



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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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.6

Very big list of players...

The club has four men's teams and two listed women's teams and a 'third' team of 'warriors' available when an opportunity to play arises. This involvement in the competition requires eighty eight male players and seventy female players to take the fields each Saturday.

The club has been able to grow strongly over the past five seasons on the back of continuous top four finishes, and being able to offer a recruit some finals action no matter into which team they fit. After last Saturday the Women's teams are top of their tables but the men's teams only have one team in the top four, the Reserves.

Selecting teams for the Round 12 matches was one of the greatest challenges facing the selectors for years, with **over eighty** players unavailable. There are many reasons for being unavailable with injury, employment and travel commitments the main ones but also a few others.

The selectors always aim to put the best twenty-two in the seniors, followed by the next best twenty two in the reserves and so forth until all teams are covered. With the Reserves playing against last year's D1 Reserve premier our 'next best' had sixteen players missing from the regular team.

With the 'Bye' round many players with niggling injuries have had the week off and expect to be recovered for the final six home and away games. Looks like selection is going to be difficult again, but for a different reason.

Results: Seniors:

Round 12

In what is best described as pretty ordinary conditions, the Magpies got off to a good start against the

Monders, kicking to the Park Street end and controlling the game in the first quarter. After the break the Monders altered their game plan, slightly increasing their running players and were able to get the ball out more easily than the Magpies. The Magpies were steady for most of the term but unfortunately became too defensive. The Monders were able to capitalize on this and kicked a couple of late goals to go into the break 13 points up.

After half time the Monders were able to match the Magpies around the ground, so there was no reduction in the score difference. The final term showed why the Monders are at the top of the table, with more continuous run from their team, enabling ten scoring shots to five: allowing them to run out winners by 35 points.

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|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|------------------|
| <u>West Brunswick</u> | 3.4-22 | 5.6-36 | 8.6-54 | 10.9-69 |
| <u>Ormond</u> | 1.3-9 | 7.7-49 | 11.8-74 | 15.14-104 |

Goal Kickers: J. Calma-Holt 4, C. Germon 2, S.

Devlin, W. Dillon, B. Irving, W. Nichols

Better Players: B. Simpson, C. Mitchell, A. Jones, E.

Lloyd, M. Howie, C. Cashin

Round 13

Playing against the top side on their very large ground (a local said the surface area of the ground was the same as the MCG) the Magpies knew they would need to be at their best to avoid a massive defeat. The first term had the Magpies 'up and about' and they took an early lead at the break. In the second term the Magpies forward structures weren't working as well as their opponents who blitzed with eight goals to one for the term.

The message at the long break was to get more pressure out of the middle to ease the seige on the backline. This increased pressure and harassment

to the Rovers saw the game tighten up, with the Magpies reducing scoring to three goals each for the second half. Playing against a rampant and confident opponent, this was a victory of sorts and a great improvement on the first half; not enough however to win, running out to a loss of 47 points

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|---------------------------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| <u>Hampton Rovers</u> | 2.1-13 | 10.4-64 | 11.8-74 | 13.16-94 |
| <u>West Brunswick AFC</u> | 3.1-19 | 4.1-25 | 6.5-41 | 7.5-47 |

Goal Kickers: W. Dillon 2, D. Dos Santos 2, C. Germon 2, I. Andueza

Better Players: C. Cashin, T. Stokes, M. Howie, A. Jones, E. Lloyd, B. Simpson

Reserves

The Round 12 match v the Monders saw the team go out without a ruckman and four of their regular tall defenders, against the top side. Having been beaten by ten goals when they first met, the Magpies were keen to make it a more challenging contest. The Magpies were pretty good until half time, but the Monders class shone through as the game wore on. In the absence of key personnel the Magpies fought out the game but were finally defeated by 29 points

Round 13 v Hampton Rovers was the second time this season, and the Magpies knew they had to have an improved effort if they were going to beat them. The second half of the opening term was a complete domination with great running, linking up and great kicking for goal. The second term let the Rovers back into the game, sparking a basting from coach Craig Mitchell at half time. In the second half it was a very tight contest and trailing by four points at three quarter time the match was up for grabs. In the final quarter the Magpies kicked two goals to one, to run out victors by five points. A great team victory.

Thirds – Section 4

The thirds were up against Richmond Central, one of the few ‘genuine’ thirds teams. The Magpies were competitive and worked hard during the match, but the Tigers had too much goal scoring power, and took the game by 53 points.

On Saturday our boys played the Lions out at their patch and were victorious by 59 points, only their second victory for the season but one shared with great joy by the players.

Fourths – Section 5

As was covered in the opening chapter of the Birdsnest, with eighty players unavailable it made the task of selecting the fourths team very difficult. However a team was out there and up against the North Brunswick Bulls, who are having a breakout season at

their club. The Magpies worked hard but went down by 62 points..

The Round 13 clash against Kew was not pretty as the Magpies were soundly defeated by 179 points. With so many player absences it was always going to be difficult to get a competitive unit out on the field.

Womens

Senior Women

Round 11

West Brunswick v Mazenod

After spending Saturday watching the men’s players show their worth, at Past Players Day, the women were keen to show that Sunday’s are far from a day of rest. The fact that Mazenod were bottom of the table and West Seniors top of the table (by a considerable margin) still did not deter them from coming out as hard as possible. Particularly as they now had their biggest crowd of the season, with all the men’s players coming along to watch!

The first quarter saw some quick goals in muddy conditions. The Mazenod home ground was very wide which meant the ball got trapped on the wing and was hard to clear into the centre: consequently, the game condensed and it was often a chip and chase.

However, with hero Hogan running everywhere, Annie Mack being a solid target, and Laura Jago taking the good old Yago marks that she is renowned for, the West Brunswick girls never looked like losing momentum. When Jess Malouf streamed up the wing, and kicked it into the forward line, we knew this was a winner. And when you have your captain and legendary CHB being shifted into the forward line to kick a scorcher of a goal, you know that this is the team to beat.

The mudpit in the middle caused the play to stagnate in the centre of the ground, however, there were some brilliant plays around the ground and in particular great use of the wings.

It was clear to all West players that there has been a particularly great development across the board, and they showed further skills in terms of handballing around the ground to make better use of space than ever before.

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|----------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| West Brunswick | 3.4.22 | 6.9.45 | 8.13.61 | 11.16.82 |
| Mazenod | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Goal kickers: L.Jago 4, G.Hogan 3, E.McLaughlin, L.Mulligan, G.Macpherson, S.Kenny

Better Players: L.Harris, R.King, G.Macpherson, A.Clark, M.Lindsey, N.Wolfe

Round 12

West Brunswick v Brunswick Renegades

It was the final 2018 showdown of “who owns the north”. Over 72 West Brunswick women came out to play to take the inner city hipster crown once and for all.

It was a sunny morning and after a huge morning of footy, starting with a 3s game at 10.20am then a Reserves game at noon, the Senior women needed to complete the trifecta with a solid win.

The first 15 minutes of the game were slick. Movement across the mid field, with handballs around the packs, created space for the forwards to shine. Maggie Forbes with her clinical plays (possibly a hangover from her work as a doctor) pushed the ball into the forward line time and time again. With Alex McKenna and Ames Cater rucking at their best, it was a delight to watch.

Unfortunately, the aggressive and physical plays of the Renegades saw the West girls eventually fall back into old habits. Renegades took contested marks over the top of the West Women which caused them to scramble to find their feet. The long ground and westerly breeze meant that the ball, once in the 50 was hard to get out, and a few plays by the Renegades saw them make a small comeback.

Nonetheless, the West Women never looked like losing as they continued their 12 game streak and cemented their spots as Minor Premiers for the second year in a row, with still two games until the semi final.

Outstanding work by Sarah Kenny, with her strength in the back line, and Mustang Mel making outrageous runs through the middle were great to behold.

One step closer to the big dance. One step closer to avenging the 1 point.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Brunswick Renegades | 1.0.6 | 1.0.6 | 2.0.12 | 2.0.12 |
| West Brunswick | 2.1.13 | 3.1.19 | 4.1.25 | 5.2.32 |

Goal kickers: G.Macpherson 2, L.Jago, S.Murray, E.Lippmann

Better Players: M.Forbes, R.King, G.Macpherson, A.Clark, A.McKenna, S.Kenny

Reserves

Sitting on top of the table, the Reserves are a formidable force and whilst they need to keep their winning form in order to secure a home semi-final, they have proven that they are a strong group that won't be taken lightly.

Against Mazenod, the West women were dynamite. On the huge ground and with a relatively new team and some critical players having been pushed up to the ones, the team was ready for a challenge. They showed why this is a squad that has so much to offer and so much depth. Goals were kicked by 6 different players, a number of whom had not scored much or at all this season. Jessie Allen has proven why she is a consummate professional, gaining best on.

With a 65-point win, and Mazenod scoreless, the resses gave a performance that is just what the doctor ordered at this time of year. Note that the most competitive from the Mazenod team were those from West Brunswick's squad that had been transferred the night before; among them, Shanice, Edith and Marni Walsh who highlighted comradery and a willingness to play at all costs. Seriously, good stuff.

In Round 12 against the Renegades, the team kept the opposition scoreless, with Jess Schumann continuing her winning form, flying for marks and diving around the forward line. Similarly, Kristina Kritharasis showed why she is one of the best in the business with her dash and attack on the football. Jessie Allen too shone from the backline. Gigi Miller, Giivi Walsh and Liv Douglass all making it into the best. A highlight for this particular profile writer was seeing a certain young player taking on 5 players and deciding to bounce the ball on the wing, despite only having taken 1 step and with approximately 14.5 meters until she would be

called for “running with the ball”. What this shows, however, is a willingness to take on the game and develop skills, even when winning by excellent margins. Bring on the final two games and gooooooo west!

Thirds

In an exciting finals push, West Brunswick girls fielded a 3s team against Brunswick Renegades in round 12 of the competition. Over the course of the year there have been a number of these games which have given amazing opportunities for players to develop skills and shine. With phenomenal players at the ready, these games have been hard fought and great displays of athleticism.

Coach for the week was left-footed legend Sophie Stewart, who took a brief break from stats to foray into the leadership. The final score was West Brunswick 7.5.47 v Renegades 0.2.2. The two Maddies (Carroll and McCredie-Smith) in particular, were critical to the win. So too was Polly Fletcher in the forward line kicking into the box, and Freya Logan and Bri Laugh(t)er taking solid marks in the 50, it was a great show and highlights the level of depth in this team across the board.

Billy ‘Morgan’ Irving plays 150th

A young long haired lad waltzed into the club in 2005 looking for a game of footy ‘with someone local’. He was a bit skinny but could run like a greyhound, so he got a game on the half forward flank. This young skinny kid could kick the ball out of sight off one step, so in the following week’s football report he was named Billy Morgan. Since nobody had ever seen him before his first game, and he was such a shy chap, everyone assumed his surname was Morgan, and Billy didn’t do anything to change their minds.

Since arriving at West Brunswick, Bill has done it all. He won the VAFA league Best & Fairest in 2006 and 2008, and was the Bruce Ivey Medalist (Seniors Best & Fairest) in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2012. Bill is a two time premiership player (2008, 2015), club leading goal kicker (2016, 2017), a member of the VAFA representative side (2008), West Brunswick committee member (2006-2008) and senior playing assistant coach (2015-present). Earlier this year, Bill was also made a life member of the club.

Bill’s 150th is a great achievement as he left the club in 2009 to play football with Port Melbourne (VFL) and after two years at that level played with Old Melbournians (Premier B) for a few more years. He played some club cameo games when ‘having a break from football’, and returned ‘fair dinkum’ in 2015. Well done Billy Morgan on your fine achievement.

WEST 2000 Sunday 22 July 2018

Want to win \$1000? How about some spot prizes of \$50? Make sure you swing on down to the clubrooms for this year’s ***At the Movies*** themed West 2000

Ticket price includes Ocker’s famous BBQ lunch and beer/wine/champagne/soft drink from 11:00am-4.00pm. There will also be other spot prizes and activities throughout the day.

For non-players wanting tickets/raffle books - make sure you go to the club’s website to purchase your tickets

This event will be held at the Ryder Oval pavilion (and surrounds) this year, although we will have to share with the soccer club for some of the day.

The ticketing price is \$30 each, a book of 5 tickets is \$125 and **ticket price on the day is \$40.**

There is a ‘Money back guarantee’ to every ticket holder who scores. Should you want to purchase your ticket in advance, and avoid the ‘at the door surcharge’ you could pay directly into the club’s bank account, details listed above.

The club also has an eftpos facility should you turn up on the door with only your plastic.

In the original launch of this event in 1982, the promotional material at the time claimed that the price and what you got for it from the ticket made it the best value for money function in Australia. It was a big claim, but many have attested it to be true even after all these years.

This year is the **37th anniversary** of this function and it has been the source of many great ‘club moments’ including the ‘dash for cash, the traditional concluding ‘game’ at sunset.

At this stage we do not know if there will be any football games going on at the grounds on the day, but there is always plenty of guys and gals who get along early to start their day.

Why not come down for a couple of hours and there will be plenty of people from our many football eras around on the day and available to share ale with you.

Noticed That...

- Banner creativity taken to a new level with the \$150 Currency 'minted' for Billy Morgan's milestone.
- And for our forthcoming West 2000 become part of the club folklore and submit a poster by Thursday July 19.
- Great to see members of the 2008 premiership and quite a few other former champions at our past players day.
- North Brunswick, against whom we have played many times over our years, are currently sitting on top of the Division 4 ladder in both Seniors (only one loss) and Reserves (undefeated as yet). They have been in D4 for quite some time, but it looks like this may be their year.
- The Chairman's 200 game milestone was followed by a ten weeks finger tendon injury. Billy Morgan's 150 game resulted in a six-week ankle injury. Signs of age or just bad luck.
- At the Rovers luncheon it was revealed they have only one or two players on the committee, with twelve 'ex players' and wives running their club.
- West Brunswick senior women have not had a point kicked against them in the past 3 games (since they played Monash in round 9). They have had goals kicked against them, but no points. On a practical level, this has meant that there has been little to no opportunity to practice Mustang Mel's epic kickouts.

Golden Magpies

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

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Dean | Lampard |
| Brendan | Hiscox |
| Brian | Davis |

Michael Pryor

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.

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|------|----|---|---------------|------|
| July | 21 | v | Prahran | Home |
| July | 28 | v | Brunswick | Away |
| Aug | 4 | v | Therry Penola | Home |
| Aug | 11 | v | Ivanhoe | Away |
| Aug | 18 | V | Kew | Home |