

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2017 season - Vol. 18 - July 25, 2017**



FROM THE PREZ

With three rounds left to play I can report that we have at least three teams definitely playing finals – congratulations to the under 12s, 13s and 17s Youth team. The under 14s are not definite yet but coach Stephen is confident the team will not lose again and will stay in fourth place. After watching his team score a thrilling 1-0 over Merrylands SFC last Saturday to leap frog them into fourth position, I share his confidence. So let's make that four from four teams all playing finals!!

With all this success, I have to advise that the dates of the Harbour Cruise and Trophy Presentation Day now have to change. It is my absolute pleasure to report that our Youth under 17s team has earned the title of being the best under 17s team in the Association and so will represent the GDSFA in the Champion of Champions tournament that starts on Sunday 17 September 2017. It is likely that for their first round match they will be travelling to somewhere around state to play a regional champion. They need five wins to be crowned the States champion under 17s team. We wish them all the best and for them to do the blue and gold proud. They love to sing their victory song, so I'm expecting big things from them!

To accommodate their participation in the Champions tournament, the Family Harbour Cruise and Trophy Presentation Day will now be on Saturday 9th September and Sunday 10th September respectively, just one week after the grand finals.

The feedback for the Family Harbour Cruise has been fantastic... so it's all systems go!

Family Harbour Cruise Details:

- **Saturday night 9 September 2017**
- **Arrive at the wharf at 5.45pm for a 6.00pm departure.**
- **The boat departs from Birkenhead Point Wharf – please refer to the map.**
- **Buffet Dinner and complimentary drinks upon arrival included**
- **Soft drinks for free for children under 12 all night. Alcohol to be purchased from the bar for adults.**
- **Only \$35.00 per person. Open to all family members.**



You need to organise numbers and make payment before the end of the last round 18 game on 12 August 2017. Please make your payment at the canteen ASAP, giving the exact names of who will be attending and they will be added to the list.

Secretary Tony Farrell will also be attending the ground on Wednesday training nights, 2nd and 9th August to accept payments too. Please be organised so everyone can enjoy the cruise and not have to be chasing.

Thank you for your support for our first ever Family Harbour cruise. It will be a great way to celebrate the 2017 season.



MINI-ROOS DAY AT DUNDAS

Last Saturday the Association together with Football NSW and the Wanderers started a new concept of a Mini-roos Gala Day where one club, in this case Dundas, hosted a full round of games at their ground. Curtis Oval was alive with non-stop games all morning for all clubs and the atmosphere was buzzing. It was a huge success and we expect more of this next season where all clubs can expect to play host to a Gala Day. I look forward to seeing every blade of grass of Robin Thomas Reserve packed with Mini-roos action!



MATCH REPORTS

It is our intention to feature in every newsletter every match report we receive. Coaches, managers and parents, please organise among you to ensure someone is selected to write a report of the match.

Each week we choose the best report to be the featured match report, this week it goes to our **Under 7s Red** team with a great read about their best game of the season. Thanks to **Andy** for sending it in!

The **Under 7s Red** team also win the Photos of the round. Thanks to **Yulia** and **Bhaves** for sending them in!

Under 7 Red – Featured Match Report

Last Saturday we played against a much weaker team from **Parramatta City** that thrashed us a week ago and the game's result was much closer this time with just a narrow loss to our team this time around, 2-1.

A much better report for all you loyal Under 7 Red team followers to read is of our game on Sunday where the team played the best it has all season against **Auburn District** even though, yet again, we still managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory!

You see, normally in a game of soccer you want to clear the ball by kicking it up field or to the side, as long as it's away from your goal. But in the under 7s, without goalkeepers, actually kicking it out behind your goal line is a safe course of action. Kicking the ball in front of your goal to present the simplest of tap-ins for our opponents is, alas, not.

After playing so well and only just missing a few open goals it was truly a heartbreaking way to concede the game but the lesson was well learned and I'd be very surprised if they'll let that ever happen again.

It was still our best game of the season, even beating the 8-0 win at the start of the season. I've never seen such hustle and good pressing to win the ball back.

We settled on a 1-3 formation with a sweeper at the back and 3 ball hunters attacking the ball and moving the play

forward, and it was working a treat all game. We still have a long way to go with regard to ball control and keeping possession but we're starting to see the early signs of it happening.



What was truly remarkable was the turnaround in quality of our goal-kicks and kick-ins from the side. We weren't making very good decisions which were leading to goals by the opposition so we changed it up by going for the tactical long ball and suddenly we were giving great through balls for **Veydant** and **Troy** to run onto. One ball was so good it ended up in the back of the net but we didn't manage to touch the ball until after it had crossed the line meaning it wasn't counted as a goal.

Dhruv and **Harsh** both had shaky starts to the game but by the end they were playing the best they've had all season with great field positioning and blocks to stop the incoming attacks.



Gaby and **Troy** were great spoilers in midfield, **Gaby** in particular showing us his knack for snatching the ball away from the feet of his opponents.

Well done to **Veydant** who scored a brace of goals to continue his recent hot scoring streak but the Player of the Match went to **Nathan** for his defensive awareness despite not being a defender. He was everywhere he was needed and he kept my pen working overtime marking all the goal saving tackles and blocks he put in.



But well done to all in the team for a great performance!

Coach Andy

Final score: 2-3 to Auburn District

Under 7 Blue

The Under 7 Blues faced off against **Regents Park** at home on the weekend and earned a well-deserved win after a loss against the very same team earlier in the season.

Unlike recent matches, this one started off at a slow pace with both the teams trying to settle in to a rhythm and most of the action was in the midfield. Mid-way during first half, Regent Park nearly scored a goal when the ball just about went in but bounced off the post instead.

The introduction of **Faheem** as substitute spurred our team to be more adventurous going forward and just before half time the Blues got on scoresheet with **Siddhant** adding another goal to his already impressive tally for the season.

The second half saw more attempts at goal scoring by Blues with **Ethan, Faheem, Darsh** all having some good chances to increase the lead. **Darsh** got on score sheet when he found some space while players were scrapping near Regent Park goal and slotted in his third goal of the season.

Rayan ran hard and showed great effort to get in to positions to receive the ball. **Oliver** was at his best when scrapping for the ball. **Ethan** moved around a lot trying to look for goal opportunities as well running back to defend when required. **Sadaf** made great moves during last few minutes to occupy space, receive ball and run forward.

Many thanks to **Sadaf's** brother for providing inputs to the team in the second half.

Well done team!

Match report by **Sandeep**

Final Score: 2-0 to Granville Waratah



Under 8 Green

Saturday

Despite the fact it was a very cold day to play soccer on with the low temperature of just 3 degrees and kick off at 9:15, the turnout of kids was 100%!

We were on a three match winning streak going into the game so we were confident but our opponents were **Rydalmere FC** who had beaten us 8-2 the last time we met. Does playing form matter? We were about to find out!

Even the shining sun wasn't enough to take the chill out of the air and us parents were feeling very cold, so too the players with both teams struggling to get the lead. Finally, Rydalmere scored first goal of the game and maintained their lead up till the half time. Granville looked completely off colour in the first part of the game but our opponents were also lacking some strength too.

The second half saw a rampaging **Adee** who put four past the opposition and blew them away completely! It was impressive display of sharp passing and accurate long kicks by our new goalie **Jonathon** which presented **Adee** his chances that he didn't miss. **Jonathon** is our nominally a left winger but he showed a deft hand at goalkeeping and pulled off some great saves that looked certain goals.

Our player of the match **Rayan** produced good midfield skills as he is new in this position but has adopted quickly into his new role. Our kids stunned us with their display against a very good side and won the game 4-2. It was a resilient effort by the team to win the game from 1-0 up till the half time. Everyone was cheering each other and we were feeling over the moon by the awesome performance of our under 8 Greens.

Final score: 2-4 to Granville Waratah



Sunday

Our Sunday game was against the same **Rydalmere FC** team as yesterday. You can imagine how tough it would be for the kids to maintain the tempo but the game was simply one of the best so far.

It started at a very fast pace and we were wondering who would score first as both teams were producing good moves. It was a good cross kick from Rydalmere's right wing which hit the hand of their striker, which referee could not see, and they put the ball in the goal while Granville were protesting.

Both **Adee** and **Jonathan** tried very hard to level the scores but couldn't manage to score up till just before the end of the first half as our opponents marked **Adee** to stop him flourishing again until he finally got through. It was 3-1 to Rydalmere at half time.

The second half saw Jonathon became goalie and also display some good goalkeeping skills with the ability to kick the ball long to the other half. Our player of the match was **Angus** who was all over the field and produced very good skills in defending and attacking.

Adee tried hard all through the 2nd half to equalize the lead but could only manage another goal in dying minutes. Rydalmere's defence is one of the better ones we've come across and it was hard to get through. But we enjoyed a lot the fighting spirit of the teams from the sideline.

Reports by Rashid

Coach Steve

Final score: 2-3 to Rydalmere FC



Under 11 Div 3

Saturday marked the U11s first win of the season! Playing against a **Merrylands SFC** side that we drew 0-0 with last time, we felt that it might be our time to sing the victory song... but we forgot to do it! Sorry Noel!

Gurneel played the whole game in goals (not what he had hoped for) and didn't have a lot to do but, when he was called in to action, he proved to be impenetrable.

Our backline of **Joey**, **Cade** and **Joy** were tireless in defence and beautifully took care of the few attacking raids that the opposition could muster.

Our wing backs in **Gene** and **Manraj** toiled hard going up and down the sidelines all game as did **Tyson**, who unfortunately picked up an injury and couldn't continue on in the second half.

We trialled **Fatima** and **Prakhar** in a new position for us as CDMs (Central defensive midfield), with great success. They shut down a lot of attacking raids before they hit our defensive line.

Our midfielders in **Tushar** and **Dhairya** owned the midfield and created many opportunities for our strikers as well as for themselves.

Our strikers were superb. **Soumil** and **Mujtaba** played extremely well together and it was their teamwork that lead to **Mujtaba's** first goal for the season.

A special mention to all the boys who were involved in set pieces as they were on point, especially the short corner involving **Tushar** and **Cade**.

Thanks again to **Danielle** for the mandarins and those who have taken care of the jerseys.

Coach Charles

Final score: 1-0 to Granville Waratah

Under 12 Div 3

Our under 12s played against Pendle Hill at home this week.

Our team started well and kept on attacking our opponents. Most of the first half was within their half. We created some chances and had a few sitters that should have been put away. We had at least 10 corners but it was one of those games the ball just did not want to go in.

The only time the opponent was in our half or threatened when our defenders lost concentration on two occasions. However our dependable defender **Adnan** was there to clean up.

Due to our possession and shots on goal we should have been up at least 3-0 at half time but it was 0-0.

The second half started differently with our opponent applying more pressure and at times it seemed they were going to score. Our first time keeper **Aaron** was kept very busy. Mid-way through the match **Adnan** brought down their player and Pendle were awarded a penalty. This did not look good for us however **Aaron** held his nerve and their striker went for the high shot to only be denied by the cross bar and **Aaron** reacted swiftly to ensure the ball was safe.

We had couple more chances late in the game to snatch a late victory but it was just not our day. We were very lucky at the end of the day with a draw and our opponent celebrated the draw as a victory. Great effort by both teams and at the end of the day both teams walked away to share the points, which was a fair outcome.

Coach Goran

Final Score on: 0-0 vs Pendle Hill



Under 13 Div 2

It was yet another 1-0 win for our under 13s, our fifth of the season, but the goal tally could have and probably should have been easily a dozen more.

I expected more from **Pendle Hill** but they really didn't provide much by way of competition, not because they were bad, but rather because we were so good! Pendo hardly crossed into our half of the field in the first half. They were readily shut down by the fantastic back four of **Himanshu, Amalie, Sree** and **Nicholas**. **Sam** came late and played his role great in the second half.

The team played very well with controlled ball movement across the park. I see lots of maturity in our play with possession and passing starting from the back. The midfield is controlled with **Mohammad** the general in the centre feeding **Kamail** and **Braha** to his left and right. The team continues to jell and improve every week... except in the front third of the field. The problem with all the dominance is that there are 20 players in one half of the field. This is proving to be very congested, especially in the centre of the park and in front of the goals... and this is proving to be very difficult to get a clear shot off to score. But we did manage to do that once – which was enough – with a nice strike from **Mohammad**.

Player of the match was **Nicholas**, just ahead of **Sree** who, together, have developed a special passing and defensive combination – the best in the competition. Singing our Victory song just gets sweeter every week!

Coach Noel

Final Score: 1-0 to Granville Waratah



YOUTH 1 (Under 17 Div 1)

Saturday

After a week or two of post-State Cup blues, the team found their groove again with some wonderful swift ball movement and hustle. We had played this Merrylands team twice before the weekend and had yet to score against them. This had to be corrected and it duly was as our strikers took aim for the back of the net instead of trying to get the ball stuck in the trees! We managed to do this seven times whereas Merrylands could only manage the solitary goal.

Player of the Match **Franklin** scored a hat trick with two from out wide and and even one from a corner kick. **Shams** was impressive up front where he won and converted a penalty. **Anaya** and **Ahmed** put their laces through the ball to score two awesome long-range missiles, and even **Ali Latifi** chipped in with one.

The team played it hard, played it fast and played all game... just like the words of our Victory song says... which we again sung with growing confidence and pride that we will do well in the finals.

Final score: 7-1 to Granville Waratah

Sunday

We travelled to **Regents Park's** home ground ready to play but they did not. They forfeited... and a forfeit is recorded as a 3-0 win. Last time we played them we scored 10!

No victory song but we dabbled instead.

Coach Noel

Final score: 0-3 to Granville Waratah by forfeit



Full Results from the weekend:

Age Grp / Div	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
06 Blue-WHT	Granville Waratah SFC	2	1	Newington
06 Red-BLK (Sat.)	Rydalmere FC	2	1	Granville Waratah SFC
06 Red-BLK (Sun.)	Granville Waratah SFC	1	4	Rydalmere FC
06 Green	Granville Waratah SFC	1	3	Sydney Dragons FC
07 Blue	Granville Waratah SFC	2	0	Regents Park
07 Red (Saturday)	Granville Waratah SFC	1	2	Parramatta City BLK
07 Red (Sunday)	Granville Waratah SFC	2	3	Auburn District
08 Blue	Granville Waratah SFC	0	0	Dundas United
08 Green (Sat.)	Rydalmere FC	2	4	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Green (Sun.)	Granville Waratah SFC	2	3	Rydalmere FC
08 Red (Saturday)	Parramatta City	10	0	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Red (Sunday)	Granville Waratah SFC	2	3	Rydalmere FC
09 Red (Saturday)	Granville Waratah SFC	5	3	Rydalmere FC
09 Red (Sunday)	Granville Waratah SFC	2	1	Parramatta City
10/1	Granville Waratah SFC			Bye
11/3 (Saturday)	Granville Waratah SFC	1	0	Merrylands SFC
11/3 (Sunday)	Merrylands SFC	3	0	Granville Waratah (forfeit)
12/2	Granville Waratah SFC	0	0	Pendle Hill
13/2 (Saturday)	Granville Waratah SFC	1	0	Pendle Hill
13/2 (Sunday)	Regents Park (forfeit)	0	3	Granville Waratah SFC
14/2 (Saturday)	Rydalmere FC	0	5	Granville Waratah SFC
14/2 (Sunday)	Granville Waratah SFC	1	0	Merrylands SFC
YOUTH (Saturday)	Granville Waratah SFC	7	1	Merrylands SFC
YOUTH (Sunday)	Regents Park (forfeit)	0	3	Granville Waratah SFC

We would like to thank our major sponsor:

