



# West 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



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.7

#### The Football Gods at work...

Whenever a game of football is decided by a score less than one goal, as to who was the better side or the lesser team, the explanation offered by Malcolm Blight former North Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide and St Kilda coach (and quite a controversial personality as well) was that it was the workings of the Football Gods.

During any match there are many entries into the forward fifty metre area that can be rejected, marked on the goal line, rushed through for a score, marked by your forwards etc, etc. The possibilities are endless and in the same vein, shots on goal have a very high percentage of 'improbability' depending on the goal shooter, the distance, wind, other environmental conditions such as cold, hot, dry, boggy, slippery and any others you may wish to conjure; condition of the player after getting the kick. Quite often the player being awarded a free kick in the goal range is 'seeing stars' and is not 'fully compos mentus'.

Over the past five rounds, the men's and women's teams have had some 'close ones', The women's teams have been more dominant but it cannot erase last season's grand final loss by a solitary point and the role the Gods are playing this season.

So the Gods helped in 2015 and 2016, less so in 2018. Winning the 'four points and a higher place on the ladder creates more excitement than losing the close ones in spite of working just as hard whether you win or lose. Surely we cannot put it all down to luck!!

#### Results: Seniors:

##### Round 14

The Two Blues dominated this game from the outset. Possibly due to their extensive pre game research,

player availability or general size and determination, the Magpies simply couldn't get into the game. The first half saw the Magpies unable to penetrate the forward line with any purpose and only managed to score one goal, from two quarters of running and chasing and tackling and kicking.

After the break the Magpies were more competitive but never able to gain ascendancy. The Two Blues ran harder and with more purpose, to eventually run out winners by 44 points.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	0.2-2	1.3-9	4.5-29	<b>7.9-51</b>
<u>Prahran Assumption</u>	1.2-8	6.6-42	8.10-58	<b>14.11-95</b>

**Goal Kickers:** Calma-Holt 2, C. Naldrett, S. Fleming, S. Hanning, L. Buckler, D. Ferrier

**Better Players:** A. Jones, C. Cashin, L. Kelly, B. Simpson, E. Lloyd, T. Stokes

##### Round 15

The Brunswick ground was not quite as large as the Hampton Rovers field, but it was very wide and had 'plenty of space'. The Magpies got out to an early lead but the conditions were very gusty, with rather uneven advantage at different parts of the field. The Magpies began to team far better in the second half and gained the lead to take a ten-point margin into the long break.

The NOBS had the advantage of the conditions in the third term, and with the assistance of the football Gods, mentioned earlier in the report, kicked straight managing five goals to three for the term, and leading by two points at three quarter time. At the beginning of the final term, both sides were in with a 'sniff'. The NOBS were able to deny the Magpies although many shots were 'unrewarded' (being out on the full, missing the posts completely), allowing them their second win of the season by two points.

<u>Brunswick NOBSPC</u>	5.2-32	5.6-36	10.7-67	14.10-94
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	4.2-26	7.4-46	10.5-65	14.8-92

**Goal Kickers:** J. Calma-Holt 5, S. Fleming 3, P. Carroll 2, T. Stokes 2, J. Hyslop, N. Kerber

**Better Players:** T. Stokes, J. Hyslop, L. Kelly, M. Howie, D. Butorac, C. Cashi

### Reserves

The Round 14 match v The Two Blues was a game of two halves. The Magpies first half was 'bloody terrible' as the team were second to the ball, kicked poorly, applied little or no pressure and were unable to 'take the game on'. Consequently, they trailed by four goals at half time and faced a deserved 'blast' at half time.

In the second half the Magpies changed their attitude and lifted their intensity. Firstly denying the Two Blues access to easy kicks and creating play for themselves. They kicked seven goals to one in the half to run out eventual winners by thirteen points.

Round 15 v Brunswick NODSPC was time to rethink what the team is trying to do for the season. From the outset the Magpies were switched on and managed five goals per quarter for the whole game, kicking twenty for the game. The NOBS scored more accidentally than through any dominant play which saw the Magpies home by 112 points.

### Thirds – Section 4

As we approach the end of the season, the playing list becomes thinner as the team has few victories to celebrate. Round 14 v Ormond was a clash of fitter running players against a 'tired bunch' who battled hard but could only manage nine goals to eighteen for the match.

The following week was a Magpies thirds outfit up against the senior team in Chadstone. They are hoping to get some club esteem from this competition and were too strong from the outset, defeating the Magpies by over twenty goals.

### Fourths – Section 5

Round 14 v Hampton was never going to be easy, with the aspirants against the weary. The Magpies were out muscled to a loss of 93 points. Round 15 however was a case of the 'one that got away'. The Magpies faced a very competitive Swinburne side and had the football Gods been smiling, the Magpies would have won this match 'hands down; having twenty five scoring shots to fifteen would normally given the Magpies victory, but alas, it resulted in a draw, both teams finishing with seventy point apiece.

## Womens

### Senior Women

#### Round 13

#### *West Brunswick v Old Camberwell*

In the second last round of the season and much anticipated match up, the West Women came out firing.

After the first quarter the Seniors were up by only two mis-kicks and the stakes were high. There was a wind coming from behind the club rooms which kept the ball on the train line side and moved it across where it could.

In the second quarter the Magpies kept the Wellers scoreless and showed that they are a force to be reckoned with. Suddenly, there were a few big goals from key forwards and some great midfield and HB dynamic play.

A lapse in focus in the third saw the Wellers outscore the Magpies, which meant as they went into the final term the seniors were only up by 9 points. Nonetheless, the final quarter got them comfortably ahead with only one point kicked against them. There was some gutsy play, physical aggression and with 6 minutes to go our American HF was hit, meaning a brief break in play which saw the clock stopped (unusual in women's footy as pre finals there is rarely 'time on' called).

The Senior women saw this as their chance to regroup and come back fighting. A few jokes to lighten the mood and with the knowledge that they had to do it "for Erin" went back into the final 6 to push through to the end.

There were great moments of play with short sharp kicks abound, and moments of play where they looked like they'd never played a game in their lives. But overall, a wins a win. And with 13 rounds and no losses to date, that's not bad at all.

West Brunswick	2.2.14	4.4.28	5.5.35	7.6.48
Old Camberwell	2.0.12	2.0.12	4.2.26	4.3.27

**Goal kickers:** M.Lindsey 3, L.Jago 2, J.Malouf 2

**Better Players:** J.Malouf, M.Lindsey, D.Heckmann, G.Zink, A.Clark, N.Wolfe

## Round 14

### **West Brunswick v St Mary's Salesians**

And here we are. The end of the home and away season. It's been a big year to this point and ending with the clubs least favorite team, St Mary's, was always going to be tough.

However, coming into this game there was an air of excitement. The girls had been excited about playing a quality team and they were looking forward to the hard challenge they knew befell.

The Magpies started off kicking against the wind. And within minutes were already a goal and a point behind. That first 20 minutes of footy will probably haunt most of the senior women for a long time. The Magpies stumbled around the ground, barely able to see where one player's position ended and the other began. It felt like there were thousands of them. There were St Marys players running left right and centre and at no point were the Magpies able to get a grasp of their strategy.

The second quarter was a fight back. The Magpie girls came back to be 5 points down with St Mary's unable to convert against them. Goals from Annie "the legend" Mack, Jess "Firey" Malouf and Becky "Queen" King, and some stand-out defensive performances from Dee Heckmann and Sarah Kenny, got the intensity back up and the girls were in with a chance.

At the end of the third quarter the Magpies were still only 5 points behind. Unfortunately, in the final term some distressing injuries including Gabby Hogan being lost to a smashed collar bone, Alex McKenna being benched for a bad corky and a minor leg cramp from Amy Clarke, that forced a stop in play and necessitated her being carried off, saw St Mary's capitalize quickly and chuck a couple snags through the sticks to seal their win.

Whilst the final score showed a 15 point difference, the two teams had the same number of scoring shots and West Women should not be discouraged.

A strong come-back by the girls in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and a great team dynamic overall shows that they are by no means out of the contest and come the first semi next Sunday, this columnist cannot see why the girls can't bring it home and show Mary's who really rules the roost in Prem B Blue.

West Brunswick	0.0	2.4.16	3.5.23	3.7.25
St Mary's	3.3.21	3.3.21	4.4.28	6.4.40

**Goal kickers:** A.Mack, R.King, J.Malouf

**Better Players:** D.Heckmann, S.Kenny, B.Walsh, L.Packham, A.Mack, G.Macpherson

## **SENIORS PLAY THEIR SEMI FINAL AT 2PM MCALISTER OVAL SUNDAY 5 August 2018**

### **Reserves**

In the second last game of the year the Ressies took on Old Camberwell at home. Old Camberwell are sitting closer to the bottom of the table than the top, so the Ressies came out with a message: "We are on top for a reason." And they lived that message clearly. Outstanding performances from Jessie Allen and Jess "Schuey" (on ya boot) Schumann saw the girls up by 34 points at half time. A 4 goal haul by Schuey and 2 goals for Gemma Grey (recently returned from Canada) gave the girls all the confidence they needed to go into the final game of the season. The final score was 10.12.72 to 1.1.7.

In the final game of the home and away season, the reserves women had to beat the St Mary's mob in order to secure the minor premiership and ensure a home semi-final. And that they did. Big efforts across the field from Kris Kritharasis and Viv Christie and Tash Nair were particularly influential in the win. They hit every contest and despite a considerable lead at half time, continued in the third and fourth term with the same pressure that they have applied all year. They went out with guts, determination and commitment and this column writer thinks this is the perfect way to describe the inaugural West Women reserves team's first year. The final score was 7.9.51 to 1.3.9. Congrats on being minor premiers, Ressies! And good luck against Old Geelong in the semi!

## RESERVES PLAY THEIR SEMI FINAL AT 12PM MCALISTER SUNDAY 5 August 2018

### Thirds

In the final home and away game of the season, the thirds had their final game against St Mary's. And they did what the seniors couldn't – smash em. This team has had a great energy this year and it has been amazing to see the development across the board that having this thirds team has allowed. Game time has meant that players have gone from 3s to 2s and often been given a run in the 1s. Fantastic leadership from a number of players including Polly Fletcher, Rachel Dexter and numerous others, and Sophie Stewart, who stepped up to coach in the final few games, was integral to its success.

They had a resounding win against St Mary's with particular stand-out performances from new Izzy (everywhere), Phoebe Blakey in the centre, Sarah Mac in the ruck, Party Carroll around the ground, Marni Walsh in the back line and Polly Fletcher up front.

Congrats on a fantastic season. We can't wait to see how this team progresses in 2019!

### Noticed That...

- Well done to all who participated in the WEST 2000 poster competition. Some very worthy contenders for our Movies Theme with the final winner 'soundly' supported by the judges
- The senior women's loss to St Mary's on Saturday was the first time West Brunswick women have been beaten on home territory since the beginning of the VAFA women's competition in 2017. Let's hope it is the last
- Costumes for the West 2000 were very diverse, so much so many needed to be re evaluated come the 4:00pm final draw...things a bit bleary by then.
- The Trivia Night , hosted by Josh the Melican was once again a great night. The Harry Potter know it alls were soundly beaten by the sound and movement brigade.

- The research of the Two Blues of the Magpie line up has generated more interest than expected.
- Electronic scoreboard update, the NOBS had an electronic scoreboard, but no time clock. This makes it seven out of nine with electronic score mechanism. Definitely a first world issue for review.

### Golden Magpies

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

Haldun Suleyman

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.

<b>Aug</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>Therry Penola</b>	<b>Home</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>Ivanhoe</b>	<b>Away</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Kew</b>	<b>Home</b>