



WEST BRUNSWICK AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

PRESIDENT: BETH COOK
SECRETARY: HENRY PAEZ

SNR MEN'S COACH: BILL IRVING
SNR WOMEN'S COACH: JOSH MELICAN

SENIOR PREMIERSHIPS:
1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14, '15

RESERVE PREMIERSHIPS:
1989, '98, 2015, '18

Season 2019 The Birdsnest

Vol. 49 No. 2

WESTIVAL

Our first game of Season 2019 was a home game at West Brunswick branded as Westival: as we had our Family and Friends Day and six games of football being played on the Ransford and McAlister Ovals.

Getting prepared for the start of the season is usually quite difficult, and with the Melbourne City Council limiting our access to the change rooms and social rooms during March we were certainly under a very tight timeframe for getting ready. The club only had access from Tuesday 2 April and there was a truckload of stuff to do.

Our gala Westival was a massive success for the club, with a great turnout of friends and family, plenty of player sponsorships and Golden Magpies signed up and an overall fantastic fundraising event to kick off the 2019 season.

Club President Beth Cook welcomed all along to the club at the unfurling of the premiership flag, won by our Premier Blue Development women's reserve team last season. It fluttered in the breeze and was a great reminder of that glorious and spectacular victory six months ago.

Clubs and their mascots

This season the men's teams are up against four new clubs and its worthwhile knowing their mascots so as to understand to whom I refer in the football game reports.

Club:

UHS-VU	Vultures
St Marys Salesians	Saints
Penninsula OB	Pirates
Kew	Bears
Oakleigh	Crushers
Old Paradians	Raiders
Preston	Bullants
Prahran Assumption	Two Blues
Therry Penola	Lions
West Brunswick	Magpies

Results: Men's Seniors Round 1

Round one is often difficult simply because it's hard to judge the readiness of all players and because of limited preparation due to ground access and suitable opponents. Having a hit out against Melbourne High and Old Mentonians during March with a team that has chopped and changed a lot since 2018 gave new coach Billy Morgan a few clues but not as much as he would have liked.

The Saints were a Premier C team last season and having been relegated to the 'Divisions' were keen to ensure their season got off to a good start. Our pre-game 'intel' suggested they were a possession team who liked to kick the ball around, both forwards and backwards, rather than go direct to goal. This proved to be correct which made it difficult for the team to apply a consistent press.

There was a slight breeze favouring the Park Street end but scoring was difficult as the defenders dominated play. The Magpies were level just before the main break, but the Saints managed to slip through the net and score a goal just before the siren.

After half time the game continued to be an 'arm wrestle' with the Magpies managing only one goal to three. There were many mistakes with players 'butchering' the ball with poor disposals and decision making. With the game opening up in the final quarter, it was the slightly fitter and more polished Saints who were able to string a few goals together and run out winners by 24 points.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	0.2-2	3.5-23	4.5-29	7.10-52
<u>St Mary's Salesian</u>	1.3-9	4.6-30	7.9-51	11.10-76

Goal Kickers: C. Perkins 3, S. Devlin 2, D. Ferrier, J. Lewis

Better Players: L. Buckler, C. Perkins, H. Mahoney, J. Meade, R. O'Kane, C. Ferrier

Round 2

Our clash against the Bullants was important as both clubs were round one losers and needed to get onto the winners list. The Magpies made quite a few changes to

their line up adding more ‘grunt’ to the midfield, but also seemingly undersized in defence. The Bullants’ home ground is relatively small and seems to suit the Magpies’ style of play. There was a slight breeze favouring the open plains end of the ground and in the first ten minutes the Magpies got on with using the breeze to their advantage. Outstanding performance by Coach Billy Morgan saw him take four strong contested marks and nail goals to have the Bullants on the back foot. The game settled but it was a far superior game to the previous week’s effort, with far more end to end ball movement, and goal scoring.

After half time the Magpies continued to apply the press to great effect, and with a tightening up ‘down back’ managed to outscore the Bullants and take a handy lead into the final quarter. Billy Morgan managed to kick a few more goals and the onballers kept the ball in the Magpies half for most of the quarter.

<u>Preston Bullants</u>	4.2-26	6.6-42	8.13-61	11.14-80
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	6.4-40	9.8-62	13.9-87	17.11-113

Goal Kickers: B. Irving 7, S. Fleming 3, C. Perkins 3, J. Beer 2, J. Lewis 2

Better Players: B. Irving, M. Holmes, C. Weston, A. Schipp, S. Fleming, J. Beer

Men’s Reserves

Round 1

The Reserves commenced the season with a fairly ordinary performance against the Saints. The team seemed devoid of structure which allowed their opponents to run freely and pile on goals at will. Equally our forwards found getting the ball difficult and managed only five goals for the game. They were soundly defeated by 77 points.

Round 2

The round 2 clash against the Bullants started slowly and was shaping up as a lackluster game. The Bullants kicked the first couple of goals and were leading their opponents to the ball for most clashes. At quarter time coach ‘Quiddy’ implored the team to ‘take some risks’ and see where that takes you. The game took on a whole new complexion, with the Magpies kicking the next fourteen goals for the game. The team rekindled some of their 2018 touch and ran out winners by 66 points.

Men’s thirds

Round 1

The VAFA have our thirds in Section 3 competition which includes some of the clubs in our seniors draw and a few others. Over the first two rounds it’s been a bit of a mixed bag, as our first match against Williamstown we were fairly soundly beaten by 58 points.

Round 2

The round two game was against Richmond Central, and whilst the Magpies were more competitive they couldn’t get their noses in front. The Tigers hung in to take the points by a 16 point margin.

Women’s seniors

Round 1

The opening round saw the Senior Magpies take to the field in the Premier Division for the first time since their deserving elevation.

The first quarter saw the Magpies boot 1.1 whilst keeping Kew to a solitary point. But, Kew found their feet in the second quarter and kicked away to a game high lead of thirteen points. Nonetheless, Coach Melican rallied the troops at the main break and out came that famous West Brunswick spirit.

Thereafter, Kew’s growl was curbed in the third term by a dominant three goals from the Magpies. As such, a tense one point lead was taken into the final term.

Mid-way through this final term Kew was awarded six points for a ‘goal’ that may or may not have been touched. The Magpies closest to the action are sure it was touched, but the powers that be in yellow determined otherwise, despite some serious verbal ‘guidance’ from our aforementioned closest Magpies.

Thus, the game went on and shortly after Yo Jones snatched the ball from the air, juggled it with ease on her finger tips before cleverly guiding it to Helen Lawrence who very skillfully landed it on Annie Mack’s chest. Mack then stood up and booted home a serious ‘Captain’s goal.’ This exciting piece of play showcased just why this team deserve to be in the Premier Division – pure class and heart.

Whilst the scores may have been level when the siren sounded, the pride that WBAFC had for it’s Senior Women’s team was overwhelming. They took it right up to Kew and started off the season undefeated.

<u>WBAFC</u>	1.1-7	1.1-.7	4.3-27	5.3-33
<u>Kew</u>	0.1-1	3.2-20	4.2-26	5.3-33

Goal Kickers: S. Kenny, G. Macpherson, A. Mack and D. Yeatman.

Better Players: Y. Jones, S. Kenny, K. Harvey, D. Yeatman, D. Heckman and A. Mack.

Round 2

Round 2 saw the Senior Magpies hit EastLink to Bulleen take to on Marcellin on their home turf.

The first quarter belonged to Marcellin who kicked away to take a three goal lead into the second term. But from there the Magpies changed gears and really took on the game kicking three straight goals to the Eagles' one goal and two points in this term.

Rumour has it that three was picked as the Magpie's magic number for the day in the half time huddle; as the Magpies kicked another three goals in the third term followed by... you guessed it another three in the final term. Notably, our quiet achiever G Mac was solid in the forward line kicking four majors for the game and is currently the third highest goal scorer in the comp.

As such, the chocolates belonged to our Senior Women (luckily we bought our own choccies though given Marcellin home ground is sans a canteen. 0/10 Canteen stars)

This game was recorded and is available on the VAFA website. So do yourselves a favour – click here www.vafa.com.au/vafa-tv/r2-premw-marcellin-vs-west-brunswick/ and get around our girls.

<u>Marcellin OC</u>	3.2-20	4.4-28	5.4-34	6.5-41
<u>WBAFC</u>	1.0-6	4.0-24	7.0-42	10.1-61

Goal Kickers: G. Macpherson 4, H. Lawrence 2, A. Mack, L. Harris, G. Gray, N. Nair
Better Players: G. Macpherson, Y. Jones, M. Forbes, D. Yeatman, H. Lawrence, S. Kenny.

Reserve Women's Round 1

Round 1 for the Reserves in the Premier Reserves Division was kicked off by a heart-felt pep talk from Captain Churchill. She took the opportunity to remind returning players and inform the debutants just what it means to play as a 'Westie'.

Soon the siren sounded and the Magpies took on the first quarter. The mood on the field was akin to a combination of Auskick level excitement teamed with the nervous energy of year 12s awaiting their ATAR scores. The result was a reasonable but jittery first quarter.

However, after some reassuring encouragement from Coach Silver, the Magpies came out firing in the second quarter and really stamped their mark on the game. The midfield dominated in the contest and continually fed the forward line with inside 50 entries, which showed on the scoreboard.

The Magpies were challenged by some minor injuries/niggles in the third term but they banded together to stay on top, and defended as a team. The

high spirits and tough contested footy continued into the final quarter with a few more 'snags' being kicked and many a smile had.

A rousing rendition of the club song was undoubtedly heard throughout the suburb after the match. It was a great start to the season and watched by a number of adoring (or obliging) family and friends. Thus, in the words of Captain Churchill – "*How good is footy?*"

<u>WBAFC</u>	1.5-11	4.6-30	6.9-45	8.11-59
<u>Kew</u>	1.0-6	4.0-24	7.0-42	10.1-61

Goals: S. Veit 3, K. Krithararis 3, L. Perri, M. Churchill
Better Players: G. Mondschein, T. Alberico, A. Scanlon, M. Churchill, L. Perri and S. Veit

Round 2

The Women's Reserves team also took on Marcellin at their home ground.

The first quarter was a slower start but the Magpies' engines were firing from the second quarter's starting siren with the forward fifty being constantly peppered. Three goals sailed through before the main break.

The extremely stingy defence decided to pep the Marcellin side up by allowing them a solitary goal in the third term before closing up the defensive shop for the day.

Meanwhile, Simona Castricum put on a clinic in the forward line kicking four beauties in a dominant debut reserves match. She was aptly supported by fellow forward superstars Kris Krithararis and Shanelle Veit to name a few.

Unfortunately for Marcellin injuries to their playing group were occurring almost as fast as our Merchandise Legend Sheena sells out of small sized merch. Which put a slight dampener on the game. Nonetheless, the Magpies ran away winners and claimed the four points.

This game showed the depth that our large Women's Squad provides with an estimated nine changes to the team that was fielded in Round 1. Strength in numbers is definitely going to be displayed through our three teams this season.

<u>Marcellin OC</u>	1. 0-6	1.0-6	2.0-12	2.0-12
<u>WBAFC</u>	1.2-8	4.6-30	7.9-51	11.10-76

Goals: S. Castricum 4, T. Alberico 2, K. Krithararis 2, L. Jaffer, S. Veit, E. Blakey

Better Players: F. Logan, A. Scanlon, A. Cooney, T. Alberico, S. Castricum, H. Grover

Women's Thirds

Unfortunately, there is no official women's thirds competition in 2019. Not to be deterred, many hard working and dedicated people at the club have sprung into action to ensure our women's thirds side will get plenty of games this year.

Thus, our Women's thirds team took on Monash Blues in the first game for 2019. Captain Waters lead out their team with a vengeance and they dominated right from the get go.

Our Magpies had certainly had their weetbix with a huge first term seeing four goals slotted before many in Melbourne would have gotten out of bed. The second and third terms were quieter in the forward line but the defence was certainly stingy only allowing a single goal and point to slip through for the day.

The final term saw the Magpies finish off the Blues with a further two goals sailing through before the final siren sounded. The team was brimming with debutants and younger sisters of some of the Senior Magpie women. Notably, the team even included a budding umpire in Anna Christie (AC) who temporarily hung up her whistle in favour of kicking six pointers.

The team really set the tone, not only for the Westival, but also for the Westie Women's Squad's season ahead. Especially when they sang the team song on the lawn for the gathering crowd to enjoy.

<u>WBAFC</u>	4.1-25	5.1-31	5.2-32	7.4-46
<u>Monash Blues</u>	0.0-0	1.1-7	1.1-7	1.1-7

Whilst there was not an official thirds game in round 2, everyone can rest assured that our President, Beth Cook, is working hard to lock in an unofficial fixture of games for the side for the remainder of the year.

A big thanks to a large number of our thirds squad who supported the Reserves and Senior teams by filling volunteer roles, cheering loudly and even field umpiring.

Forthcoming Social Functions In-Season Launch



Round 3
27 April 2019
7:00pm – late

Come and celebrate the beginning of the 2019 season at the Club's brand new sponsor pub: the Prince Alfred on Grattan St, Carlton.

Noticed That...

- It's been quite a while since we have had players kicking a 'bag'. A 'handful' is four goals, a 'few' is three goals and a 'bag' is five goals or more.
- Our temporary flagpole used for unfurling the Women's Reserve premierships flag was a step up from previous years.
- Lots of players had 'skinned knees' following our first couple of games on some 'rock hard' surfaces.
- With six games going on between Ransford Oval and McAllister Oval in Round 1 it was officially 'car park full' at 12:00pm.
- Saturday May 18th is an away game for men's teams v Peninsula Old Boys (Mount Eliza). Players do not get a special exemption or consideration if they forget to vote in the election, so go and vote 'pre poll' .!!

Golden Magpies

Thanks to the following who have become Golden Magpies for season 2019.

Peter	Guatta
Heather	Guatta
Phil	Leatham
Chris	Hatzistavrou
Frank	Gertdz
Rod	Touzel
Ocker	Fyffe
Arthur	Ozols
Bob	Green
Joe	Raiti
Anthony	Gibson

This year the membership fee is \$60. 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
Account name: 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'!

Current Sponsors



We are pleased to continue with our major sponsor of the men's and women's 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.

Other major sponsors for 2019 include women's sponsor, Boost Juice Barkley Square and men's sponsor, Hawkers Brewing:



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 get in contact with Bridie Walsh (brighdin.r.walsh@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.

The 2019 fixture

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

Men's

April	27	v	Kew	Away
May	4	v	Old Paradians	Home
May	11	v	Oakleigh	Home
May	18	v	Peninsula OB	Away

Women's

April	27	v	St Mary's	Away
May	4	v	St Kevin's	Home
May	11	v	Fitzroy	Home
May	18	v	Melbourne Uni	Away

Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help out around the club – in any capacity. Casual once-off basis or a few Saturdays during the year. Jobs include time keeping, goal umpire, running the boundary, match day manager, scorer, helping in the canteen on a Saturday or perhaps cooking up a pot of bolognaise for the players for Thursday night selection. Contact Henry Paez (0479159157) if you can assist in any way.

Keeping in Contact

The club's has a linkedin Group – 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 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. We have a selection of videos and other footage that is good fun.

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