

# FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter  
2017 season - Vol. 14 - June 27, 2017**



## FROM THE PREZ

Earlier this year I wrote of the Cottam Cup and its glorious history – the oldest knock out competition in Australia having started in 1907 – with our club having won it the most times with 13 wins. This Wednesday night, 28th June 2017 at Melita Stadium in South Granville, the final will be played between Auburn FC and Auburn District. Auburn FC has never won it but Auburn District has, twice.



*The Cottam Cup*

As Vice-President of the Association, and a lover of our local history, I have made the Cottam Cup my special project. Last year while watching the NRL Grand Final presentation, I paid special attention to the fact that the Clive Churchill medal for Man of the Match was presented by his wife. Inspired by this award ceremony, I set out to make it my mission to find a living relative of Private John William Cottam. To refresh your memories, he was the star striker of the mighty Granville Magpies who was killed in France in 1917 whilst serving his country.

I started with searching the digital historical newspapers. I found an article from 1917 in the Cumberland Argus that noted that a 19 year old John William Cottam and his family migrated from England in 1912 and lived in High Street, Harris Park. I learned John was not married and had no children, but he had a brother Albert that played soccer and also fought in France... and lived and returned home. From there I visited the Birth, Death & Marriages Registry where I obtained some useful certificates and learned that Albert married and had two daughters – Olga and Eunice – and lived in Pennant Street, Parramatta. From there my search stalled so I turned to the White Pages and decided to call every Cottam in the phone book... all 47 of them in New South Wales!

These calls were wonderful calls to many different Cottam families that originally all came from the forest of Cottams from Lancashire England... but I was searching for a particular family tree. I learned of many families that migrated during the 1820s, 1850s, and 1870s and are living all over New South Wales. They all enjoyed what I had to say, but no one could help... until a lovely old lady in Balina on the North Coast called me back and said she had found one of Albert's daughters, Eunice, living in a retirement village in Gymea. With excitement I called the village only to learn she had passed away six years ago!



*Military portrait of  
John William Cottam*

They couldn't tell me anymore for privacy reasons. She wasn't my family and yet I was heart-broken. Not because I feared my search had ended but because this Cottam family was growing on me. I was doing a family tree search and loads of detective work and realised as a first generation Lebanese Australian, I could not do this same exercise for my own family. I was truly enjoying this journey as a great experience doing it for another family and on behalf of the Association.



*John with his father and brother Albert*

Still determined, I called the lovely lady in Balina who told me that Eunice was married and had a son named Gary Bligh.

That is all I had to go with and Google wasn't helping me, so I went back to the White Pages and started calling every Bligh in the phone book... and again started having some wonderful phone conversations with total strangers wishing me luck... and I was going to need it because after 50 calls I still had no success. Finally I made a call to a gentlemen living in the Riverina who said "Yes, Gary Bligh is my cousin, I don't know his number but my mother does." This was sweet music to my ears. He gave me his mother's number who lived in Tasmania and after a healthy amount of scepticism, she believed my story and gave me Gary's mobile number.

After six months of searching I was now one phone away call from speaking with the living relative of Private John William Cottam, his grandnephew. Three weeks ago I called him and he was initially quite wary about hearing that a total stranger was looking for him. But our phone conversation lasted a whole hour as I explained to him my long search and that his granduncle had the distinction of being honoured with the oldest knock out competition soccer trophy 100 years ago. He had no idea, which only made my call even more special. He was taken back but could hear my excitement.



*The Champion 1914 Granville Magpie team.  
John Cottam is back row third from the left.*

For me it was like finding *my* long lost family relative. Gary lives in Shoalhaven Heads on the South Coast, is not married and has no children. However he was keen to point out that he has a sister Annette and she has grandchildren – so the legacy will continue!

The following day after that first phone call, Mr Bligh remembered an old shoe box of memorabilia he had stored away "years ago" and found some prized items including John Cottam's war medals, old family photographs and even the 1914 & 1915 Granville Magpie team photographs... but what is exceptionally special is that he even has the last gold medal John Cottam won in 1915 playing for the Magpies! He has given that to me and we have now made exact replicas which will be awarded to both the Auburn clubs after tomorrow's final. Now, how cool is that!?! In the centenary of the renaming of the Cottam Cup, the finalists will receive his replica medal!



*The last soccer medal awarded  
to John Cottam in 1915*

I concede that I am truly overwhelmed with the contentment and joy of finding Gary and Annette and all their wonderful items... and just when I thought it couldn't get better, Gary and Annette have agreed to attend the final to present the medals and the Cup to the teams and Gary says he still has one more very special surprise to show me on the night of the final. I can hardly wait! But this is STILL not the best part... Yes, there is more!

What Gary and Annette didn't know was whether their Aunty Olga was still alive, as they hadn't spoken for over a decade. Well, last week I get a call from Olga!! She is 88 years old and lives in Collaroy!! Her first words to me were, "Are you Noel Dona, I hear you are stalking me". Just too funny!! We had another great chat about my quest to find her and she shared some wonderful memories... and believe it or not, she too had no idea either that the NSW Football Association and the GDSFA had honoured her uncle 100 years ago!! So to bring this little spark of joy to her was just so immensely pleasing for me and truly capped off this remarkable journey... so far.

I complete this piece by saying I now have a renewed importance on team photographs and the trophies we win, because who knows what stories will be told in 100 years from now!

## **FROM THE SECRETARY**

### **Team Photos**

Thanks to everyone who made it down at the right time for the team photos. These will be handed back on presentation day (in September).

### **Catch Up Games**

Catch ups for the washed out rounds 9 and 10 will be split over a few Sundays due to things like fields being allocated for other games (Ladies days, State cup etc.), so we won't all be playing at the same time. It starts with U8 Red this coming Sunday, the 2nd of July.

All the round 9 home games will be on the 9th of July (U6 Blue-White, U7 Blue, U7 Red, U9 Red, U11 2, U13 2, and Youth 1).

U6 Red-Black will play round 9 on Saturday the 15th of July, after their round 14 game that day, with a gap of course. 10:30 kick-off.

The remaining round 9 away games are still to be scheduled and may be either the 2nd or the 9th.

The round 10 games will be over Sunday 16th July and 23rd July, but have not yet been scheduled. Details will be put on the web as soon as they are confirmed.



### **Round 1 is on 8th July!**

It is not an error in the system, round 1 is being played on Saturday the 8th of July. It is a long time back now, but two attempts at playing round 1 back in April were washed out. The 8th of July had long been scheduled as a catch-up day, so round 1 was moved there.

## FOOTBALL NSW STATE CUP

This **Sunday 2nd July 2017** we are again hosting the **State Cup Knock Out** competition and our mighty **Under 17s Youth Division 1** team will be the last of four games. Our game **commences at 1.45pm** when they play against Earlwood Wanderers FC from the Canterbury Association. A place in the final is at stake!

**Please come along and hopefully join in with the Victory Song after the game!**

### Full Sunday Schedule:

9:00	U14 Boys State Cup 2017	Connells Point Rovers FC	vs	Auburn District
10:15	U15 Boys State Cup 2017	Camden Tigers FC 1	vs	St Augustines FC
11:45	U21 Men Robertson Cup 2017	Mt Pritchard	vs	Earlwood Wanderers FC
<b>14:00</b>	<b>U17 Boys State Cup 2017</b>	<b>Earlwood Wanderers FC</b>	vs	<b>Granville Waratah SFC</b>

## COACHES & MANAGERS MEETING

Next Monday July 3 at the clubhouse, starting at 7pm. Please try to attend!

## 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.

We are also now choosing the best report to be the featured match report, this week it goes to our **Under 8s Blue** team with a great report of their first win of the season. Thanks to **Mike** for sending it in!

The **Under 8s Blue** team also win the Photo of the round. Thanks to **Vedant's** dad **Vivek** for sending it in!

### Under 8 Blue – Featured Match Report

The Blues played away against **Lidcombe Waratah** on the weekend and recorded our first victory of the season 3-1!

It was a great team effort with all players showing excellent determination in defence. **Carter** was the goalkeeper for the duration of the game and made many saves against a team with a couple of good strikers.

**Francis, Rishit** and **Vedant** played well in their defensive roles, endeavouring to clear the ball from our half at every opportunity.

Our first goal came midway in the first half when our strikers combined, resulting in **Joshua** beating the defence and scoring the goal.

The second goal was the result of a corner when **Frank** managed to gain control of the ball and shoot it past the goalkeeper into the corner of the net.

The team went into the half time break with a 2-0 lead and all the players were very excited! It had been a confident performance considering Lidcombe had beaten us quite convincingly in our previous encounter.

It was an even contest at the beginning of the second half with the opposition threatening our goal, however, **Carter** continued to thwart their attempts at scoring with some outstanding saves. **Mewan**, **Virish** and **Dhyan** were never too far from the ball and made good contributions.

**Frank** scored the third goal after receiving a long ball from **Carter** at halfway, dribbling the ball down the right side and shooting it past the goalkeeper. It was 3-0 to the away side and the team was looking at their first win of the season.

The final result was 3-1 to the Blues!

It was great to see such outstanding vocal support from our parents. I'm sure it motivated the team and energised their effort.

Well done team!!!

Mike (coach on the day)

**Final score: 1-3 to Granville Waratah**



## Under 7 Blue

The mighty Under 7 Blues faced off **Rydalmere FC** for the third time this year and it ended up being the best game of the season!

**Siddhant** scored the opening goal with a brilliant solo run from deep in our half, running all the way to Rydalmere's goal and scoring with a neat finish.

**Darsh** came on as substitute and immediately got onto the score sheet with a long range kick for his second goal of the season. **Siddhant** bagged another goal and we entered half-time three goals up.

**Oliver** had his best game of the season with some strong runs and hard tackles. **Ethan** was a wall in defence, stopping many attacks from Rydalmere, while **Sameep** and **Faheem** kept the ball in the opposition half with some powerful kicks and ensured our dominance on the field.

Rydalmere scored a late consolation goal in second half when Granville players started to tire but the result was never in question. What a great win, team!

Match report by **Sandeep**

**Final score: 1-3 to Granville Waratah**



## Under 7 Red

We played against **Auburn FC** for the second time this year and ended up slightly improving with a 1-3 loss which is a little bit better than our 4-0 loss away earlier in the season. There's also the manner of our "loss": two Auburn goals were scored directly from the side line. According to Association rules, these should not count as goals as the ball must touch a team mate before a goal can be scored. If only I had this fresh in my mind as I was refereeing the game, I wouldn't have awarded the goals! So, really the game was a draw with a valid goal for each of the teams which puts our performance in a better light.

**Veydant** scored our only goal with a great composed dribble from the half-way line where he held off a defender the entire way to shepherd the ball into the net.

As usual, **Dhruv**, **Harsh** and **Soham** all did well to keep the ball out of our net, although they did get the heart racing for the parents watching at least a couple of times with some great through-passes for the opposition! Guys, you really don't want your coach to be yelling at you to kick it the other way!!

**Troy** and **Nathan** tried hard and showed some good ball control at times but only individually and we really lacked in the passing department. This is something that we will be working on more at training, passing on the move is what we need to work more on.

Coach Andy

**Final Score: 1-3 to Auburn FC**



## Under 8 Green

The first half of our game against **Auburn District** saw a very good display of teamwork by Granville Waratah against a very good Auburn side which ended with the score at 1-1.

Again we were treated to some good passes skills by **Adee** and **Angus** which produced a beautiful goal and Granville's first of the game. Our opponents tried very hard to level the scores the rest of the half and unfortunately for us they managed to do so right at the end.

The game was fun. It was a genuine tussle but in the end Auburn District got the better of us, scoring six goals in the 2nd half where we only managed two more. All our goals were scored by **Adee**, netting him his first hat-trick of the season. For his outstanding play over the last few weeks, he was given a special mention and awarded the Player of the Month.

The screams and yells of encouragement from the parents on the sidelines were clearly different this week. **Tanay**, our goalie for the match, worked particularly hard and saved a couple of definite goals, ably supported by **Eva** and **Sarth**. **Tanay** was duly awarded Player of the Match.

We were not in our full strength as **Rayan** was out injured and **Hirishi** was sick.

Well played Granville!

Report by Muhammad Rashid

Coach Steve & Luis

**Final score: 3-7 to Auburn District**



## Under 9 Red

On a glorious winter morning the under 9 Reds continued our current winning streak by defeating **Lidcombe Waratah** 5-0!

For a team who started off with no coach and played the first couple of games without one, this is an amazing effort.

Well done to the players and a special thanks to coach Shoaib for stepping up to coach the team!

Report by Faye

Coach Shoaib



**Final score: 5-0 to Granville Waratah**

### Under 11 Div 3

In yet another exciting home game, we played really well against **Merrylands SFC**.

Once again we scored first through a wonderful goal from **Tyson** on his left foot from 25 metres out. Our defensive core of **Cade** in goals, who made fantastic saves all game, **Dhairya, Joey, Joy** and **Gowrav** played very well in defence to shut down an extremely good attacking side.

Our big units in midfield held our shape well led by centre mid **Tushar** and helped by **Prakhar** and **Gurneel** (the bash brothers). **Gene** and **Tyson** were unrelenting up and down the sidelines and **Mutjaba** and **Soumil** were very strong up front.

Coach Charles

**Final score: 1-4 to Merrylands SFC**



### Under 13 Div 2

It was yet *another* one-nil victory. I guess I shouldn't complain about the win because we did play some very good soccer football. We were in control for much of the game against **Rydalmere FC** and were never really threatened. The chemistry is coming together nicely...but we need to score more goals against these lower ranked teams.

Our four fullbacks continue to play well and are proving very difficult for oppositions to break us. **Himanshu** came off the bench and also chimed in to put up a defensive wall to keep a clean sheet. In fact special mention goes to all the bench players who were very good this game... with **Rodney** out wide and Player of the Match **Jaskaran** coming in from the training squad to put in an enthusiastic effort.

It was nil all at half time but it really was only a matter of time before we scored. Three minutes into the second half we did just that after another great run down the right and a wonderful through ball to **Kamail**. After that we just missed too many. It looked like we would bag a few more but Rydalmere scrambled well. They pressed us late in the game but the team held strong to record another victory and we got to sing our Victory Song yet again!

Coach Noel

**Final score: 0-1 to Granville Waratah**



**Full Results from the weekend:**

Age Grp / Div	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
06 Blue-BLK	Granville Waratah	0	3	Parramatta City
06 Blue-WHT	Granville Waratah	2	7	Ermington United
06 Green	Granville Waratah	0	0	Dundas United
06 Red-BLK	Ermington United	10	0	Granville Waratah
07 Blue	Rydalmere FC	1	3	Granville Waratah
07 Red	Auburn FC	1	3	Granville Waratah
08 Blue	Lidcombe Waratah	1	3	Granville Waratah
08 Green	Granville Waratah	3	7	Auburn District
08 Red	Lidcombe Waratah	3	0	Granville Waratah <b>(forfeit)</b>
09 Red	Granville Waratah	5	0	Lidcombe Waratah
10/1	Regents Park	1	2	Granville Waratah
11/3	Granville Waratah	1	4	Merrylands SFC
12/3	Granville Waratah	5	1	Lidcombe Waratah
13/2	Rydalmere FC	0	1	Granville Waratah
14/2	Granville Waratah	2	3	Newington
15/2	Granville Waratah	0	8	Dundas United
Youth/1	Granville Waratah			Bye

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