by a solid 26 points, having twice as many scoring shots albeit not as accurately as they would have liked.

The other games have seen West being far more dominant recording victories of over 25 goals in the past two weeks. With wins like that, our percentage is high and sees us on top of the ladder.

## Thirds

The thirds team is in an 11 club grade and is a composite made up of teams from both Premier C grade and the Division D clubs. With the clubs featuring in this grade having mixed fortunes in their senior and reserve teams it is not easy to find out how competitive the Magpies really are.

We played Williamstown early in Round 3 and lost by 50 points. Williamstown are on top of the table with eight wins from nine matches. Next on the ladder is Caulfield Grammarians whom we lost to by 51 points in Round 7. In our other games the Magpies have recorded solid victories against PEGS, Marcellin and Old Geelong who all are in the mix as potential finalists.

At this point after nine games West Brunswick is third on the ladder with six wins and three losses and a reasonably healthy percentage.

## Womens Teams

Due to the very large number of players showing interest in being a part of the club, our womens team have added a new chapter named the Warriors. Consequently we have the official team playing in the VAFA titled 'Womens Development Division 1' where the Magpies are on top of the ladder with eight wins and one loss from their games thus far.

The Warriors play against the clubs who are in a similar position as West Brunswick with too many players to get a game each week, and are 'unofficial' from the VAFA point of view. This is similar to when West introduced our Club XVIII a few years ago by playing for a team that were regularly forfeiting.

Our official team won all of their grading games and have been very solid once they were slotted into their current grade. Victories v St Mary's (17 points), Old Haileybury (62 points), Old Brighton (10 points) and Beaumaris (58 points) saw us being almost invincible until we met Old Geelong who kept us scoreless in Round 8.

The Women are in Development Division 1, which would be Premier B in the men's grading. All of the teams in Development Division 1 are first teams, there are no reserves teams, so the competition is of a high standard. We simply take one week at a time and give it everything when we cross the white line each Saturday.

## Club XVIII

Our Clubbies are the only team outside the top four with a win loss ratio of four/five from their games to date. This grade is very difficult to

measure, with our teams comprised of those players available after the first three teams have been selected and the clubs we play against including clubs from other grades playing at this level because they do not have enough players to make two teams.

Games of significance over the past rounds were the matches v Monash Blues, fourth on the ladder where we lost by three points in a hard fought contest. Our game against third placed Chadstone saw us defeated by three goals, again in a low scoring affair.

Needless to say, the loss to arch rivals UHS-VU by over 100 points hurt a bit but the boys rebounded on Saturday to bring home a solid nine goal win over the Gryphons.

## Noticed That...

- Two West Brunswick players have been nominated for the inaugural women's representative team. Congratulations to Erin McLaughlin and Bridie Walsh on this honour.
- All 5 teams won last Saturday, the second time this benchmark has been achieved this year.
- Well done to Lachie Sherry in gathering the 2002 premiership team together for the past players day, it was great to see so many joyful chaps enjoying a lager.
- Club stalwart Stephen 'Ocker' Fyffe making his debut appearance on West Brunswick's popular Instagram channel, regularly checking in to see how many 'follows' (or likes as they are more commonly known) he has received.

## Golden Magpies

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

Bruce	Ivey
Denham	Humphries
Chris	Ashley
Chas	Wakefield
Michael	Pryor
Jock	Rolfe
Katy	Walsh
Matt	McIntosh

This year the membership fee is still \$50!! So far this season we have 38 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.



### 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 please contact Chris Germon ([cgermon@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Keeping in Contact

The club's has a LinkedIn Page – West Brunswick Amateur Football Club .

If you've changed your email address send an email to the club [westbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:westbrunswick@gmail.com) to update your details.

### Our Website

With more people around the club than ever before 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](http://www.wbafc.com.au).

Should you have something to say or whatever, you can also contact the club on [westbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:westbrunswick@gmail.com) .

### The 2017 fixture

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

While the matches shown below 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.

**Round 10** June 24 v Bulleen Templestowe Home

**Round 11** July 1 v Eltham Away

#### July 8 No Games

**Round 12** July 15 v MHSOB Away

**Round 13** July 22 v Hawthorn 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 season their Home & Away status is the same. So for any home games there will always be three matches for the remainder of the season.

The **Womens** team are playing in Development Division 1. Their next four weeks sees them

playing at home with the Seniors, Reserves & Thirds on Saturday June 24, then Away, Home and Away.

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 four games, also against vastly different clubs than West, are Away, Home, Home (at the same locations as the Womens team), then Away.

## **West 2000 - July 23 2017**

It seemed like a good idea at the time and when life was a little less busy things were going quite well. Back in the launching days of the West 2000 the basic idea was to celebrate the end of the season by having a BBQ and a drink on the Sunday after the last Home & Away game. The function was usually held in mid-August.

At its initial launch the tickets were \$20 and the first prize was \$2,000. Hence the brand it became the WEST 2000 and for the first 15 years was very much unchanged.

Then along comes new coaches with crazy ideas about the function interfering with the teams finals aspirations. We must change the date so the players can focus on important football development and give themselves every chance to win the premiership.

So the date was changed from the Sunday after the last game to a date a week or two earlier. Things were going quite well as we held the function in the pavilion of the Western Oval. For those new to the club, that's the big brown brick building on Park Street with public toilets attached and a gravel carpark that's great for dropping 'wheelies' on the way home.

As the only tenant of the pavilion it didn't really matter when we changed the date because we were the only parties impacted. In around 2005 we moved from Western Oval to MacAllister Oval for our games and were allocated to the current 'new' facilities. This was again OK until the Melbourne City Council decided to allow a soccer club to use the facilities on a Sunday to host their games.

So for the first time the club needed to be careful about selecting a date as it may clash with an underage soccer game, and it would be poor form to have the West 2000 goings on with all these youngsters around.

So the club managed to find out when there may be facilities usage clashes to keep the function

solely on our terms. The soccer problem was diluted a bit by the Brunswick Soccer club losing one of their teams and only using the facilities every other week.

However along comes the Brunswick Mudlarks, who have games scheduled on every other Sunday, some at McAllister Oval and sometimes on Ransford Oval. More potential complexities.

The VAFA have a limited draw for the Club XVIII teams, finishing their games in July. The same is planned for the Womens teams. Consequently if we did not want to have the WEST 2000 interfering with finals aspirations for either these cohorts of the club, we cannot hold the event in August. But what about the weather. Is it possible to have a fancy dress up garden party in July?

Has anybody mentioned that the changes occurring with the facilities is only a small part of the West 2000 challenge? Apparently not everybody eats BBQ snags until they run out of their ears. Some people don't consume meat at all, making the catering issues something different again.