

FREE KICK



Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2019 season - Vol. 16 - July 31, 2019



FROM THE PREZ

Last Sunday the Association hosted an amazing day of Knock Out Competition Finals at Melita Stadium starting with the under 12's and ending with the Final of the historic Cottam Cup which is the oldest Knock Out Competition Silverware in Australia, since 1907. It was such an awesome day and the Cottam Cup Final was an epic exciting battle, but more on that in a moment.

The Knock Out competitions for each age group were introduced by the Association this year and whilst it was a slow start, it ended with such excitement and enthusiasm, that the day was a complete success! Teams walked out onto the stadium pitch and lined up FIFA style with the FIFA Anthem being played and giving all the players such an amazing experience. That was followed by the National Anthem, then the game and finally the official trophy presentation ceremony on the field. The whole experience was very special and very well received by all the teams. I encourage you to watch all of these special moments on the [Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association Facebook page](#). Unfortunately no Granville Waratah teams were in the finals but let this be an inspiration and a motivation for all our players, coaches and parents to aim for these finals and the awesome experiences for next season!



The Cottam Cup Final was just incredible and I invite to watch it on the Granville Association website here: <http://www.granvillesoccer.com.au/cottam-cup/2019-final-highlights>. This Cup holds a special place in the history of our club as we have won it more than any other club – 12 times!

The match was an awesome event and I thank the five MiniRoos and their parents for attending and allowing their children to act as mascots and walk out with the teams and then they had fun playing a half time game against the MiniRoos of Holroyd.

When I joined the club back in 1999 I did not know our awesome history, but now that I do, I want nothing more than to create more awesome future history for our club.

Who is with me!?!?



Noel Dona

COACHES AND MANAGERS MEETING

Our last coaches and managers meeting for the year is next Wednesday August 7 at 7:30pm in the clubhouse. Please ensure your team sends a representative as we have lots to discuss.

RESULTS FROM ROUND 15

Alas, the club's impressive streak of six weeks in a row with more wins than losses doesn't go to a seventh week. However there is good news on the horizon as all of our full field teams bar one will most likely contest the finals after the regulation season ends. Go GWSFC!

Age Group / Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	2	2	Merrylands SFC
08 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	1	2	Guildford County
09 Dolphins	Granville Waratah SFC	6	2	Merrylands SFC
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	0	1	Lidcombe Waratah
09 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	0	2	Merrylands SFC
10 Dolphins	Granville Waratah SFC	2	2	Greystanes FC
10 Koalas	Regents Park	4	3	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Possums	Granville Waratah SFC	0	15	Wenty Waratah
11 Possums	Auburn FC	3	1	Granville Waratah SFC
13 Combined	Granville Waratah SFC	0 (forfeit)	3	Pendle Hill
14 Div. 3	Auburn FC	0	3	Granville Waratah SFC
15 Combined	Granville Waratah SFC	2	1	Lidcombe Waratah
16 Div. 2	Granville Waratah SFC	0	4	Greystanes FC
AAM Div. 5 WHT	Granville Waratah SFC	2	1	Merrylands SFC
AAM Div. 5 BLK	Lidcombe Waratah	1	0	Granville Waratah SFC

MATCH REPORTS

It is our intention to feature in all newsletters, 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!

All previous newsletters are available from the club website via this link:

<http://granvillewaratah.com/wp/newsletters/>

Please Note: The final score will only be shown for U8s and up. For 6s and 7s we don't want to encourage parents to focus on the score but how much fun and enjoyment their kids are having.

Each week we choose the best report to be the **Featured Match Report**, this week the **Under 10 Dolphins** get it for waxing lyrical about their game on the weekend. Thanks to **From the Sidelines** for sending it in!

The **Under 9 Dolphins** win the Photos of the Round (again) for great action shots of goals being scored. Thanks to **Yulia** and **Angelique** for sending them in!

Under 10 Dolphins – Featured Match Report

Waxing Lyrical, With No Nails Left – I am going to have to wax lyrical this week – well, maybe no more than usual – and I am going to get a little more personal... there are just some things that I feel have to be acknowledged about this team – these individuals and this unit they have come to be!

Firstly – right off the bat: last weekend's game was outstanding! The team work and cohesion were extraordinary. Having unbelievably grown from just the week prior's already impressive unified effort, the Granville Waratah Under 10 Dolphins simply solidified and capitalised on that positive collaborative effort and mode of operation. They were the very definition of a well-oiled machine – all the individual parts working at peak capacity, to serve the whole.

This is, and was again on the day, a team that doesn't give up, doesn't settle. And they are never self-satisfied – they are instinctually always striving to be, to do, better; *continually* developing and progressing. They are a group of remarkable little individuals (all of different levels of skill, experience, and backgrounds) who band together as one. Their gutsy determination, insurmountable heart, and willing attitude is a testament to their quality of character/integrity.

And this doesn't purely happen by accident. It more often than not trickles down from the top. It takes a great leader, to make a great group. And here, they are led by the biggest kid in the pack! – their coach **Steve** – who leads by example, and teaches with genuine interest, sense of fun, education, and care.



The coach regroups with his team at half-time

For this game against **Greystanes FC**, on the sidelines, there were no nails left. This game was a *real nail biter*...! It consistently featured two teams giving their all, from the first blow of the whistle to the last.

At half-time, with *a lot of soccer played* by both sides, the score line still only managed to read 1 – 1. As was the quality of play from both sides, in both defence and attack. Each team never gave in.

Ethan landed *our* team's goal in that half, artfully breaking through the Greystanes defensive line. Well done **Ethan**!

At full-time, again, the score line still read a mere 2 – 2, even though, again, *a lot more soccer* was played. Passion, Pride, and Persistence displayed *in full* on the field. Nothing left ‘unsaid’.

Frank put the last touch on our team’s second goal, during a shining example of a real team effort. And Greystanes put a high one in from midfield in the last minutes that not even the tallest of the tall could have stopped! (And it was right then and there that any last remaining fingernails on the sidelines were bit and chewed!)

This team of Waratahs should be proud. And this team was:

Angus, Dhruv, and Frank – phenomenal forwards.

Adee and Ethan – midfield masters.

Deon, Rayan, Tom, Sai, and Saharsh – dominating defence.

Aryan – gracious in goals.

Steve – a colossus of a coach.

Angus (pictured right) was our red-cheeked player of the match, once again displaying his signature infectious spirit of “Never Give Up”. YES – Go, Waratahs. Never give up!

Coach Steve

Coach’s Player of the Match: **Angus**

Final Score: a 2 – 2 draw

Report by **From the Sidelines**



Two Teams join together to acknowledge a game well played

Under 7 Koalas WHT

Last weekend we played host to yet another team from **Rydalmere FC**, for the fifth time this season. With a full squad of nine in attendance for our team, I welcomed the opposition coach's suggestion that we play five on five instead of the standard four. **Aryan, Arav, Liam, Tristan** and **Sushanth** had arrived at the ground first and therefore got the chance to take to the field to get the game underway.



For the first 10 minutes of the match we were camped in our own half and struggled to get the ball over the halfway line as Rydalmere made several attempts on our goal, only to be denied by some excellent defensive work from **Varish, Tristan** and **Aryan**.

One shot at goal from a Rydalmere player was hit in the air, hard and straight and for all money looked like going in the goal, until **Varish** put his body on the line by moving to his left without hesitation, into its path and copped a loud, hefty blow from the ball on his chest and then kicked it away to the safety of the sideline. It was a great act of bravery for the team on behalf of **Varish** and was an example of the kind of commitment the players are showing for each other.

After absorbing pressure from Rydalmere and defending our line for most of the half, some opportunities began to come our way. **Sushanth, Sineth, Arav** and **Liam** were starting to call to each other by name and pass their way up the field.



Our players have been working hard at training to move further apart into space when we have the ball, so I was pleased to see **Liam** cross the ball from out wide to an unmarked **Sineth** in the middle who got a shot on goal. The strike from **Sineth** was blocked momentarily, but **Adriel**, who was backing up the play with eagerness and an eye for the goal, pounced on the loose ball when it came his way with a timely boot hitting the ball hard into the back of the net.



It was a positive and optimistic Granville bench at halftime with encouragement from me to keep up the defense, keep up the calling and keep up the passing to each other. My only specific instructions was to shut down Rydalmere's strikers who were using kick-ins from the sideline as an opportunity to tap the ball and shoot at the goal, and for us to take a shot at goal from further out as we were breaking clear and trying to dribble all the way to the goal only to be run down by the opposition each time.

The second half was very much a repeat of the first. With Rydalmere doing most of the attacking for the first 10 minutes, our players were forced to defend in our own half. By now Rydalmere were beginning to get frustrated as none of their attempts to score could penetrate Granville's defense. At one point the opposition coach shook his head and conceded to me how well our team was defending.



Once again after absorbing Rydalmere’s attacks with our rock solid defense, we then started to find some momentum in attack. **Arav** in particular showed a great sense of determination as he kept pursuing the ball through Rydalmere defenders on more than one occasion to take play into some good attacking field positions. It was only a matter of time before we were able to capitalise on this good field position through a clever run from **Sineth** to weave his way past opposition players to pass the ball easily into the goal.

It was another excellent game from our team who are building and bonding well towards the end of the season. It was our ability to withstand pressure from the other team through our amazing defense that gave us the win, along with patience to get up the other end of the field and take our opportunities when they eventually came.

Arav (pictured right) was awarded our Player of the Match, with some great determination and effort especially in the second half to help turn our defense into attack. Congratulations **Arav!**

Coach Anthony



Under 9 Dolphins

The team was up against **Merrylands SFC** on the weekend, a match I was looking forward to as I felt we could have done better in our 2-0 win over them earlier in the season. We had a full complement of players to draw upon, including **Siddhant** who may have been feeling that he was missing out on all the fun when he plays with his SAP team instead of with us!

Merrylands are a tough outfit; they don't shirk in the tackle and were in the match for most of the game until the score got away from them towards the end. The teams entered the half-time break with the score-line reading 3-1 to Granville, but it was 2-1 for a large portion of the half and so we were witnessing a keenly contested game.

The match finished 6-2 with goals to **Jamaar** (pictured right), **Ishan** and **Siddhant** while **Nathan** scored his second hat trick in a row.

Siddhant picked up the Assist of the Match for his three assists, including one where he controlled the ball well on the by-line to get past his opponent and then crossed it to **Nathan** who was waiting in a great position for a tap-in.

It was truly a wonderful piece of attacking skill and an accomplished finish to dazzle the watching parents!

Siddhant was truly on a mission to show his worth, as if his three assists weren't enough, with his goal in the second half, a great effort from distance that flew like a rocket into the top of the goal. His nonchalant goal celebration – he just turned around and trudged back to our half – didn't fool anyone, we all know he was grinning like a loon on the inside! Top effort **Siddhant**, well done!

Ishan's goal was a great example to the team that being able to score with your weaker foot is an essential skill. Where other players will contort themselves to get in the right position to shoot with their preferred foot, **Ishan** showed that all you need to do is connect well enough with the right aim. It was a badly scuffed shot but the connection and aim was enough for the ball to bounce into the goal. Great left foot shot goal, **Ishan**!

The team finished with 16 shots on goal which is a great sign of a team full of attacking intent. We did, however, let in two goals. One was from a defensive mistake that was also a teachable moment so I was happy enough in a game that ended in our favour, while the other was a consolation goal at the very end. Goals aside, we are very ably served in the defender department by **Ethan** who pulled off two great blocks and **Harsh** for not one but two goal-



Jamaar wheels away to celebrate the ball hitting the back of the net



*The Merrylands player is pushing **Ishan** to the left so he can only shoot with his left foot, so he does and scores!*

saving tackles for the match. **Harsh** also deserves thanks for volunteering to go in goals for the first half. He did very well as did **Jamaar** in the second.



Anuj, Ishan, Ajiri and Nathan get back to defend a Merrylands counter

Lucas showed us he's getting quite good at getting past his opponents with two good dribbles and two telling passes while **Troy** and **Anuj** patrolled mid-field well, keeping the ball in the opposition half for large parts of the game.

Ajiri helped the attack well with some nice deft passes, at least one good shot at goal, and was in his usual good second ball positions for most of the match, while **Joseph** also recorded an attempt at goal which followed on nicely from his first goal for the season, even if it was during training.

Overall, a solid result with lots of goals to show for our efforts with bangers, tap-ins and left foot shots thrown in for good measure. Thanks to **Coach Steve** from the Under 10 Dolphins for refereeing the match!

The team is away to Greystanes FC this coming weekend at Bathurst Street Park, kick-off at 11:10am, come down and cheer the team on!

Coach Andy

Final Score: 6 – 2 to Granville Waratah SFC



Anuj gets close while Jamaar waits in a good second ball position

Under 11 Possums

The great streak of wins the team were enjoying has come to an unfortunate end with a 3-1 loss to **Auburn FC**. **Ali** scored our goal but we just weren't our usual selves as Auburn scored three in reply.

Maybe our poor attendance of players attending training has something to do with it or it could be the flu that has struck some players but we hope to get back on track for the few games left in the season.

We just have to learn from our mistakes but the team also needs more dedication if we are going to end the season on a high note.

The Players of the Match were **Ali** and **Sebastian**. Well done boys!

Coach Kumar

Final Score: 3 – 1 to Auburn FC



Under 15 Combined

My team has only lost once this season and it was 3-2 against our opponents on the weekend **Lidcombe Waratah**.

Despite having two very good players out, and having only played one match in five weeks, we had trained very hard and were ready with a solid game plan and a very good attitude.

The first half was the best soccer we played all season! Determined, sharp, committed, strong and refusing to not give 100%. Lidcombe had no answers and never forced our keeper into making any saves. Meanwhile we scored two goals!

The first was just awesome. Taking possession from the back in our own half, **Nicholas** in the left back position pushed forward and played the ball to **Palmy**, who then quickly put a through ball to **Moey** at speed who made a run down the left flank. As he got to the corner, he cut the ball back to **Braha** waiting on the 18 yard box. He took a touch to control the ball and then promptly took a high quality shot to beat the keeper and bulge the net! WOW! The second goal was a scored from a quality corner.

At half time I asked the team to stay strong continue doing more of the same....and they did. Though we didn't score again, they did not take a shot in our 18 yard box but did take a flukey shot from 35 meters out that was inch perfect under the cross bar and scored. I felt we were in control and were never really in serious danger. We were very good all across the park and our defensive line was awesome – the best in the competition!

Braha was Player of the Match for his inspirational goal and courage in the middle.

Lidcombe are a very good team and we will see them again in the finals.

Coach Noel

Final Score: 2 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC



The team sings the club Victory Song with gusto

TEN QUESTIONS

For every issue of Free Kick we select a member of the club and ask him or her 10 questions so that we can get to know this person. This week we have selected the coach of the Under 7 Possums **Michael Conditis**

Michael first joined the club last season coaching his daughter. He was keen to volunteer and coach in his first year and again this season. This team of players and parents think he is great and so we wanted to know more about him. This week he takes the 10 questions challenge.

1. Favourite football player?

Harry Kewell

2. Favourite breakfast cereal?

Muesli

3. Favourite type of pizza?

Cheese and anchovies

4. Favourite pasta dish?

Spaghetti Bolognese

5. Your favourite Cartoon character?

Homer Simpson

6. Your favourite animal?

Rainbow Lorikeet

7. Favourite song?

Lateralus, by Tool

8. If you could have dinner with anyone in history, who would it be with?

Eratosthenes – Ancient Greek calculated the circumference of the earth

9. If you had a time machine, when and where would you go?

Ancient Greece at the building of the Parthenon, birth place of democracy

10. If you could get free tickets to any sporting event in the world, what would it be for?

World Cup Final

