



est Brunswick Amateur Football Club Inc.

Affiliated with the Victorian Amateur Football Association

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

PO Box 32, Brunswick East, VIC 3057

westbrunswick@gmail.com

wbafc.com.au

efex

President: Ben Sexton

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 2018

The Birdsnest Vol 48 No.5

Now over halfway there for some..

The women's teams sit on top of the table and will be looking at late August with relish. The season for the women's competition has fourteen rounds, and with ten completed the senior team remains undefeated three games clear of the team in second position.

The women's reserve team is also now on top of the ladder, having only one loss to date, and beat Old Geelong in their last encounter. Old Geelong reserve women's team was on top of the ladder with a percentage greater than 1,000+%, whilst West Brunswick's percentage was only 600+%. Following Saturday's defeat at the hands of West Brunswick the Old Geelong percentage is now a moderate 672%, WB is 558%

On the men's teams, the Senior team was horribly unlucky against Therry Penola in Round 9 falling short by four points and then took care of the competition's giant killers Preston Bullants in round 10. The Bullants have inflicted defeat on the top side Hampton Rovers and second placed Ormond in successive weeks. Following Saturday's heart wrenching loss to Oakleigh, the team sits with six wins & five losses at the moment.

The Reserve team is playing very good footy and are currently in third position on the ladder with nine wins. The reserves competition is very different than the seniors with vast skill differences between the senior's outfits and their reserves teams. The only exception is the same two teams occupy top spots in both the senior and reserves, and those two teams are the ones who have inflicted defeat to the Magpies this year.

As mentioned previously the club's third and fourth teams are playing in the VAFA Thirds competition which is very lopsided with a few teams far more skillful than the competition ought to be, and some are not genuine thirds and fourths teams of the club they represent. To date our Thirds have only managed one win and the fourths have broken the ice with one win too.

Results: Seniors:

Round 9

The match against the Lions was a reasonably free flowing affair in the first half with lots of ball movement around the ground and not too much going to the goals. There was a slight hint of a breeze favoring the northern end of the ground but it was a bit tricky when kicking for goal outside the forty metre arc. This led to more points than goals in the first half, and the lions were able to get an eight-point lead at the main break.

The Magpies came out after half time with a more positive attack on the footy and moved the ball very well to position. They managed to kick seven goals to three for the term and went into the last quarter chock full of confidence. Halfway through the final term the Magpies were leading by five goals but through some inexplicable decisions from the collective central and goal umpires, the Lions were awarded consecutive goals and narrowed the margin to twenty points.

For the second half the lions kicked nine goals two, with the magpies kicking nine goals six. The result seemed like the one that got away, but that leaves something to work on when next we meet.

<u>Therry Penola OB</u>	1.4-10	5.8-38	8.8-56	14.10-94
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	2.1-13	4.6-30	11.9-75	13.12-90

Goal Kickers: J. Beer 4, S. Devlin 2, J. Calma-Holt 2, P. Carroll, B. Irving, L. Buckler, B. Simpson, S. Butler
Better Players: M. Howie, T. Stokes, W. Dillon, P. Colman, B. Simpson, C. Cashin

Round 10

Having the week off was greatly appreciated by all concerned but the fade out against the Lions before the break was a bit of a worry for senior coach Angus Hamilton. The boys did plenty of running at training to ensure the team maintains full pressure till the siren sounds. The Bullants were the form side before the break and were keen to atone for their round one loss to the Magpies. In the first term the Magpies forward structures weren't working as well as their opponents who kicked five straight. The second term was a bit better as the Magpies adjusted to the tempo of the game and trailed by five points at half time.

The second half was as fiercely contested as the first half and the Bullants maintained their accuracy again kicking four straight goals for the term. In the final quarter the Magpies had a slight breeze favouring the end to which they were kicking, but great work by the forwards saw the Magpies add four goals in the final term to take out a hard fought seven-point victory.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	1.1-7	6.3-39	9.5-59	13.6-84
<u>Preston Bullants</u>	5.0-30	7.2-44	11.2-68	12.5-77

Goal Kickers: J. Calma-Holt 7, D. Dos Santos 3, S. Butler, P. Carroll, C. Germon
Better Players: C. Cashin, A. Jones, D. Dos Santos, M. Howie, C. Mitchell, C. Wills

Round 11

The Crushers got away in the first quarter with a lead brought about by hard running and intense pressure. The Magpies were their equal but just couldn't finish off their great work when chances arose and some haphazard entries into the forward line made scoring difficult. In the second and third terms the Magpies dominated the play but their goal shooting was not good. Having worked hard to get the ball into the right position the forwards couldn't capitalize on their play.

Holding a slim lead at the three quarter time break, the Magpies continued to throw everything

at the Crushers who managed to kick four goals to three for the term and steal the points.

<u>Oakleigh</u>	4.1-25	6.3-39	6.7-43	10.10-70
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	1.2-8	3.10-28	6.11-47	9.14-68

Goal Kickers: J. Calma-Holt 4, B. Irving 2, S. Devlin, L. Buckler, S. Butler
Better Players: C. Mitchell, T. Stokes, A. Jones, B. Simpson, M. Howie, C. Cashin

Reserves

The Round 9 match v the Lions was a great contest with third v fourth on the ladder and the Magpies keen to show they are a force to be reckoned with. In a very even hard-fought game, the Magpies were challenged during each quarter but found a way to respond. In the final term the Lions trailed by two goals, looking threatening until the Magpies rallied to run away victors by 39 points.

Round 10 v Preston Bullants was the second time this season, and the Magpies knew how to go about beating them. The opening term was a complete domination with great running, linking up and great kicking for goal. The second term let the Bullants off the hook, sparking a basting from coach Craig Mitchell at half time. In the second half it was another nine goals to two with the Magpies finishing ahead by 88 points.

Round 11 against the Crushers was a very different outfit than the team the Magpies defeated nine rounds ago. Following a dismal first quarter, the Magpies finally got their 'mojo' working and outplayed the opposition for the next three quarters, taking the points by a margin of 41 points.

Thirds – Section 4

As mentioned in the last Birdsnest, the Thirds competition is not a graded measure of equal teams performing on the park, but a rather lob sided grade with players from other clubs choosing to play football at this standard rather than at the level their ability should put them. Round 9 saw the boys lose to Hawthorn by 79 points. Round 10 against Prahran Assumption was a much better contest but the Magpies lost by 34 points, and the Round 11 clash against MHSOB -Maroon had the boys go down by 99 points.

Fourths – Section 5

This team has large fluctuations due in part to player availability and other non-football related factors. However, they always play with pluck and verve and give it their best. In Round 9 they went down to Old

Paradians by 39 points, and in Round 10 they lost to UHSOB by 93 points.

The Round 11 clash had the old guard re assembled for much of the game, and with more goal firepower than they have had for a while, the Magpies broke through against Monash Gryphons with a 65 point victory.

Womens

Senior Women

Round 8

West Brunswick v Collegians

Last time the girls played collegians in 2018 they were at home. Comfortable. Warm. It was still early Autumn and summer had only just flown by. This time a late game, 4.45pm start. A bleeding purple and orange skyline backdrop as the sun set across the Albert Park fields set the scene for the evening ahead. But the girls were up and about.

The first quarter was strong. The game started with a bang: a strong hit from McLaughlin in the midfield to the feisty fourth Forbes at 9, was pushed straight into the forward line and into the buckets of Handsy Helen to handballed backwards for a quick midfield snap goal from the top of the square. From there the game flowed: movements in the mid, Annie Mack running forward and back, and Robbo giving good support behind. At the quarter time a blasting the like has never been seen in Premier B was heard resonating across the ovals – but those decibels were reserved only for the Collegians, West Brunswick Seniors were off to a flying start.

However, despite this early superiority, the West pressure faltered in the second half and while a strong start may have sealed the win for the Seniors, the second half proved that there is still a lot of work to be done in their game. Only poor kicking and conversion by the Collegians, and some quality tag efforts by Robbo, meant that the girls remained in front.

As the final siren sounded and the evening had truly set in, Coach Smith had some tough words to say, the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression, he said “if you are going to play the game Girls, you better learn to play it right.”

West Brunswick	4.2.26	5.3.33	6.3.39	7.6.48
Collegians	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4.4

Goal kickers:

H.Lawrence 2, L.Jago 2, M.Lindsey, B.Walsh, D.Yeatman

Better Players:

L.Packham, J.Roberts, N.Wolfe, S.Kenny, A.Sherman, A.Mack

Round 9

West Brunswick v Monash Blues

Despite the Westie Women sitting two games ahead on the ladder, this was a highly anticipated top of the table clash against a very talented team. Over the summer the Monash Blues had obviously done some serious recruiting and 2018 has seen a stark improvement in their onfield skills and pressure. This was to be another night game, and the biting northerly breeze showed the girls that they needed to get the job done early.

As the girls began the first quarter, the West Women struggled to get a clean break. Clumsy hands, poor execution of kicking and a generally slow beginning, saw the West Women 3 points down at half time – a position they had not yet found themselves in, in the season to date. It wasn't effort they lacked, it was composure, and the nerves of the top of the table clash rang in their heads, far louder than any half time siren.

At the midpoint of the game, they reassessed.

They needed to get the ball out in front and outrun the opposition, speed up their hands and avoid getting caught with the ball. Simple.

And a second half the likes of which they haven't seen in a long time, began. Amazing second and third efforts, pumping the ball forward. Mustang Mel made an impact in the midfield while Grace Mac showed why she was one of the bigger outs of the latter half of last year. At one point she swung around 4 players to kick a goal from about 25 degrees. Even Laura Jago attempted a goal on the run. The girls were on. They were hot. It was a delight.

In sum, it was a good game to show that the West Seniors still want to stay on top and that they aren't taking any win for granted.

West Brunswick	2.1.13	2.2.14	5.5.35	7.6.48
Monash Blues	2.1.13	2.5.17	2.5.17	3.6.24

Goal kickers:

L.Jago 3, G.Macpherson 2, D.Yeatman, J.Malouf

Better Players:

M.Lindsey, R.King, L.Jago, E.Irving, B.Walsh, S.Kenny

Round 10***West Brunswick v Old Geelong***

Carlton and Collingwood. Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. West Brunswick Senior Men and Hawthorn.

Only a few major rivalries compare with that of West Brunswick Senior Women and Old Geelong. And whilst there was a 90 point difference in the first round game, the girls knew that this one would be no walk in the park. With 3 big VFL byes on the weekend, the Old Geelong team were stacked with Geelong women likely to play AFL in 2019 and a completely different team fronted at Ransford than west had played against at Como.

There were some great moments and some less-great ones. A good start saw the West Women on top in the first. Annie Mack took spectacular marks all over the field and Jess Malouf hit every pack like it was an opponent in the ring. Another shining light was IT-girl Gabby Hoagz, who was detrimental to the OG midfield, taking marks from everywhere and pushing the ball into attack for the forwards to convert (albeit mostly points). Skeetie-Pie Wolfe sped around the field like road-runner and a strong defence ensured that they remained goalless in the first quarter and kept them at bay for the rest.

However, with the good comes the bad, and a particularly poignant one that struck this writer, was when legendary Laura Jago (league best goal kicker in 2017 and current league best for 2018) unnecessarily kicked the ball to Walsh in front of goal (league worst at set shots, for sure) who subsequently shanked it, and kicked yet another point.

The girls appeared to lose some momentum in the third quarter where they allowed OG to kick 2 goals to their 3 points. But in the final term saw them maintain their position and keep OG at bay.

Overall some areas to work on involve holding structure and more generally, conversion. But being 10 games from 10, three games ahead on the ladder and still some excellent areas where they can grow, the West Women are looking good for the final half of the season run into finals.

West Brunswick	1.3.9	2.6.18	2.9.21	3.11.29
Old Geelong	0.0	1.0.6	3.0.18	3.0.18

Goal kickers:

L.Jago 2, B.Walsh

Better Players:

G.Hogan, M.Forbes, A.McKenna, B.Walsh, A.Clark, T.Boadle

Reserve Women

Round 8 saw the Reserves face off against Collegians. Overnight several of the rested West Women were transferred to the green and purple as the Collegians had faltering numbers. A 91 point win showed that West Brunswick are a dominant club, but even more dominant was the fact that the best players in purple and green were by far the West Brunswick judas'. It shows great sportsmanship by those girls who were transferred to both agree to play for another team and to play with heart against their own team mates. On the west side, Brilliant Becky King kicked 3 goals whilst both Snags Mulligan (leading league goal kicker) and Douggo kicked 2. However, Shazza playing for collegians gave it her all, rushing players along and tackling with veracity. Likewise Party Carroll (in her first game in her ACL incident in 2017) had a great game back and showed why she's the better Carroll, for sure.

In Round 9 the West Reserves proved their place as best in the business and smashed their previous record of a win of 112 points, to win 131-0. Many multiple goal kickers including Sian Murry with 4, Schuey (on ya boot) with 4, Vic and Snags with 3 and Laura Harris and Clarkey with 2 a piece made this an exciting win. Despite being in front from the get-go, West Reserves still sent it at every tackle and were prominent in their backline pressure. Perhaps the only downside was their conversion statistics, with 18 goals and 23 points, making it 41 scoring shots. Nonetheless, some excellent plays down the line and forward pressure showed why this is the team to beat.

Round 10 was the showdown we've been waiting for. OG have so far been the only team to get one over the reserves and since their previous game at Como (where they only lost in the final quarter with no bench), the West girls had something to prove. At quarter time west were ahead, at half they were equal and by three quarter time OG had begun to pull ahead with a 14 point difference. However, something must have been put in the water at three quarter time (or perhaps it was something Melican said) because the west women were not going to take that score lying down and with 20 mins to catch up and put a lead on, they got on the field firing. All that could be heard from the sideline was "kick it to schuey" and thankfully that's what happened, because with 6 goals between her and model Murray, the West girls kept OG from scoring in the final term and hustled hard to win by 11 points. With Laura Harris streaming down the wing for a quick hands, and Jessie Allen providing support in the backline they were unstoppable. They showed guts, gumption and pace and earned every cc and dry consumed at the ball that night. They also put themselves back on top of the ladder, their rightful place.

Forthcoming Social Functions;

Past Players Day

30 June 2018

Ryder Pavillion

Commencing at 12:00 Noon

West 2000

Sunday 22 July

Noticed That...

- Electronic scoreboards update. Therry has one too, and bloody dark ordinary visitor's rooms. Oakleigh also has an electronic scoreboard, so of the away games to date 'the haves' outnumber the 'have nots'
- The option to have a night off from the rigours of training was taken by most. The fact that it has become cold, wet & windy might have helped.
- Congratulations to new life member Quidy & Julia on the arrival of their daughter Mila, sister to Jack.
- The Park Ranger decided to show up on Saturday to assess how much impact cars were making to the amenity of the

facilities. Or was that about a revenue opportunity??

- Bloody VAFA goal umpires. There have been goals given that were clearly not, and when the game is decided by less than a kick it can be somewhat frustrating.
- At the conclusion of the Round 8 Collegians Game, Maddie "Party" Carroll had played more minutes of footy in Purple and Green than in Black and White. Note that this has since been rectified.

Golden Magpies

Thanks to the following who have become golden magpies for season 2018.

Rod	Touzel
John	Beaumont
Peter	Webber
Charles	Wakefield
Brian	Fletcher

This year the membership fee is still only\$50. Last season we had over 50 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

West Brunswick Amateur Football Club

BSB: 633-000

Acc No: 136422383

We now have many, many payments being made to the club bank account via direct transfer, so it is vital that a description is put on the deposit slip to identify the payment purpose and the payee. Payments by the players for fees, jumpers, merchandise, legends dinner; often in installments makes reconciliation difficult.

So when you make your GM donation, please make it 'traceable'.!!

The 2018 fixture:

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

June	30	v	Ormond	Home
July	7	No	Matches	
July	14	v	Hampton Rovers	Away
July	21	v	Prahran	Home
July	28	v	Brunswick	Away
Aug	4	v	Therry Penola	Home