

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2017 season - Vol. 21 - August 15, 2017**



FROM THE PREZ

Last Sunday I attended Bennett Park at Roselands because it was Grand Final Day for the Canterbury District Soccer Football Association. Remembering that I am the Vice President of our own Association, I was keen to see what they did different to what we did and what we could learn for our Association to do better. Well, this is what I told my wife!

The primary reason is that I really wanted to spy on the under 17s Division 1 Grand Final game between Abbotsford FC versus Earlwood FC. Why? You may recall Earlwood FC beat us in the semi-final of the Football NSW State Cup Knock Out. Earlwood went on to win 2 weeks later against Lilli Pilli in a penalty shoot-out, 3-1. For the grand final however they lost to Abbotsford 2-1 in a game where they were not at their best and really weren't in the game.

So why my fixation with Earlwood FC?

My under 17s team will be playing in the Champions of Champions tournament starting Sunday 18 September 2017. The best of each Association play each other in a knock out competition until the final team stands alone as the best in the state. The last time our club achieved this was in 1980, when our Treasurer Vince Wyatt took his under 18s team all the way - Note: this is a correction, I previously advised it was 1983. So you can see this is a huge achievement and one that I am becoming obsessed with. If we can beat Earlwood FC then we will go a long way to achieving this goal. Now having watched Earlwood three times, I am convinced that with fresh legs my team can and will beat them. WATCH THIS SPACE!



Now to satisfy my conscience, I did learn a few things whilst attending the CDSFA's Grand Final Day, for example signage at each park as reminders putting things into perspective. I also watched their Under 17 Div 2 Grand Final and saw four red cards awarded in three separate incidents! Many of the fans watching should have remembered what was on the board behind them!

The other thing I liked that we also do at our ground and all clubs used to do, is that a Ground Official vest must be worn – which is different to the fluoro lime which is the Team Official vest. This is important because the Ground Official is the visible “sheriff” to assist bring “law and order” to a ground and to assist the referee when necessary. Next year, expect to find ground officials everywhere. It makes sense and is a good practice.



SEMI-FINAL DETAILS

Please come and support our teams in the semi-finals, our players feel much better when there's a crowd cheering them on. See below for details and don't forget to check the website and/or FB page for late breaking information.

Team	Kick-Off	Against	Field*
U12	10:30	Auburn District	Guildford Park #2
U13	8:45	Wentworthville Uniting	Guildford Park #2
U14	8:30	Pendle Hill BLK	Ron Mondy, Guildford Park
Youth	10:15	Merrylands SFC	Ron Mondy, Guildford Park

*Guildford Park is in Marian Street, Guildford

THE BURGER PROJECT IS NOW A CLUB SUPPORTER

We have struck a deal with our local outlet of The Burger Project to provide free burger vouchers to our designated Player of the Match, and also an all-year-round \$10 meal deal (includes fries and a drink, saving \$5 or \$6) if you go in wearing your black Waratah Soccer t-shirt! The deal is for those 16 years and younger.

The outlet is located on the corner of Macquarie and Marsden Streets in Parramatta. The deal has already started so no need to pack your training t-shirt away just yet!

HARBOUR CRUISE REMINDER

A last reminder about the Family Harbour Cruise, **tickets are still available but let us know numbers ASAP** by calling **Noel** on **0411 407 447**. It will be a great night!

The details:

- Saturday night, 9th September 2017
- Arrive at the wharf at 5.45pm for a 6.00pm departure.
- The boat departs from Birkenhead Point Wharf. Parking is available at the wharf.
- 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.



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 feature the best report, this week it goes to our **Under 7 Blue** team for a colourful account of their big win on the weekend with a history of the team thrown in. Thanks to **Sandeep** for sending it in!

The **Under 7 Red** team, yet again, wins the Photos of the Round for the fourth week running! Thanks to **Yulia** for sending them in. Why do they keep winning? Two words: Action shots.

Under 7 Blue – Featured Match Report

The Blues ended their season on a high by scoring an emphatic victory over **Newington**. It is one of our most dominating performances of the season. **Siddhant** scored a hat trick of goals in the match including the opening goal within first two minutes of kick off. With 20 plus goals for Blues, **Siddhant** had a great season.

Ethan, Oliver, Faheem, Darsh, and **Cassie** all seemed determined to score a goal and all of them had chances to score with Faheem showing great desire by trying till the last minute to put the ball in to opposition's net.

Ethan scored a smart goal, out-running his marker and controlling the ball before taking aim. **Cassie** scored her first goal with a neat tap in during a scrap near the opposition goal. **Oliver's** smart passes to his unmarked team-mates when he was surrounded by opposition players was a delight to watch. Such was the enthusiasm and dominance of Blues that all the substituted players wanted to get back in to action within few seconds. Despite opposition scoring a late goal, our Blues kept attacking and did not give any breather to the opposition.

The Under 7 Blues season has a story of its own. The team initially struggled to have enough players for matches, no regular coach, movement of players in and out from erstwhile Green and Red teams affecting rhythm and positions, endured some morale sapping defeats against well drilled and settled opponents. Yet the team notched up some impressive wins against variety of opponents both home and away and gave as good as they got against superior opponents in this season. What has also been apparent is the camaraderie and fondness the Blue players have for each other.

Special thanks to **Michael** for refereeing almost all our home matches, **Sammi** for keeping the flock (players and parents) together, **Yogin** for beautiful photos of the matches and also thanks to **Andy** for coaching the under 7 age group.

Match report by **Sandeep**

Final score: 1-5 to Granville Waratah



Under 6 Green

It was the last game for the season and the team wanted to finish on a high note. **Lidcombe Waratah** had dominated all the teams the whole season and they had thrashed us the last game but this time the boys were ready.

We got away to an early lead thanks to a cracking long range goal from **Dontae**. The team enjoyed good field position throughout the first half and their defence was solid as a brick wall. We went into halftime with a 1-0 lead and Lidcombe were shell shocked to be behind on the scoreboard.

The second half was as tight as the first and it was a great battle between both teams. Lidcombe quickly followed up with an equaliser to level the match. **Dhruv, Parsa** and **Shreyas** all had a couple of close chances but were so unlucky to miss. **Pranshu** and **Yash** provided great support and were great in defence.

With literally two seconds left, Lidcombe scored the winning goal to take out the match.

But what a game it was by the Under 6 Greens, leaving our best performance till last and I could not have been more proud of the players!

It was great to receive positive comments and feedback from the Lidcombe coach and supporters who mentioned how much our team had improved from the last match and that Granville Waratah was the better team on the day.

It was a great feeling to finish the season on a positive note and the team is already pumped up for the next season to start.

Coach Daniel

Final score: 1-2 to Lidcombe Waratah



Under 7 Red

We said last week that our players didn't want the season to end and now this week saw some parents saying the same thing. In our game against **Rydalmere FC** and for the third game straight, we played well and won. We dominated the play, created the lion's share of the chances, and looked like a team who don't make basic mistakes and know what their role is on the field. And the players now know each other pretty well and it shows in each of the goals celebrations!

We missed **Dhruv** and **Harsh** who were away on holiday so we drafted in **Sadaf** to help us out and she did well with some good passes to team mates to advance the attack.

Gaby and **Soham** played well in their usual positions as defenders, pulling off five goal-saving tackles between them and five blocks each. Well done to you both!



Troy had one of his best games of the season with a great all-round effort of three tackles, three passes, and also an assist for one of our goals. His pass tally was the highest for the team. Way to go **Troy**!

Veydant and **Nathan** combined well together all game and between them scored all our goals. **Nathan** struck first with a great strike while surrounded on all sides by opposition defenders (see picture below), but then **Veydant**, not to be out-done, popped up to score one of his own, ably assisted by **Troy**.



Rydalmere pulled a goal back but almost immediately after we regained our two goal cushion when, in a bizarre incident, **Nathan** put the ball into the space previously occupied by the goal that had been flipped over in the strong wind. The goal was awarded after a home supporter sportingly affirmed that it would have been a goal in normal, less windy circumstances. Thanks whoever you are, kind stranger!

Rydalmere did come back strongly as the game petered out and scored a late consolation goal – a really nice goal in fact, a tap in from a cross – to keep themselves in it. They then nearly snatched an equalizer with the very same move on the very next attack but our luck was in and the ball shied just past the goal post. And then that was it, three wins in a row and a great way to end the season. Well done team!

Many thanks to **Alaena** for keeping the parents organized during the year, and to **Bhavesh**, **Dipak**, and **Sam** for their assistant coaching and stat keeping help during games. Hope to see you all next season!

Coach Andy

Final score: 2-3 to Granville Waratah

Under 12 Div 2

The under 12s played their last round against **Wentworthville Uniting** at home this week. As we already secured second spot on the ladder, the result from today's game was not that important. However last time we met this team we were beaten. The team was determined to finish the season with a victory.

We started well with early attacks and with a few corners we just could not finish it off in front of goals. Our opponent improved play and after a few attacks onto our goal they managed to take the lead. Before they scored, our goal keeper **Reyaj** saved a one-on-one situation.

Mid-way through the first half we made our first substitution and **Ibrahim** made an impact immediately. After a nice ball from **Dean** along the right flank, **Ibrahim** let the ball roll pass him and continued the run down the right wing. He went for the cross but instead the ball ended up in the back of the net, after going above the keeper. What a great goal!

A couple of minutes later after some great work down the left wing by **Mak** and **Aavash** put in a nice cross to **Ibrahim** who finished it off in front of goal to make it 2-1 at half time.

The second half started with more attack but it didn't take long before we were awarded a penalty and **Aavash** stepped up and finished it off.

Our opponents did manage to score even though the player was offside.

At the end of the game the team sang the famous Granville Waratah Victory song which the boys only started learning the words a few weeks ago.

I would like to thank the team and everyone's efforts for the season and look forward the final series.

Coach Goran

Final Score: 3-2 to Granville Waratah



Under 13 Div 2

Our game against **Ermington United** was a chance for the team to get back into the groove and show that last week was a lesson not ignored... and for the most part the team played well. When we play to our game plan the goals flow and the soccer is beautiful to watch. The first goals came shortly after kick off with a quick move down the left flank, a nice cross from **Rohan** on to the foot of **Omar** in front of goals to beat the keeper. 1-0.

Mid-way though the half and the game truly in our control, we scored another with possibly the best goal of the year. This time a nice movement down the right got the ball to **Deniz** who crossed with precision on to the head of **Kamail** who hammered the ball into the back of the net. Sweet and beautiful to watch, 2-0. Thereafter we took the opportunity to give the bench players a lot of field time that they may not be able to expect in the finals.

Against the run of play Ermington came back and scored a goal just before half time with a nice long shot that floated and carried high in the wind. Little that could be done against that effort – **Ali** is just not 6 feet tall. 2-1

The second half saw much of the same as the first, we dominated the play and Ermo would occasionally counter attack. **Moey** was playing well on the left flank and was crossing the ball well when he plays wide. **Mohammad** was controlling the game in the middle and **Shree** was the centurion in the back not allowing anyone in a red shirt to past. Eventually the weight of possession had to give and a beautiful cross from **Moey** found **Abraham** in front of goals to slot home the third goal. 3-1.

We took the opportunity to swap keepers and give **Ali** a chance on the field for a bit of fun and **Deniz** in goals. He touched the ball twice – once where he saved, the other time taking the ball out of the back of the net. With a few minutes left in the game Ermo were awarded a free kick from outside 18 yard box. The kicker struck it perfectly to sail into the top right hand corner of the goal – unless **Deniz** was 6 feet tall, there was nothing he could do either. 3-2.

It was a very entertaining game and the Player of the Match was awarded by the opposition coach who said **Shree** in the back is the best sweeper defender in the competition.

And singing out Victory song again was awesome! Bring on the finals!

Coach Noel



Final score: 3-2 to Granville Waratah

YOUTH 1 (Under 17 Div 1)

Out of finals contention and with nothing to play for, Auburn forfeited. But as a show of commitment to our finals campaign, the team found an outdoor soccer centre at Strathfield with artificial turf and we had a solid training session.

HSC commitments make it difficult for a number of the players to train regularly so we only train once per week. Consequently we took the opportunity to not waste a free Saturday rather than do nothing. It was a good work out concentrating on two touch short passing.

We plan to have eight more games this season – three finals games and five Champion of Champions games. These games will not be easy, in fact they will be all very difficult, but we like singing our Victory song and plan on singing it proudly for eight more games!

Coach Noel

Final score: 3-0 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	3	0	Auburn FC
06 Green	Granville Waratah	1	2	Lidcombe Waratah
06 Red-BLK	Newington	3	0	Granville Waratah
07 Blue	Newington	1	5	Granville Waratah
07 Red	Rydalmere FC	2	3	Granville Waratah
08 Blue	Rydalmere FC	3	1	Granville Waratah
08 Green	Granville Waratah	4	4	Newington
08 Red	Auburn District	5	0	Granville Waratah
09 Red	Granville Waratah	2	0	Auburn District
10/1	Parramatta City	13	0	Granville Waratah
11/3	Greystanes FC	1	1	Granville Waratah
12/2	Granville Waratah	3	2	Wentworthville Uniting
13/2	Ermington United	2	3	Granville Waratah
14/2	Granville Waratah			Bye
YOUTH	Auburn District (forfeit)	0	3	Granville Waratah

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We would also like to thank our supporter:

