

FREE KICK



Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2017 season - Vol. 23 - August 30, 2017



FROM THE PREZ

It wasn't meant to end this way!

Our club had three teams in the finals and all failed to make the grand finals. Both the under 12s and 13s played much better than their opponents but failed to score more goals. Both teams lost in a brutal penalty shoot-out.

Earlier this year my under 17s Youth 1 won their State Cup quarter final with a penalty in a golden goal situation. THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME in 20 years of coaching. Prior to that I have lost 7 or 8 golden goal penalty shoot-out finals. I can tell you the pain, frustration and misery of defeat does not go away fast.

Losing the under 13s final hurt plenty! And the team members felt it just as much if not more. We had invested so much into this season, anything less than at least a grand final appearance would not be good enough. After the game a number of players wept, not least my own daughter who plays full back and a couple of the penalty kick takers who had their shots saved. I concede I had a tear in my eye and a lump in my throat. I struggled to find the words to console the team, in the post-game talk. We could do no more but accept it, learn from it and be better for it.

Under 12s coach Goran was feeling the pain too for the first time. He needed to talk about it Saturday afternoon, Sunday and Monday. He called me just to share his pain and to even laugh about how it was affecting us... grown men.

But our children are resilient and we will use this pain to motivate us all next season to commit to being the best we can be, taking our chances and hopefully going one step further.

Anything less is just not the Waratah way.



FROM THE SECRETARY

Coaches / Managers: please send end-of-season reports to Andy (registrar@granvillewaratah.com.au) or myself (secretary@granvillewaratah.com.au) for the Presentation Day newsletter.

TROPHY PRESENTATION DAY REMINDER

A reminder that Sunday 10th of September (the day after the harbour cruise) is our annual Trophy Presentation Day! We first told you all about this way back in Vol. 10 of the newsletter so check that edition out for the full details, but here they are in brief:

- It starts at around noon and we plan to be finished by 4pm with the distribution of team photos.
- A BBQ lunch will be provided for all players but it is suggested that families bring a picnic lunch along.
- After lunch, we've got fun games including the annual favourite the team vs team tug-of-war.
- We plan to start the presentation at around 2pm.

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.



FEEDBACK / SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome feedback and suggestions to help make us a better club for next year. Send your comments to Secretary Tony Farrell at secretary@granvillewaratah.com.au

MATCH REPORTS

Under 13 Div 2

We came to our game against **Newington** ready to make amends for last week's loss and ready to find our groove and get the win.

The game started even and we were finding our rhythm and dominating until an uncharacteristic lapse on the left side allowed Newington to get into our 18 yard box and put a cross into the goal mouth that allowed the simplest of tap-ins. 1-0.

The team dusted themselves off and got back into the game quickly. Newington never really threatened us again for the rest of the game. The fullbacks were resolute and Sam was having a strong first half strong. That being said we played reasonably well and moved the ball around the park getting into the 18 yard box often but our shots were hitting the keeper. **Mohammed, Deniz** and **Kamail** were having solid games but at half time it was still 0-0.

The second half was a dominant display but Newington were scrambling well to hold us out. As time ticked on, were we getting anxious to score the equalizer but there was no panic. Our territorial dominance lead to a number of corners, many attempts and lots of defensive goal mouth scrambling from Newington, but still no goal.



With 10 minutes remaining in regulation time, we receive a free kick 25 meters from goal. Could this be the equalizer? **Mohammed** stepped up and guided a perfect free kick over the leaping hands of the keeper. The perfect kick! 1-1. Relief and celebration as the team felt we could now seal the deal with the winner. Unfortunately, their keeper had other ideas.

We poured on the pressure but Newington would not surrender another goal. Their keeper was strong in goals but our aiming needed to be better – hitting him in the stomach wasn't going to be enough. Before we knew it, time was up and the full time whistle blew.

Time for the dreaded EXTRA TIME GOLDEN GOAL scenario.

The team was prepared and still feeling they could score the elusive goal to send them into the grand final. Unfortunately for us the two periods of five minutes was much of the same, dominating without scoring. As a coach this is a difficult situation... do I reduce our fullbacks to three and put in another striker? I chose not to. Firstly because if they managed to score an opportunistic goal, it would be devastating. Secondly because we practised our penalties mid-week and I was confident we could get the job done.

FULL TIME AND NOW FOR THE PENALTY SHOOT OUT.

We won the toss and elected to kick first. **Moey** stepped up and slotted the first home. Then so did Newington.

Now the dream became a nightmare. Our next two kicks were saved by their keeper, who was easily the Player of the Match. By contrast, Newington hit both their shots with all hitting the inside netting.



Our fourth kick needed to go in to force Newington to score again. Sadly it was saved and it felt like a dagger was being driven into our hearts. 3-1. Oh this really hurt everyone. It was such a brutal end to a promising season. It wasn't supposed to end this way.

Our first game of the year was a loss to Newington... and now our last game is a lost to Newington. I am not sure if I am supposed to feel better or worse but after the game their coach came up to me, shook my hand and said, "Sorry Noel, you were the better team, we didn't deserve to win that".

The simple lesson here is and it will always be... the team that scores the most goals wins... so we must take our chances. This lesson will be one the team painfully remembers.

Coach Noel

Final score: 1-1 AET. Newington wins the penalty shoot-out 3-1



YOUTH 1 (Under 17 Div 1)

Our must-win game against **Pendle Hill** got off to the worst possible start as we conceded a goal after only 70 seconds. Pendo ran down the right flank and crossed to an unmarked man in front of goal who headed in the easy goal. 1-0. We had four defenders back but marking the grass! This was not good soccer and we needed switch on and find our rhythm quickly. We didn't and they scored a second after 10 minutes. 2-0.

The team did not panic and know they have the talent and composure to get back into the game. After about 15 minutes we found our groove and put the pressure back on Pendo... they knew they were in a game now! We were controlling the midfield and **Hasib** and **Baris** were being fed the ball... taking two very good shots forcing two very good saves from their keeper. It was turning into a very good game as we broke for half time. The boys were upbeat and believed they would score against the defending champions as we had defeated them earlier in the season.

The second half was dogged and Pendo looked to defend the lead but we know are very dangerous on the break. We applied the pressure but Pendo were up to the task... and we were well aware that they had the best defence in the competition. As the time ticked over we had some good moments but Pendo would not allow a breach. **Franklin** was not having his best game out wide and so we had to work the centre of the field more than usual. **Ahmed**, **Rohith** and **Eray** were working hard keeping Pendo working harder.

With 15 minutes to go four fullbacks became three. With 7 minutes to go, three fullbacks became two. We were pouring on the pressure and with four minutes to go we forced a hand ball and a penalty. **Baris** stepped up with confidence and wanted to take the kick. A strong kick but their keeper was up to the task with a wonderful diving save.

We toiled hard to the end but we simply have to accept that our poor start cost us the game allowing Pendo to get the win.

Coach Noel

Final score: 2-0 to Pendle Hill



Full Results from the weekend:

Age Grp / Div	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
12/2	Granville Waratah	0	1	Wentworthville Uniting Church
13/2	Granville Waratah	1 (1)	1 (3)	Newington
YOUTH	Pendle Hill	2	0	Granville Waratah



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