



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, '76 (Champions), '80, 2002, '08, '14, '15

RESERVE PREMIERSHIPS:
1989, '98, 2015 (C), '18 (C)

Season 2019 The Birdsnest

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Mid season review...

The Mens teams are crashing down to earth, from the heights of the past five years, to find the Senior team at the foot of the ladder after the eight rounds completed. The Reserves are mid table with four wins and four losses. The Thirds team are also mid table with three wins from seven games played to date.

In the Women's Sections, the West Brunswick teams are competing in the Premier Division and have been performing brilliantly. Our Seniors are second on the ladder in a very tight contest for the top places, our Reserves sit on top of the table with only one loss for the season and the Thirds are also a strong combination.

The Mens teams compete in Division 1 and the better teams at the moment are Kew and UHS-VU, who have been promoted over the past two seasons and are showing signs of making it a three-peat.

In the Women's competition the Melbourne Uni senior team is on the bottom, whilst their reserve team is second on the ladder to our women. Something obviously not quite right down at the Uni but it's not the first time this has happened.

Around the early 1980's a Melbourne Uni team (Uni Blacks) were losing senior matches but their reserves won around eight premierships in ten years. Our clubs played each other in 'D Section' for a few years but then the Uni changed its player selection policy, and found themselves back into the higher VAFA grades.

Results: Men's Seniors Rounds 5-8

Since I was out of the country during the first couple of weeks in May I will not report on the games I have missed. But in Round 5 the team

was defeated by the Crushers and Round 6 the trip down the highway to Mt Eliza didn't end well either. Knowing a better performance is necessary to compete in this grade, Coach Billy Morgan asked the players to make a commitment to get along to training and improve our last quarter efforts.

Round 7

Against the Two Blues at home the Magpies were a bit slow in the first quarter, and with only half the term played, had three players injured and unable to take any further part in the game. The breeze was somewhat swirly, but was favoring the zoological gardens end of the ground. The Two Blues had the wind in the first term and took a handy 26-point lead into the first break.

The Magpies really came out to play and put on some inspirational football in the second term, managing to claw themselves back into the game, kicking seven goals to three to trail by only two points at the main break.

There was a great buzz around the team, with players on every line stepping up and taking the game on. Against the wind in the third term the Magpies maintained the pressure, so much so they outscored the Two Blues three goals to two and led at the final break.

Sadly the final term saw bone breakages to Billy Morgan (left forearm) and Will Dillon (right foot) as well as other players being unable to play. With the depleted ranks the Magpies could only limp home and in the final wash-up were defeated by 36 points.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	0.3-3	7.5-47	10.6-66	11.8-74
<u>Prahran Assumption</u>	4.5-29	7.7-49	9.8-62	16.14-110

Goal Kickers: S. Devlin 2, L. Buckler 2, M. Lodge 2, C. Weston, S. Fleming, L. Kelly, B. Irving, D. Ferrier

Better Players: C. Weston, S. Devlin, D. Ferrier, J. Meade, J. Hayes, S. Fleming

Round 8

The clash against the Lions on their turf was probably not the best football being played but it was a very even contest. The backlines of both clubs were dominating proceedings, creating many forward thrusts, but both teams were breaking down when the ball was getting within the scoring range. The Magpies had plenty of injuries from the previous week but fielded a very competitive team.

The first term was low scoring as was the second. The Magpies had opportunities to take control of the game, but were inaccurate in front of goal, taking some of the pressure out of the game.

At half time, non-playing coach Billy (injured) implored the players to work hard and to continue to create chances for the forwards. In spite of the relatively placid conditions, errors continued. The Magpies fought out the game but could not find the spark to win and finished the game 25 points in arrears.

<u>Therry Penola OB</u>	4.4-28	6.8-44	8.13-61	11.16-82
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	2.3-15	3.8-26	5.11-41	7.15-57

Goal Kickers: C. Perkins 3, A. Bird 2, S. Fleming, H. Mahoney

Better Players: A. Bird, L. Stringer, S. Devlin, J. Meade, C. Perkins, S. Fleming

Men's Reserves

Round 7

The reserves had a good win against the Two Blues at home, managing to stay in touch until the final term, where they piled on the goals to run out winners by 18 points. The win was a reasonably solid four quarter effort and gave selectors some confidence going into the following week's game. The win had put the team on four wins and a chance to consolidate a position in the top four.

Round 8

The Lions were on equal points with the Magpies, and both teams knew how important it was to win the game. For the Magpies the stakes were high but their form was reasonable so expectations were high.

In the first term the Magpies were too skillful for the Lions and had a handy lead at the bell. The second term was terrible, as the Lions started to take risks and run off their players. The Magpies did not maintain the press, and were outscored six goals to nil for the term,

Coach Quiddy told the players at half time they could get back into the game if they became more

desperate and worked a lot harder. Effort improved slightly, but the run and carry of the Lions allowed them to score more easily than the Magpies. In the final term the Lions kept running harder and longer to run out winners by 72 points.

Men's thirds

Rounds 5-8

Our Thirds team played the top sides early in the season and were able to flex their muscles against the middle teams over the last few rounds. The Thirds defeated Chadstone by 29 points in Round 5, and followed that up with an impressive win over Monash by 57 points. Somewhat stoked by these victories, the team continued to bond together and in their Round 7 clash, defeated Melbourne High School by six points in a very low scoring affair. Up against one of the better teams in Ormond, the Round 8 result was a disappointing 2 point loss. The Magpies had their chances to win, but kicking points rather than goals when it matters was the cause.

Women's Seniors

Round 5

The Senior Women bounced back with style in round 5 when they took on Fitzroy at home. They were never really bothered by Fitzroy in a dominate display. Helen Lawrence continued to be exceptional in the forward line as she kicked home three beauties.

However, forget the King and Queen of West who were crowned at Westival. The true monarch of West Brunswick is Beccy King who played a game for the history books. She was here, she was there, she was everywhere. An absolute superstar who was aptly supported by our pocket rocket, Donna Heckman, and our Frenchie, Coline Duquet, to name few.

WBAFC	1.0	2.3	5.5	5.6 – 36
Fitzroy	0.0	1.1	2.1	3.1 – 19

Goal Kickers: H. Lawrence 3, B. Walsh, M. Hubbard

Better Players: R. King, G. Walsh, H. Lawrence, Y. Jones, C. Duquet, D. Heckmann

Round 6

It was another solid performance by our Senior Women who rolled out onto the field in their wonderful pride jumpers. They were in front of the Muggars for the whole game and piled on three goals in the final quarter to cement the win and place another four points beside their name on ladder.

Our treasurer, Jess Roberts, wasn't taking any 'I owe you's' from the the Muggars in a strong and skilful display. Whilst Alex Cheal took out best on ground in her debut seniors match. She may put

that down to luck; but we all know that it is her lightning speed and clean hands that earned her that accolade.

Melbourne University	1.1	3.1	4.2	5.2 - 32
WBAFC	2.4	3.5	5.6	8.8 - 56

Goal Kickers: G. Macpherson 3, A. Mack, S. Stewart, D. Yeatman, M. Hubbard, H. Lawrence
 Better Players: A. Cheal, S. Kenny, G. Macpherson, O. Douglas, J. Roberts, H. Lawrence

Round 7

Unfortunately, round 7 was not our round as Old Trinity collected two West Brunswick scalps for the day. It was a tight arm wrestle throughout the match. However, wasted opportunities eventually proved costly in the top of the table clash with three points separating the teams at the final siren. Despite the end result, our through and through Westies gave the crowd a lot to be proud of with Sophie Stewart continually showcasing her superior skills, Lucy Packham continually playing with strength and finesse, and Amy Cater continually creating opportunities and space with her ruck work.

WBAFC	0.0	2.3	2.3	3.4 - 22
Old Trinity	0.0	2.5	3.7	3.7 - 25

Goal Kickers: I. Gietzmann 2, D. Yeatman
 Better Players: Y. Jones, C. Duquet, D. Yeatman, I. Gietzmann, O. Douglas, G. Walsh

Round 8

After a slow start on the scoreboard in the first half, our Senior Women came out firing after the main break to kick away to a game high lead in the third quarter. They kept on going in the final term with a further two sailing through whilst Kew were quite literally *'stuck in the mud'* finishing the game without registering a score in the second half.

The mood was high as club favourite Mustang Mel made a triumphant return to the mighty black and white. Nakita Wolfe was unstoppable even after suffering from an errant *'coat hanger'* at the hands of the Kew midfielders, and superstar, Jess Malouf, was sensational in her last game as a Westie for a while. We salute Malouf and wish her well as she heads north to chase her dreams.

Kew	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5 - 11
WBAFC	0.2	0.2	3.7	5.9 - 39

Goal Kickers: M. Lindsay 2, M. Hubbard, D. Yeatman, I. Gietzmann
 Better Players: M. Lindsay, Y. Jones, N. Wolfe, J. Malouf, D. Yeatman, O. Douglas

Women's Reserves

Round 5

The Reserves Women continued their winning streak against Fitzroy despite becoming notorious for a slower start to their games. Whilst there may have been some inaccuracy in the forward half, there were also some brilliant plays. Such as Courtney Fry's sneaky goal when she got her boot to a rolling ball just millimeters before it crossed over the goal line.

Alice Cooney, Taesha Alberico, Lorraine Jaffer and Laura Harris were constant performers throughout the middle of the ground. Tash Nair took some excellent marks in the forward line, and Blue Van De Cruze was impressive in the ruck, in her debut reserves match.

WBAFC	0.2	1.6	4.11	5.13 - 43
Fitzroy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0

Goal Kickers: K. Krithararis 2, M. Asser 2, C. Fry

Better Players: L. Harris, A. Cheal, M. Asser, L. Perri, A. Cooney, L. Jaffer

Round 6

Rumour around the club is that the Reserves Women wanted to really test Coach Silver's nerves and test them they did, as they took the game down to the wire and just escaped with the four points.

The scoreboard was fairly quiet for the Magpie's in the first three terms. However, club legend Simona Castricum fired up the troops at the last break and thereafter some pure class shone through.

Steph Keirce was a force to be reckoned with in her debut in the black and white, Sofya Daroy continued to go from strength to strength in the midfield and Rosie Millen kicked home an absolutely sensational clutch goal to seal the win.

Funnily enough word on the streets is that Coach Melican was telling the Senior women, in their warmup directly behind the goals that they did not want to be taking shots from tight

angles right at the moment that Millen guided home the winning major on an acute angle.

Melb Uni	1.2	1.2	2.3	2.3 - 15
WBAFC	0.0	1.0	1.0	3.0 - 18

Goal Kickers: K. Krithararis 2, R. Millen
 Better Players: A. Cooney, K. Krithararis, S. Kierce, G. Mondschein, A. McKenna, M. Asser

Round 7

Round 7 was challenging for the Reserve Women's team as they suffered their first lost for the season and were kept largely scoreless for the game. However, they were gallant in defeat and kept their heads high. Brianna Laughher was strong in defensive as she arranged her troops and was vocal with her encouragement (even from the pine whilst being rotated), Seraphina Bogle was an intercept marking specialist at half back and Gina Mondschein was a running machine throughout the middle.

WBAFC	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2 - 2
Old Trinity	2.2	2.2	4.4	4.4 - 28

Better Players: S. Bogle, G. Mondschein, T. Alberico, M. Stewart, M. Fry, A. Cooney

Round 8

The Reserves women's round 8 performance is best described through borrowing the Weather Girls tune: -

*"Humidity is rising (uh rising),
 barometer's getting low (oh low, girl)
 According to all sources, the Kew's the
 place to go
 'Cause today not for the first time
 Just about mid-day
 Not for the first time in Westie's history
 It's gonna start raining goals (start raining
 goals)
 It's raining goals, hallelujah, it's raining
 goals, amen"*

It was an thoroughly dominate display from the team with every single player putting in a monster performance from Lucy Donoghue laying an epic tackle in the defensive half in the first quarter, to Maddi Stewart continuing her brilliant form, to Maddy Fry showcasing her elite skills at both ends of the ground.

Kew	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3 - 3
WBAFC	2.4	6.6	12.10	14.15 - 99

Goal Kickers: K. Krithararis 4, L. Perri 3, T. Alberico, N. Markham, M. Fry, M. Stewart, E. Howard, L. Harris, M. Forbes
 Better Players: K. Krithararis, L. Harris, M. Forbes, A. Cheal, M. Fry, V. Christie

Women's Thirds

Round 5 and Round 7

The Women's Thirds played a round robin style match against the Monash Blues and St Mary's Salesain in round 5. They recorded a tight four-point win against the Blues in the first game. However, they finally claimed the chocolates against SMS winning by a triumphant thirty-one points.

Alison Warren and Nina Markam were strong in the forward line throughout these games. Whilst Phoebe Blakey, Clare Field and Sarah Hall were also solid in both games.

Round 7 saw the Women's Thirds take on the Monash Blues. Neither team wanted to be out done by the AFLM's upcoming mid-season rookie draft, so they decided to hold a pre-game draft which saw two Magpie's players traded out to the Monash Blues. Despite the sadness losing some teammates in the draft, the Magpies ruled the field and won by a resounding seventy-two points.

Emma Buckley-Lennox was brilliant in her first game back from injury, Mel Walters played their game of the season so far and Freya Logan was menacing in the forward line.

Forthcoming Social Functions

Past Players & Sponsors Day

June 22

Commencing from midday

The club invites all members, sponsors, past and present players down to the club to celebrate West Brunswick's 1989 reserves premiership and the 2014 senior premiership and watch some quality football on the day. Friends and family welcome.



Noticed That...

- Bob Hawke was the club No 1 member from 1981 to 1986. He came down to our first home game in 1981 (when he was the Member for Wills) to pull the string to unfurl our premiership flag won the year previously.
- The Ball will be rebranded next season. The constitution schedules the event as a 'Dinner Dance' but that title seems a bit dated from its inception in 1959.
- In the game v Prahran at home two weeks ago the wicket area on Ransford Oval was rock hard and had cracks in it.
- Former club Secretary (1978) Mario Falcone was at the game v Prahran watching his son represent the Two Blues.
- Past players day is focussing on the 30 year anniversary of the first premiership won by our reserves team in 1989 and the 5 year anniversary of the 2014 senior premiership.

Golden Magpies

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

CLIFF BASTOW	PETER GUATTA
BRUCE IVEY	HEATHER GUATTA
LUKE FERGUSON	PHIL LEATHAM
GRANT BUCKLER	CHRIS HATZISTAVROU
SARI BAIRD	FRANK GERTDZ
ANTHONY GIBSON	ROD TOUZEL
PETER LAWRENCE	OCKER FYFFE
ALEXE HAMILTON	ARTHUR OZOLS

JOE RAITI
DOM WIDMER

BOB GREEN
ROBERT CHILOV

The club has two ways to become a Golden Magpie, accepting payment via:

- Pay 'on line' via the club website (<https://wbafc.com.au/product-category/memberships/>)
- Passing money over the Bar/Canteen at home games and filling out the registration form

Unfortunately, I only previously reported those who had made payments via our bank account, so apologies whilst I try and get this sorted out.

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.

Current sponsors

efex

Other major sponsors for 2019 include Blackhearts & Sparrows, Priceline, 3D Guard, new pub sponsor PA's Rooftop and Bar, women's sponsor, Boost Juice Barkly Square and men's sponsor, Hawkers Brewing:



Hawkers

**BLACKHEARTS
& SPARROWS**

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 seniors and reserves

June	15	v	UHS-VU	Away
June	22	v	Kew	Home
June	29	v	Oakleigh	Away
July	6		No Games	
July	13	v	Preston	Home
July	20	v	UHS-VU	Home

Women's seniors and reserves

June	15	v	Fitzroy	Home
June	22	v	Melbourne Uni	Away
June	29	v	Old Trinity	Home
July	6		No Games	
July	13	v	Old Trinity	Away
July	20	v	Marcellin	Home

VAFA REP TEAM

WBAFC is very proud to have had two westies star in the recent VAFA representative team. Our quiet and humble Grace Macpherson did what she does best - kicked brilliant goals in the forward line. Whilst our ever skillful and consistent Yo Jones played with finesse and style around the ground. Well done to these Westie Women.

FAREWELL MALOUF

WBAFC has had to say a sad goodbye to a club favourite, Jess Malouf, who has been offered an opportunity to train with the Gold Coast Suns AFLW academy. We will miss seeing her around the club. However, we all know that she is a genuine star and look forward to seeing her reach her sky high potential up north. Goodluck Loufy - go forth and send it!!

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. Contact Nahkita Wolfe on 0408 022 039 or Hugh Baird on 0411 035 719 if you can assist in any way.

Reserve Premiership – 1989

Back in the day, the year 1989 (**thirty years ago**) the club had two teams competing in E Section. The dominant clubs that season were Latrobe Uni, who finished on top of the tables in both the Seniors and Reserves, as well as St Bedes and Doveton. West's Senior Team finished in the middle order at seasons end, but the Reserve team managed to scrape into second place on the ladder, on percentage, come round 18.

West Brunswick Reserve teams had competed in grand finals in the 1970s and early 1980s but had not been able to bring home the silverware. In the home and away season the Magpies lost matches to LaTrobe, Aquinas, Old Geelong and Doveton but as the season wore on Captain Coach Phil Leatham had developed a very disciplined outfit that managed to get scores on the board early in the game, and run out winners as the opposition played 'catch up' football.

In the Second semi-final West played LaTrobe Uni who had only lost one game in the home and away season. With Ian McNeice at full forward, Miled Sassine in the ruck, and very lively on ballers Kevin Buhagiar, Bob Baker, Phil Leatham, and Butchy Davis, the Magpies dominated the match to run out winners by 54 points and proceed straight to the grand final.

The Final was played at Bill Lawry Oval in Northcote (where the men's reserve team beat Therry Penola last season) on a rather windy overcast day. It was Bob Baker's 200th club game but Coach Leatham was keeping pre-game banners to a very moderate level to ensure players were not distracted from the 'business at hand'.

The Magpies got out to a handy lead early, holding a 7-point lead at half-time. With the breeze in the third term the Magpies added four goals to one and had to dig in for the last quarter if they were to succeed. A goal by Les White against the flow of play when the opposition were pressing gave the boys a break, and they went on to claim the flag by 17 points.

Better players were Baker, Beaumont, Buhagiar, Davis, C.Hatzistavrou, Lewis.