



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	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.6 The Finals

In 2017 the club broke new ground in fielding a women's team, as well as adding another men's team to the existing three playing in season 2016. Such expansion comes with 'bumps' along the way, but at no point did those 'in the know' forecast we would have four out of five teams competing in the finals.

Our Senior and Reserves teams both finished second on the ladder and played Prahran/Assumption in their second semifinals on Saturday, the results being a win to the Reserves, and a loss to the Seniors.

The Thirds team finished their season in third place on the ladder whilst the fourths, our Club XVIII team, ended their season in fifth place, consequently taking no part in the finals.

Our women's team ended their season on top of the ladder in Development Division 1, the equivalent of Premier B Grade, which was an outstanding effort. We had sufficient women numbers to also play a few 'warriors' games, thus giving us confidence in the seasons ahead to be able to field a second team.

All in all, the season can be judged very positively. At this point our teams haven't acquired any 'silverware' but when taking things into an historical perspective, winning a premiership occurs very rarely and we are still in the hunt with our two competing teams.

The committee of the club, including the 2016 people, ought be congratulated on their foresight, vision and belief that such a bold step could be taken late last year; and the results show that West Brunswick is a great place to play football and enjoy a healthy club culture.

Womens Teams Womens Development Division 1 Finals.

Second Semi result

This match could be summarized as a game of negatives, with both sides playing 'shut down' football rather than an open attacking style. The game was played on Ransford Oval with its firm surface and relatively narrow wings, but the conditions were rather hostile, a strong wind favouring the clubrooms end.

The half time score just shows how much of an 'arm wrestle' the game was, and with both sides scoring their only goals in the third term, and no scores in the final term, lets just say it wasn't showcase football.

West got the result it wanted , giving the players the week off to prepare for the grand final.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	0.1-1	0.2-2	1.2-8	1.2-8
<u>St Mary's Salesian</u>	0.1-1	0.1-1	1.1-7	1.1-7

Goal Kicker: B. Walsh

Better Players: K. Hancock, K. Brewer, A. McKenna , J. Roberts , J. Allen, M. Caddy

Grand Final

Up against the team from the early final, the Magpies knew what was required to win the game. There was some difficulty at the selection table, as over the season our players comprising the 'engine room' were struck down with injury, requiring different players to fill the void.

In this season, whilst the players had come a long way in skill development and learning tactics, injuries to the running skillful players as the season wore on reduced the scoring power and ability to move the ball as quickly as desired.

The grand final was similar to the second semi final, unfortunately the result giving the Saints the flag.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	1.0-6	1.0-6	2.1-13	3.1-19
<u>St Mary's Salesian</u>	1.1-7	1.1-7	2.1-13	3.2-20

Goal Kickers: K. Krithararis, E. Burry, M. Caddy

Better Players: E. Burry, J. Bell, E. McLaughlin, M. Caddy, J. Allen, B. Walsh

Results

Second Semi Finals

Seniors:

V Prahran Assumption.

The selection table was the most significant area of this match when comparing the potential for a win against the season to date. The Magpies were beaten both times during the regular season by the Two Blues and would need to have all players at their peak if they were going to have any chance of taking the points on Saturday.

The game was scheduled for the Trevor Barker Oval in Sandringham, the ground where the Magpies won the flag over the Animals in 2015. The ground sited close to the beach is always windy, and last Saturday was no exception. The breeze was favoring the southern end of the ground, and the ground's wide wings and club rooms placement create situations where the wind becomes quite unpredictable.

The first term started as an arm wrestle, with the Two Blues kicking to the breeze assisted

end. The Magpies had an extra player 'behind the ball' which ensured the ball was always 'hot' when in the hands of the opposition. The Magpies pressured well and managed to score 'against the flow' to be nine points down at the break. The Two Blues used the same tactics as the Magpies in the second term, failing to score themselves but restricting scoring opportunities. At half time the Magpies led by nine points and moderately confident going into the break of continuing on in the second half.

The Two Blues got out early in the third term and managed to score four goals five behinds to two points. The game continued to be tight but some of the Magpies were being worn down, and continued to 'butcher the ball' which gave the Two Blues just enough space to get away. The final term saw the Magpies score only one goal five behinds, not able to make the most of their 'half chances' with the Two Blues managing to get two goals against the flow, giving them victory and passage into the grand final in two weeks time.

<u>Prahran Assumption</u>	2.3-15	2.3-15	6.8-44	8.11-59
<u>West Brunswick</u>	1.0-6	3.4-22	3.6-24	4.11-35

Goal Kickers: D. Muscat 2, S. Fleming, M. Holmes

Better Players: C. Mitchell, E. Lloyd, A. Schipp, C. Germon, A. Jones, D. Sinnott

The Seniors will play the Raiders (Old Paradians) in next Sunday's preliminary final.

Reserves

Reserves v Prahran/ Assumption.

The Magpies were quietly confident that they were better than their opponents, in spite of their home and away matches leaving them at one win each. The Two Blues finished their season on top of the table and defeated the Magpies by nineteen points in round 16 only two weeks earlier.

In the first term the Magpies came out strongly, and were kicking into the wind. Their efforts however were not rewarded on the scoreboard, with the Two Blues getting the first four goals of the game. The Magpies had their 'tall timber' up forward, causing the

defenders problems and creating a focal point for the team. After the initial onslaught the Magpies managed to score a couple of goals to trail by ten points at the first break.

The second term saw the Two Blues drop players back, crowding the forward line and making ball movement difficult. The Magpies managed to have eight scoring shots to one, clearly dominating play in most parts of the ground, to get the ascendancy and lead by twelve points at half time.

The third term had both teams scoring two goals, with the Two Blues never being able to get the lead back. With the Magpies having the wind in the final term, their victory could have been more but for some inaccurate kicking towards the end. Overall a hard-fought win gives them a chance to play in their fifth successive premiership in two week's time.

<u>Prahran Assumption</u>	4.2-26	4.3-27	6.6-42	8.6-54
<u>West Brunswick</u>	2.4-16	5.9-39	7.9-51	10.15-75

Goal Kickers:B. Warner 2, S. Wood 2, T. Brown 2, J. Cross, W. Stubbings, J. Hyslop, S. Pritchard
Better Players: J. Forbes, J. Beer, W. Stubbings, S. Wood, J. Cross, J. Hyslop

Thirds Ladder

Preliminary final

The VAFA in their wisdom allocated the finals games to the teams finishing higher on the ladder as home games, ensuring an advantage. In the Thirds division Caulfield finished in second place, our team finishing third.

Having won their first semifinal playing on Ransford Oval over PEGS, the Magpies journeyed to the Fielders home ground for their preliminary final. There were strong winds and rather difficult conditions to manage, and on top of that one of the Magpies went down early and play was delayed whilst an ambulance was called. Thankfully no ongoing injury eventuated, but it was difficult for the team to regain momentum following the incident.

The Magpies scored their first two goals in the opening term but did not add to their tally until the final quarter. They were beaten by a stronger fitter outfit, who managed twenty three scoring

shots to six, ending their season on a less positive note than they would have liked.

<u>Caulfield Grammarians</u>	1.2-8	5.6-36	5.11-41	8.17-65
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	2.1-13	2.1-13	2.2-14	4.2-26

Goal Kickers: J. Lipson, T. Forbes, J. Kelly, N. Ansons

Better Players: D. Monacella, A. Forbes, J. Gaut, M. Murray, M. Hofstein, J. Lipson

Club XVIII

The Clubbies finished their season in fifth place, but remained competitive to the last. A great season on many levels, with quite a number of players managing to continue with their football career into their twilight years.

Noticed That...

- Former Senior club captain and triple premiership player, Louis Martin has retired after playing 159 games for the club at the end of Round 17
- Benno Lichenstein and Sheena Sexton got married a few weeks ago following a short engagement.
- Our Women's team played a 'warriors' clash v St Leos in round 17 the day before the grand final.
- Red remains the only player still out there from the superdraft of 2007.

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
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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).

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 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.

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

The Incredible Reserves team

Over the past five seasons the Reserves team has played in successive grand finals.

2013 v Eley Park. This match was an open free flowing game in the first half, but a low scoring lock down match in the second half, with Eley Park kicking two goals to one after half time to win by two points

2014 v Hawthorn. Having finished on top of the table undefeated, the Magpies thought they had the wood over the Hawks, but on the day the Hawks managed to get the lead early and it was a game of catch up football. The Magpies were defeated by four points.

2015 v Swinburne. A solid performance finished the premiership drought with the Magpies dominating from quarter time to win by 78 points.

2016 v MHSOB. This game was played at Casey Fields, approximately fifty kilometers away from the city. The journey was only half the battle, but the Magpies had a very good team that had been beaten twice during the season by the Unicorns, so they knew they would have to play great football to win the game. The Magpies led half way through the final term, but the Unicorns managed to kick four goals in rapid succession into the wind to claim victory by nine points

2017 v ???

At this point I think the MHSOB team will have a few senior players in their squad and bring too much heat to Prahran Assumption in the preliminary final. The Magpies however will be seeking some retribution for their 2016 defeat, and should enjoy their final game with a win over the Unicorns.

Presentation Night

Friday 6th October 2017
Castle Hotel
56 Courtney Street, North Melbourne