



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.8

Finals fever...

Our Senior and Reserve women's teams are in the Grand Final on Sunday. What an amazing and fantastic journey they have made this year. A lot has happened in such a short period of time, having the 'concept' game v Bulleen Templestowe in 2016, using half of the field (Ransford Oval) with nine players each side.

In 2017 West Brunswick fielded one side, in the VAFA named 'Developmental divisions' where they made it to the top of the pile. In 2018 the club expanded its offerings and have fielded three womens teams, two officially in the VAFA 'Premier Blue' competition and the Thirds side playing when an opposition team is available.

The opposition clubs for the grand final are St Mary's Salesians in the seniors, the team that won last year's grand final by one point, and Old Geelong in the Reserves. The Finals are at Marcellin College, Bulleen Road, Bulleen commencing at noon and 2:30 repectively

Results: Seniors:

Round 16

In a rather spiteful match, the Magpies got out of the blocks well, dominating the tempo of the game early on. The Lions are currently in the top four and did not like the pressure and attention the Magpies were applying. The VAFA appointed umpires were at their woeful worst, allowing too much off the ball bad behavior by the Lions players and taking away any opportunity to display gamesmanship . The Magpies led at half time by seven points.

After the break the Lions applied more pressure and were able to regain the assendency during the third

quarter. The Magpies found it difficult to find avenues to goal and could not make any impact as the game wore on, and eventually going down by fifteen points.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	2.0-12	5.4-34	5.5-35	6.7-43
<u>Therry Penola OB</u>	2.7-19	3.9-27	6.13-49	7.16-58

Goal Kickers: J. Calma-Holt 3, A. Jones, J. Forbes, D. Ferrier

Better Players: M. Howie, W. Dillon, J. Hyslop, L. Kelly, C. Cashin, B. Simpson

Round 17

Travelling to Ivanhoe Park the Magpies wanted to make the game more enjoyable than the matches over the last four weeks. It seems the team plays at the standard of their opponent rather than setting the tempo themselves. Playing well against the good sides and poorly against the weaker sides resulted in close losses and little joy.

Coach Angus Hamilton challenged the Magpie players to increase their tackle pressure and force the Ivanhoe players to earn every possession. The Magpies were clearly on top from the outset and held a handy six goal lead at the main break.

In the third term the Ivanhoe team managed to get a couple of early goals and challenged the Magpies to work with more cohesion. Entries into the forward line were more direct and the tackling pressure was beginning to pay more dividends. The final quarter saw ten goals added, with the Magpies having eleven players featuring as goal kickers, including full back Cashin, kicking his first goal since 2015.

<u>Ivanhoe AFC</u>	3.2-20	3.5-23	6.6-42	8.8-56
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	6.3-39	9.5-59	15.10-100	25.17-167

Goal Kickers: J. Calma-Holt 4, P. Carroll 4, D. Ferrier 3, N. Kerber 3, S. Devlin 2, I. Andueza 2, L. Buckler 2, S. Butler 2, W. Dillon, C. Cashin, S. Hanning

Better Players: C. Cashin, M. Howie, C. Mitchell, L. Kelly, B. Smith, J. Hyslop

Reserves

The Round 16 match v the Lions was a dominant performance and hard to believe it was a game between the third and fourth teams on the ladder. The Magpies were far too skillful and disciplined and went on to win by 87 points.

Round 17 v Ivanhoe was another game where the Magpies were far too skilled for their opponents and they worked hard to open the game up and create space to work in. Often the hard work was done, only to 'cough the ball up' with sloppy disposal when kicking.

After half time it was all one-way traffic, with the Magpies having ten players scoring goals. The final tally of nineteen goals gave them victory by 111 points a figure Lord Nelson would be proud of.

Thirds – Section 4

The final round of the season was against Old Xaverians who were far too strong for the Magpies. Being down on player numbers means some players are not as fit as they would like to be, and against better opposition this begins to have greater impact as the game wears on. The Magpies were defeated by 32 points and finished the season with only two wins for the year.

Fourths – Section 5

Round 15 v Monash Blues was another disappointing game with the Magpies undermanned against the Blues. Monash are one of the stronger teams in this competition, and whilst the Magpies fought hard, they were no match for the Blues, losing by 45 points in a low scoring affair. The Magpies finished the season with one and a half wins, again a disappointing result.

Womens

Senior Women

Second Semi Final

West Brunswick v St Marys

It was a blustery windy day when the senior women took on their arch rivals St Mary's Salesian in the semi-final show down of the year.

They had previously beaten SMS in round 5 before suffering a devastating loss in round 14 (the final round of home and away games) which ruined the Senior West Brunswick Women's undefeated streak in the

eleventh hour. But a final round loss appeared to be the push that West needed.

The wind coming from the Park Street end made it a 2 quarter game for each team and gave the SMS team the advantage in the first quarter. But contrary to the previous week, SMS did not capitalise on the conditions and West Women conceded only 1 point in the first term. The tackles were hard and 80% of the first quarter was spent in the West Brunswick half.

SMS and West Brunswick have a long-serving rivalry and they both knew that it would be a lock-down affair. And that it was. Ball ups aplenty and a very slow play allowed the West girls to keep SMS from scoring any goals. Whilst West might have been lucky with a few mis-kicks, the points they conceded were largely the result of extreme and tough pressure by the West backline to force the opposition kicks through as rushed behinds.

In the second quarter West Brunswick capitalized on their turn with the wind to score a quick few goals to get them in front. And despite the fact they didn't score for the remainder of the day, they kept the SMS girls at bay who failed to kick any through the middle of the big sticks.

Stand out performances from Nikitah "what's the time Mr Wolfe" and League B&F Mustang Mel in the backline were critical to the success of the game. Goals from league leading goal scorer, Laura Jago and Jess Malouf (is on fire) sealed the deal and ensured a shot at the grand final for the Seniors.

West Brunswick	0.0	2.1.13	2.1.13	2.1.13
SMS	0.1.1	0.4.4	0.6.6	0.8.8

Goal kickers: L.Jago, J.Malouf

Better Players: N.Wolfe, M.Lindsay, J.Malouf, D.Heckmann, A.Sherman, M.Forbes

NB SMS played Monash in the preliminary final and won 4.9.33-1.4.10

Reserves

West Brunswick v Old Geelong

The only loss that Reserves women suffered for the year was against the OG women at Como park but a close win in the latter half of the season gave the reserves some confidence prior to finals. Stand out performances from Jessie Allen (who was unfortunately, and potentially strategically, injured during the game), Kristina Kritharasis and Jess

Schumann helped keep the West Brunswick women afloat.

The swirling wind pushed the ball away from the Park Street end, and gave a good advantage to those running with it, which West Brunswick used effectively. Their superior use of the ball around the ground was noticeable as the West Brunswick women were always looking to square it up and keep the ball moving along the ground as much as possible. Long runs along the wing from Kritharasis ensured that the ball was kept in West Brunswick's possession.

Despite conceding 2 goals in the final quarter, West Brunswick Reserves sailed home for a victory, doing more than enough in the first three quarters to get the job done.

With a final score of 6.9.45 - 5.6.36 they are looking like strong contenders for the final this weekend.

NB Old Geelong won against SMS in the preliminary final. 3.6.24-0.1.1

Noticed That...

- Jim Forbes was given a not so hearty handshake at the end of the game v Therry Penola. He was invited to the car park to continue on with 'the business'. Maybe his opponent wanted to exchange more than the intimidatory words he had used on the field earlier in the day.
- What a difference a big last quarter can make. The senior team picked up their percentage by 9 points (from 78% to 87%) after dominating Ivanhoe on the weekend.
- In 2015 the Seniors and Reserves teams won their grand finals, bringing home two flags for the first time in the clubs history.
- Mel Lindsey won the VAFA Premier Blue Best & Fairest award.
- Laura Jago was the leading goal kicker in the league for the second year in a row.
- There were 15 different women who received votes in the Premier B, B and F vote count – more than any other team in the league.
- Despite winning by 20 points, West Brunswick women did not receive a single vote in the vote count for their game against Brunswick Renegades.

- Electronic scoreboard update, Ivanhoe does not have one, so it's a case of more 'haves' than 'have nots'.

Golden Magpies

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

Bob	Baker
Stephen	Grover
Jane	Grover
Hugh	Grover
Marlo	Grover

Our tally of golden Magpies for this season was 41.

The 2018 fixture:

This is the last game of the season for the Seniors

Aug 18 V Kew Home

The Reserves will see some finals action, and maybe a second semi final, depending on the weekends results, including their own match and Hampton v Ormond

Milestones

Hayden Lewis chalks up his 200th game

Hayden Lewis has been around for over twelve seasons and brought up his milestone in glorious fashion last Saturday. Having joined the club in 2006, 'Lewie' was a senior player in his early career, playing in the 2008 flag v St Francis Xavier. He has been remarkably resilient player, avoiding injury which may be put down to his 'speed'. He is not renowned as the fastest player, but like many great players, has great timing and judgement when it matters.

'Dos' played in the Reserves premierships team in 2015 and has filled many committee roles over the years. Well done on an outstanding career, and he joins the fifteen others who have played two hundred games in the club's sixty years.

Codie Wills plays his 100th,

Codie also played his milestone game against Ivanhoe on Saturday, a fine achievement. Codie was a member of the 2015 senior premierships team and has played most of his football with the club in the seniors.

Codie filled the role of club Treasurer for two years and has been a great contributor around the club whenever he is able to assist. His playing style as an 'in and under' player has made him a great defensive on baller and he often gets a tagging role on some of the oppositions best players. Well done Codie, a great effort.