

FREE KICK



Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2017 season - Vol. 02 - March 27, 2017

THE COTTAM CUP

The wonderful thing about being the oldest club in the oldest Soccer Football Association in Australia is that we have a rich history to draw from. Throughout the year we will be drawing from that glorious history and in this issue of Free Kick we are starting with the COTTAM CUP.



The COTTAM CUP was originally presented in 1907 to the NSW Football Association by Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson, the 21st Governor of NSW. The Cup was named in his honour and was initially played on a straight knockout basis, open to all amateur senior teams. **The inaugural winner was Pyrmont.** Only the inner city clubs of Pyrmont, Glebe, Balmain, Sydney and Newtown won the cup up to 1913 as these were working class areas filled with Anglo Celtic soccer football migrants.

But it was out west in Granville & Clyde, Sydney's second area where you could find Anglo Celtic soccer football migrants, that saw the practical birth of the game in this country. Australia's first club was Granville Magpies, founded in 1882. **A powerhouse of the game, the Granville Magpies were the first team to win the Rawson Cup for 3 consecutive years, 1914, 1915 and 1916.**

Of the 22 member squad that played for the Magpies during this time, 17 would enlist for military duty and see action in WWI, and yet the Magpies were still strong enough to dominate all competitions and win trophies.



One such young man to enlist midway through the 1915 season was Private **John Willie Cottam** who was a popular and talented striker of extreme note for the "redoubtable" Magpies. His family migrated from England in 1912 and lived in High Street, Harris Park. **Sadly he was killed in action serving his country.**

To honour his memory and to reward Granville for its success, the Rawson Cup was renamed and given to the Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association by the governing body. To quote from the engraving on the Cup:

"Won outright by Granville and presented to the players of G DFA for competition as the "Cottam Memorial Charity Cup", in memory of J W Cottam, killed in action in France April 17, 1917".

For decades the Cottam Cup was played only within the Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association. **Granville Waratah has won the Cup the most with 13 wins**, followed by the Granville Magpies with 10 and the Granville Kewpies with 6 wins.

As we are now celebrating the centenary of the renaming of the Cup, the GDSFA **has invited senior amateur teams from outside of the Granville Association to contest the Cup and make history.**

To ensure we continue our long tradition with the oldest continuous soccer football knockout competition in the southern hemisphere, we have entered our under 17's team into The Cottam Cup for this year. **Wish them luck!**



**Military portrait of John William Cottam (1st page) & the Champion 1914 Granville Magpie team. Cottam is back row third from the left.*

TEAM GRADINGS - why have some team names changed?

Some of our teams have had their name changed, here's why: On the 28th of February each year, we must submit our list of teams to Granville Association. Each team has an age group, for junior teams - the age that the oldest players turn that year - e.g. the oldest players in an Under 10 (U10) team will be turning 10 this year. We must also propose a grading for the team - how good we think they are!

The grading name starts off as a colour for the younger teams, and becomes a number for older teams (U10 and up). The grading task is easiest for the older teams: a good example is our U14s who played in 2nd division last year and ended up middle of the table. We thought they should again play in 2nd division this year. The association looks at our proposed grading and the history of our players and sorts all the teams in a given age group - there were 25 U14 teams this year. They then try to break them up

into groups of 8 to 10 teams ranking the strongest group 1st division. After this process was completed, we found that our U14 team again ended up in 2nd division.

This works well for the older teams, with lots of returning players, but for the younger teams it is much harder. For U6 it is really just a guess - we haven't yet seen how most of them play. Red is highest, then blue and green. We made a guess at one Blue, one Green and a lower grading - Brown, for our U6 teams. Our blue team was more experienced and I expected it to be bumped to Red, but our green team was also pushed up to Red, so now we have two teams in the "Red" grading. They are separated by adding another colour to the name: we have "Red-Black" and "Red-White". This may be a little confusing but you will soon get used to it. These two teams will play each other at least three times in the season - starting with round 1. The lower U6 team became "Green". The association made some other changes as well.

It must be noted that for the younger teams, most clubs are making the same type of guess we are - I'm not worried about two U6/Red teams, there might be some much stronger U6 teams out there, but there are certainly some weaker ones as well. Here are the details:

U6/Brown is now U6/Green
 U6/Blue is now U6/Red-White
 U6/Green is now U6/Red-Black
 U7s remain the same
 U8s remain the same
 U9/Green is now U9/Red
 U9/Blue becomes U9/Green



U10 U10/Lowest is now U10/2
 /3 U11/3 remains the same
 is U12/3 remains the same
 no U13/3 becomes U13/2
 w U14/2 remains the same
 U10 U15/4 becomes U15/2
 /1 U17/1 is now YOUTH/1

Finding out where and when your games are!

The season is about to start! **So just where is your game and what time do you need to be there?** Please check this before the training session prior to the game - so if training is on Wednesday, check details of your Saturday game before going to Wednesday training. That way you can ask your coach if you have any issues. Coaches should also ensure they have it right before training.

On our web-site there is a button labelled "Draws & Results". This is the primary source of times and locations. If you want a bookmark to this, you will need to use:

http://www.icompman.com.au/idata_public?p1=2&p2=1&p4=GRW



There are some annoying complications that you will quickly learn. The "Under" or "U" is dropped but many younger teams have an "E" in there and there is some duplication. For example, what we know as U7/Red - the age group is "07 E", the division is "07 E Red".

From a computer: If my child is in U7/Red, I go to the "Draws & Results" and look for "07 E/07 E Red" in the "AG/Div" column - the 4th column. I may need to scroll down. The 2nd column gives me the date and the 3rd the kick-off

time. The 5th column is the name of the home team - in this case “Auburn District”, so this indicates you not playing at our home ground this week. Over in the last column - “Ground/Comments” you see the name of the ground you are playing at - “Progress Park 1”. The number, 1 in this case, is the field number. You will need to know that number when you get there. **One flaw in the system: TBS means “Ted Burge Sportsground”.**

So, now you have kick off time and ground name. **How to find the ground?** On our web site - next to “Draws & Results”, you will find the “Ground Locations” button. From there you can find the field and the address. Google or Apple maps will also find the field for you (most of the time).



Remember that “Kick-off Time” (KO) is the time that the whistle is blown to start to game - **you MUST be there well before kick-off!** For all parents new to the Granville District Association, this is your first season and so you should be aiming for 20-25 minutes before KO for away games to allow time to find parking and find the field. If you can’t work out which field to go to, ask at the canteen. For older teams, the coach will advise you but 30 minutes to an hour before is not unusual to allow time for warming up and strategy meetings. **We cannot emphasise this enough, please do not aim to arrive right at kick-off time!**



Note that when viewing “Draws & Results” you can change the search selections at the time to find only the team of interest to you, look at different dates etc. The default date range is the current date to one week ahead. You can also select your “Favourites” to reduce your normal search to only those teams your children are in. This is done from the “My Favourites’ & ‘SMS Alerts’ setup” but is tied to the browser and computer you are using so you will need to set your favourites for each device.

U6/Red players - be very careful! You should know beforehand if you are in U6/Red-WHT or U6/Red-BLK and make sure you select the correct team in the draw. The BLK/WHT part can be found in the Home Team/Away Team columns.

BYEs - Some competitions have an odd number of teams. As a result, each week one team has nobody to play. These are known as a “Bye” and are listed as such in the draw. This will happen 2 to 3 times a season. For round 1, U8/Green and U10/1 have a bye. Beware that byes can disappear - as sometimes new teams are added.

From a mobile phone

You can still find the “Draws & Results” button and invoke it. The view is quite different and it doesn’t have as much information, but the important stuff is there. However, it does not default to our club - you need to use the “Search” tool to look up “Granville Waratah”.



“My Game Guru”

The final way of finding out details about your game is to use a new App which is available - “My Game

Guru” is available from both the iOS App Store and Google Play. This is likely to become the best method, but as of today, not all our teams are available. The website is:

<http://mygameguru.com>

The interface is easy to use and there is lots of help to use it. No personal details are requested and there is no advertising. The big benefit is that it can automatically notify you of upcoming games and changes, particularly due to wet weather.

When adding teams, it will first ask you for the association - you want “Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association”. Then type in “Granville” in the “Find a team” box and our teams should appear. Give the team a nick-name and select when you want notifications. Then use the “My games” tab to see details for the teams you have added.

Wet Weather

In addition to what we said about it in our first newsletter: Wet weather has proved quite a problem so far this year. Most of you are now familiar with using the website to find out the details for training. It gets more complicated for Saturday games. **First note - GAMES ARE NOT CALLED OFF JUST BECAUSE IT IS RAINING.** Games are called off to protect the field or if the conditions are too slippery to play safely. In spite of this, it is actually rare for games to be played in serious rain, but light rain is a possibility (and the kids normally love it).

This is the procedure: if it has been raining during the week, then we will have a message on our web site by about 4:30 on Friday indicating what is happening. Sometimes the entire weekend is called off, but just as often decisions are made by councils or clubs on the Saturday. If it has been raining on Friday night, your committee will assess our home ground (Robin Thomas Reserve) by about 8 o'clock Saturday morning and close the field if needed. If it is raining on the Saturday but safe to play in the morning, the fields will be monitored through the day. Most clubs work this way. If it is decided on Saturday to close fields, then we will notify the association who will update “My Game Guru”. We will also update our web site. Other clubs should follow the same procedure. In past years we have notified coaches directly by SMS, but this year we are hoping “My Game Guru” will handle that.

Please also note that games may be moved to an open field where possible so that games can still be played, so there may be different ground locations to attend as a result of the rain.



Game Day Procedure

We are all here for kids to have a good time and hopefully enjoy watching them play, as soccer can be a lot of fun. But to make it all work, some things need to happen:

- 1) Well before the game – Wednesday is good – work out where you must be and when. This allows time to ask questions if needed and be sure you know the location of the field.
- 2) **Before leaving home on game day**, ensure your child has their **shin guards, team socks, team shorts, boots and water bottle**. Shin Guards are an essential safety item - if your child doesn't have them they can't play! Team socks and shorts, and appropriate footwear are a requirement, but enforcement depends on the referee. They should NOT be wearing any jewellery (including watches and hair pins etc.) as these may cause injuries to themselves or other players. Long hair can be tied with elastic bands etc.
- 3) Be at the field early enough to find the field and allow the coach time to get them in their team shirts and to warm them up.
- 4) In addition to a coach, each team needs a "Team Official". This person is the point of contact between the other team and our spectators. The "Team Official" does not need to be the same person each week. If something happens (arguments etc. - pretty rare) the "Team Official" may be asked to report on this.
- 5) A team sheet must be filled in - for insurance purposes. When playing at home, this is available at the canteen. When playing away, the other team should have it. The coach or a team manager is responsible for chasing this up and ensuring it is filled in. The sheet has the names of the players pre-printed. For the younger teams, the only additional entries are the name and signatures of the "Team Officials" and coach/manager in the specified boxes. For teams with ID cards (should be U8 up) the coach must indicate that they have checked the ID cards of the other team by signing. For U12 and up, shirt numbers are needed. Use a BIRO, not a pencil or felt pen. The paper work is not hard, but if it is wrong then we could be fined. It is also considered a legal document for insurance purposes.
- 6) A referee will be needed. For the younger teams, this is normally one of the parents. For home games, normally the home team offers a ref. Those who come to the coaching training session will have most of what they need to ref the younger games. Remember, the ref is just a parent or other helper putting in their own time to allow your kids to have fun, and mistakes are to be expected.
- 7) Leave the coaching to the coach, including management of reserves (some coaches ask their manager to do this). There are many reasons for this. If you think they are doing something wrong or missing something, a quiet and polite conversation at some other time is the right approach.
- 8) Enjoy the game. Encourage the kids to play determined but fair football. Congratulate them when they do great stuff - not just your own child's team, but the other team's players as well. If they make a mistake - don't worry, they are just kids - just encourage them to get up and try again.
- 9) At the end of the game, try to ensure every child is happy - regardless of the result. "I was originally hesitant about football for my kids until I saw current club president Noel send my then 6 year old boys and their team out every week determined to win, but send them home happy regardless of the result. That is the Waratah attitude!" – current club secretary, Tony.
- 10) Finally - if something goes wrong, often a miss-behaving parent... please don't rise to any bait, try to deflate the situation. If it is one of our parents, those who know them should ask them to calm down and try to make them understand it is only a game. Please report problems to a committee member.

Membership Kits

This season we have introduced a Membership Kit to all registered players. It includes a branded backpack, ball, water bottle, training T shirt and game socks. Whilst we have some items we don't have all of them at this stage. Suppliers have been stretched at this time of the year and it is likely the complete kits will be given out after round 1. The only issue is the socks. We have enough to give to half the club members right now but the supplier is manufacturing more for us now and we expect them to be delivered just before round 2.

We apologise for the delay but the wait will be worth it!

New Playing Jerseys

Last season we got half of the teams brand new playing jerseys. We have ordered more jerseys this season but they have also been delayed in overseas production. This is not a big issue as we do have existing jerseys to cover the increase in teams for this season.

Mini-Roos Coaching Clinic

The record rains in March have proven to be very frustrating for all clubs and we are no different. At least we've managed to have one training session, some clubs have not even had that. Despite the rains and cancellation of the training clinic, FNSW has given us priority and it has now been rescheduled for Wednesday the 5th of April, after training. THIS IS GREAT NEWS!

We encourage not only coaches, but other parents to stay and attend. We will need some parents to referee games, others to help the coaches if they can't make it, so as many as parents as possible should come along. These are normally a bit of fun, as well as teaching you what your kids will be learning and why. Why? ... because our children are worth it!



Late-Breaking News regarding the start of the season

The district association board has just voted to start the season, as planned, on Saturday 1st of April. Only the predicted rain for this Thursday will cancel it -- if there's lots of rain this is likely, if only a brief shower probably not. You should be checking the website on a Friday anyway to get the latest on the weather situation so please remember to do this regularly.

This means that the draw is now out of the provisional stage, you can start setting calendar dates from the information provided by the draw. However, please remember the draw is subject to change so check the draw again a day or two before your upcoming match.

If you haven't yet purchased game day shorts (they need to be the same shade of royal blue as our official shorts), please give your child \$20 to take to training this week. If there is rain this Thursday, we still won't know if the weekend games are going to be on so please assume they will be. If training is called off and you still haven't got shorts, someone will be at the clubhouse to sell you some Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week.

Coaches & Managers Meeting

Thursday 30th March, 7pm

At the clubhouse, Robin Thomas Reserve

Please try your hardest to attend!

We would like to thank our major sponsor:

