

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2020 season - Volume 02 - 8th July 2020**



FROM THE PREZ

We can all take a deep breath and relax... ROUND 1 IS COMPLETED!

Truly a big thank you to all our volunteers who have worked very hard in such a short period of time to make it possible. I cannot say thanks enough!!

This year, despite the setbacks with COVID-19 and being relocated twice, I really sense a strong community spirit within the club, indeed stronger than in previous years, as was highlighted at last week's Coaches and Mangers meeting. At this meeting almost EVERY coach attended!! That has never happened in my 21 years at the club! WOW! Thank you again.

Last Saturday after coaching the under 11's to a very spirited draw, I returned to Belmore Park and I wish to address two issues here that happened:

Firstly, I sadly report that one of our under 16's players was taken to hospital via ambulance with a broken hip. It is important to note that there was no dirty play and that it truly was just one of those unfortunate things that can happen on a soccer field. Ten years ago I coached a team that had three broken arms over the course of the season!



These injuries can be very tricky, specially on how to immediately treat the player – whether to leave him on the field and wait for the ambulance, or to take him off the field? The simple rule of thumb is to not force the move. If the player is in too much pain, leave him and wait for the ambulance as we don't want to worsen the injury. If the player is handled with gentle care and can take the discomfort of being moved off the field, then proceed with caution. At first we thought our player Rodney had a leg injury and we all got a shock to learn it was a broken hip. He has had surgery and is on the road to recovery (see picture right). He will be out for 12 months and will need to be vigilant with rehab to make a good-as-new recovery. We all wish him the best!

The second thing I would like to mention is that, as the day's activities ended on Saturday, a number of coaches were gathered around the clubhouse comparing notes on how good it was to be playing at Belmore Park, when Club Treasurer Tony said to me, "it couldn't of happened without you Noel". Whilst I was pleasantly taken back by the comment, I am humbled by it too as I am just one person of a team that put in BIG efforts (especially) before and during the season. I take my hat off to both Tony and Club

Secretary/Registrar Andy for the hours and dedication they put in to making your club operate as well as it does.

So please, when, whilst we don't do it for thanks, don't forget to thank your committee members and your coaches often – we are all volunteers and this is a team effort.

“GO THE TAHS!!”

Noel Dona, Club President.

THE CANTEEN

When you visit most other clubs in our association, you'll find that their canteen is the centre of activity. Need a hot coffee to wake you up in the morning? Did your child play well and you'd like to buy her a treat? The canteen is there and will have something you'll want.

Sadly, we cannot presently offer the same experience for visiting parents and players. We have a canteen and everything we need to stock it, we just don't have anyone to take charge of keeping it staffed on game days. The current committee members have too many responsibilities as it is and are not in a position to take this on.

A canteen manager is what our club needs for our canteen to function. If your desire to see our football club become a sought after location to play games of association soccer due to our fantastic canteen, please get in touch with a club committee member.



COVID-19 AND JERSEYS

Recently we have had an enquiry in relation to the washing of jerseys and COVID-19.

The committee deemed it necessary to issue the following statement on the matter;

As a club that is a member of the Granville Soccer Football Association and Football NSW, we follow the guidelines of our governing bodies and to date there is no literature to support the spread of the disease from washed jerseys. Covid-19 is simply not transmissible from washed clothing, using Covid-19 as an argument has no basis in fact. We are only required not to share unwashed bibs or jerseys.

It has been the practice of this club and majority of clubs, to provide a set of jerseys to each team and to have them returned as a complete set at the end of the season so that they can be reused by the club the following year. A set of jerseys can last up to 7 years properly managed. We expect coaches to be careful and not lose individual shirts to form incomplete sets. We are not a wealthy club that can afford to purchase new sets of jerseys every season.

Please understand:

* We buy jerseys in sets. We have enough for all the possible reserves, thus for each age group we know exactly how many we need.

* Purchasing one or two jerseys to replace missing jerseys to complete a set is a nuisance and often getting exact colour and material matches is difficult and costly.

So, keeping sets of jerseys intact is a collective problem that just doesn't have individual solutions. This is why we can't let individuals take home their own jerseys, or even own their own jerseys. We aren't a training academy or a school. We are an association club comprised of teams of players. The team as a whole looks after the jerseys, it is not up to individuals.

Thank you for your support.

Noel Dona, on behalf of the Club Committee.

VACANT CLUB POSITIONS

The following positions are currently available and any help would be hugely appreciated. These positions are:

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: The role is basically making sure that our teams receive all relevant equipment and that they return it at the end of the season. Equipment includes jerseys, balls, cones, ball bags and anything else necessary.

WEB DESIGNER: the club would like to give its web page a fresh new look. If we have any talented web designers within the Waratah family, here is your chance to make your mark.

For all positions you will receive the whole support of the committee as well as the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping your child/ren, their friends, team mates and your community. To volunteer, please speak to any committee member who will gladly explain more detail if necessary and/or get you started.

FREE COACHING COURSE ON MONDAY JULY 13TH

A reminder that a free coaching clinic, aimed at the miniroos level, will be held on Monday July 13th, at Melita Stadium, South Granville. It starts at 6pm and will go for 2 to 3 hours. Please register using this link:

<https://education-ffa.sportingpulse.com/event.asp?ID=22204>

All miniroos coaches and interested parents should attend!

RESULTS FROM ROUND 01

We kicked off the season with a good result: more wins than losses is always nice, but well done to all teams for making the field in the first place. Well, nearly all the teams. Our U6 Wombats team, very much looking forward to their first ever game of soccer, turned up to find no opposition to play! And no advance notice that the team would forfeit too!!! This is unacceptable and our club president has already discussed this with Guildford County who assure us it will never happen again. They face a substantial fine for a no-show with no notice!

On a happier note, we started off the season on Friday night with the club's first involvement in the newly instated Premier League competition. Our Premier League reserves won the very first match on Rydalmere FC's pristine new synthetic pitch 1-0 (and forever giving club president Noel bragging rights over the Rydalmere president, Peter) but it was unfortunate that the first grade team couldn't match the result, conceding 2 late goals after a closely fought game.

Other wins of note was the combined score of 16-0 (9-0 and 7-0) for our U14/3 and U12/3 teams! They will want to make the finals after such a strong showing first game. No pressure, coach Goran and coach Steve!

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Rydalmere FC	1	4	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Possums	Granville Waratah SFC	5	0	Toongabbie Demons
08 Wombats	Rydalmere FC	1	2	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	5	1	Toongabbie Demons
09 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	1	1	Holroyd Rangers
10 Dolphins	Granville Waratah SFC	1	0	Merrylands SFC
10 Koalas	Merrylands SFC	0	8	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	3	4	Newington Gunners
11 Possums	Rydalmere FC	1	1	Granville Waratah SFC
12 Div. 3	Auburn District	0	7	Granville Waratah SFC
12 Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	0	4	Wenty Waratah
14 Div. 3	Wentworth Uniting	0	9	Granville Waratah SFC
16 Combined	Granville Waratah SFC	1	3	Toongabbie Demons
AAM Div. 4	Greystanes FC	1	1	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League Res.	Rydalmere FC	0	1	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League 1sts	Rydalmere FC	2	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 6 Wombats win for the club's very first report from a forfeited game. Congratulations to coach Melvin for making club history!

Under 6 Wombats – Featured Match Report

Firstly, thanks everyone for coming on time and prepared! The kids looked fantastic in their kit and the team photos were all very cute. However, it was disappointing to say the least that our opponents, **Guildford County**, didn't turn up! And without notice too!

Although there wasn't an official game, thanks to everyone for sticking around to watch the kids in a quickly organised game, Granville against Granville, with three on each team. The kids also got to watch some other games so they are comfortable with what game day looks like.

We saw some great action from the players!

Rutvi played very well defending and got a good run to the goal, she took a shot at goal to the bottom left and deflected off the post. So close! You were really great at listening for instructions. You'll definitely score next time. Well done!

Aditya was very involved with the game and was always in the action. He cleared the ball many times and enabled the team to spread out. He played well in defence and on the offence. Great kicking **Aditya**!

Sreeyan did well defensively and tackled the opposition very well. He took possession from the opposition very cleanly and also managed to dribble very effectively on a couple of runs to the goal. Well done **Sreeyan**!

Rohan had a good game with a few possession stealing tackles and got a



good run to the goal and the kick was very close to a goal and just missed the top left hand corner. He chased the ball hard and managed to get some defensive and offensive runs in. Good stuff
Rohan!

Krithik scored a great goal today and will be memorable as the first goal of the season. Well done **Krithik!** You saw an opportunity and dribbled the ball away from the defenders and made your way to the goal and

used the inside of your foot to guide the ball in! Well done! You looked very happy and I'm sure that confidence will help you score more games.

In summary, the kids did great and played the space well.

Coach Melvin

Coach's Player of the Match: **Krithik**



Under 7 Koalas

The Koalas were up against **Wenty Waratah** on the weekend. Our little champs were highly excited and all set to play their first match of the season.

Excellent kicks and defensive blocks all over the field from **Khang, Shrey, Arjun, Roy, Karthik, Samridh, Mani** and **Drisha**.

In a very closely fought match, Wenty Waratah came out on top on the scoreboard but only by one goal.

The players are getting used to the rules and beginning to see the importance of playing as a team. We will work more on supporting each other when attacking and hopefully there'll be some more goals down the track.

Parents, your support and cheering from the sidelines is highly appreciated, it lifts up the players throughout the game and keeps them motivated.

Well done to all!!

Coach Victor



Under 8 Koalas

After a quick warm up, we kicked off against **Toongabbie Demons** for the first time as an under 8 team. The boys played the game with so much enthusiasm and fun. They did all the right things. Passed to each other, called for the ball, made space to receive the ball.

In doing the simple things right we were a head at half time 2-0. The second half was as good as the first half. But a slight miscommunication in the back and the opposition scored a goal. We hit back with two more goals to win 4-1.

It was a good game for all the boys. Everyone played well. Also, the parents cheering the boys on the sideline made it exciting to hear them getting involved in the game.

All in all, we had a great start to the 2020 season.

Coach Ferras

Final Score: 1 – 4 to Granville Waratah SFC



Under 8 Possums

After months of delays, doubts and disruptions, finally our soccer season began with our first match at our beautifully prepared new home ground at Belmore Park against the **Toongabbie Demons**.

Our preparation time had been limited with only a handful of training sessions under our belt, there was no way of telling just how well we would play as a team, or handle the conditions of a real game against a real opposition. So, it was with a great sense of excitement and anticipation from every player and parent that Toongabbie kicked off to get our inaugural match underway.

The initial 5 minutes were quite frenzied as players did their best to get a touch on the ball and join in the fun of their first game. Although we were quite bunched in our play, we managed to keep the ball in the opposition half and at some point the ball broke free of the pack for **Sineth** to emerge and score our first goal of 2020 with a nice strike down low to beat the Toongabbie keeper.

The early goal raised the energy level amongst the team as they began to string a few passes together and continue to dominate possession and field position resulting in our second goal to **Sayan**, who had only just come onto the field after starting the game on the bench.

Our goalkeeper, **Liam**, had very little to do in the opening exchanges as all the play continued to remain at the other end of the park. This was partly due to our defenders **Bijad** and **Adnan** effectively repelling the ball back up the field each time it managed to cross the halfway line and into our territory. On one such occasion, **Bijad** intercepted the ball, controlling it skilfully at his feet before striking it cleanly up the field to an open teammate in an attacking position, resulting in another goal to **Sayan**.

Ashutosh was heavily involved in the middle of the park with some good touches on the ball to get our play moving forward, with **Zoran** showing great positional play and speed, causing Toongabbie a few problems down the right hand side of the field. **Tristan** was enjoying himself on the left side and his persistence to get involved in the game paid off as he got a timely outstretched boot to the ball in a crowded goalmouth to get our fourth goal just before halftime.

During the break it was clear that each of the players were enjoying themselves immensely and having a great deal of fun. My only instructions for the second half was to keep it going and to work on spreading out and passing.

It wasn't long before we scored a fifth goal to a well-deserved **Zoran**, who had shown great persistence and intent all game. However, off the back of some great goalkeeping, Toongabbie began to make a few breaks themselves and gain in confidence as time went on, managing to disrupt our possession and keep us out for the rest of the game. **Bijad** (pictured right) worked hard to get involved at every opportunity and his contribution to the team earned him the Player of the Match award for this week.



All-in-all, it was a fantastic effort from both teams and fun to watch the smiles on their faces after a long wait of not knowing if we would even get to play this year. I'm excited by the excellent group of players in our team and the opportunities we will have to grow and develop in the months ahead.

Coach Anthony

Final Score: 5 – 0 to Granville Waratah SFC



The Under 8 Possums reflect on their great start to the season

Under 8 Wombats

The team was very excited to be on the field for our first game of the year against **Rydalmere FC**. This is our third year as a team and we have some new faces but most of us are getting to know each other quite well both on and off the field.

Jyanshu was our first brave player to volunteer for the role of goalkeeper. **Jyanshu** is new to our team this year and he has already shown his commitment to the team.

We proudly scored our first goal of the season. The honors went to our own



lightning bolt, **Savya**! He made an incredible solo run from halfway and showed composure beyond his years to slot it past the Rydalmere goalkeeper. Great goal **Savya**!

Yash was our second half goalkeeper and showed he is just as good in between the sticks as he is on field.

Tania and **Rania** teamed up with **Rose** and **Nicholas** to show what they can do. The girls (and 5 year old boy!) showed no fear against opponents who are bigger than they were. Size doesn't matter on the football field! **Rania** almost scored a goal herself with a good shot but the goalkeeper just managed to save it.

Aditya was his usual energetic self. He attacked the opponents half on numerous occasions with excellent solo dribbling and almost went all the way himself.

Our newest addition to the team, **Zain**, showed his natural ability on the ball. Thank for choosing to join the team **Zain** and we look forward to seeing your skills in action this season!

The highlight for me as a coach was to see our team put our passing skills into practice. It was a great sight to see.

Coach Michael

Final Score: 1 – 2 to Rydalmere FC



Under 9 Wombats

Our game against **Holroyd Rangers** was the first match of the season and all the players were understandably excited. As Holroyd were short one player, we sportingly agreed to loan one of our players to even things up, a gesture much appreciated by the opposition.

The game kicked off and, after a rather sluggish start, Rangers were the first ones to score during the first half.

We went into the break still very much in the game and in the second half the team really started to come together and play like well-oiled machinery. In quick succession Granville scored two goals but, unfortunately for the team, when the second goal was scored there were 8 players on the field and so the second goal was not counted on technical grounds.

The game ended a 1-1 draw but the team can hold their heads high as all played very well indeed.

It's a shame that our next game is a bye. I am sure many players want to play their next game as soon as possible having waited so long for their first taste of soccer in 2020.

Coach Himanshu

Final Score: a 1 – 1 draw



Under 10 Dolphins

And we're back! Our first match of our belated season was against **Merrylands SFC**. Last year's incarnation of the Dolphins met them just the once, coming out 2-0 winners, but who knows what talent they could have packed in since then, so I was treating this game as a good test of our abilities against good opposition.

We welcomed **Joshua** and **Elijah** into the squad and would have also welcomed **Sri** if he hadn't got stuck overseas when Covid-19 hit. We're holding your space open for you, **Sri**, hurry back!

The match got underway, and, after some nervous touches, the game started to swing Granville's way as we were the better passing team. But Merryland's best Under 10 players were giving us a good match, especially their bean pole of a centre back who was snuffing out all our best attacks. Our reserves kept asking me if he was actually an Under 10 player but I just pointed to our own 'big kid' in **Ishan** and said they are probably asking the same.



Troy and Elijah doing their best to put the ball into the net

If there's one thing this team does well is that they understand that it's their ball and to not let the opposition have it. The entire team put in their tackles and blocks when needed, especially **Harsh & Ethan** in defense and **Joshua & Ishan** in midfield, and we went into the break without conceding a single shot on target. **Josh** was the designated ball scrapper and his crunching tackles broke down lots of their attacks. **Joseph**, volunteering in goals first half, didn't know whether to be happy at not having to save anything, or be bored at not having to save anything.

Ajiri, playing his usual good defensive midfield role, broke up lots of their plays and launched many a counter attack with his great tactical long kicks, while **Troy** was making great runs down the left flank.

The only problem was... all the extra space! The team had spent the last two years playing on 1/4 of a full field and now suddenly we were playing with twice the field space. **Troy** on the left, and **Elijah** up front were making great



Ishan goes for power...

runs but everyone else was too tired to back them up!

Thankfully, the one and only time we pulled off a 3-D soccer move in the game, a nicely weighted through ball from **Ishan** to our midfield general **Anuj**, we scored the winner when **Anuj** calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner. **Ishan's** face went from red to grinning having skied his earlier shot when gifted with a great chance to shoot from the edge of the box only minutes before, which is how we like his face.

Many thanks to **Ram** and **Bala** from the Wombats team for volunteering to be reserves for our match, backing up **Nathan** who was away for the game.

Fitness is now a training focus where it wasn't before and I'm looking forward to coaching the team how to use all the extra space!

Coach Andy

Final Score: 1 – 0 to Granville Waratah SFC



Under 11 Koalas

We kicked off the season against **Rydalmere FC**.

I was so PROUD of the team who has only just started to come together and played together for the first time on Saturday.



Even though nine players are allowed on the field, only eight players showed up for the Waratah. We needed a mighty effort from the team and they delivered. It certainly was a tight tussle and a real dogged battle but a strong effort and a push forward soon found **Deon** in front of goal and a nice shot past the keeper to take the lead one nil.

As fatigue set in late in the first half, Rydalmere found an equalizer and we went into the break at 1-1. The boys knew they had to find extra energy for the second half – AND THEY DID!

Neither team scored in the second half but the defence of **Leo**, **Harish** and **Aayan** in the back were excellent, scrambling well to turn away every attack.

Our mid-field of **Bhargav**, **Aryan**, **Krish** and **Deon** fought hard for every ball, playing wide moving the ball forward and keeping the Rydalmere team wary of our ability to score.



The team were noticeably tired but never gave up tackling and challenging for the ball, lead by **Deon** who put in a Player of the Match performance, to see the team secure a well-earned draw. A very special mention must go to **Hrrishi** in goals who was fantastic and his confidence between the sticks was inspirational.

Interim Coach Noel

Final Score: a 1 – 1 draw

Under 12 Div. 3

Up and At 'Em - Like a cleansing, down came the rain in the early hours of the very first game day (after a long isolating hiatus). This downpour could have been yet another deterrent to life being lived – another obstacle in the long line of recent setbacks for us all. Yet instead, this time it was a sign for the better. On this morning, the field was washed and cleaned and made ready by these rains. And then the sun came out. And so did the people. Out of their homes – out from their extended sleeps, rest and slumbers.

Fresh Players, Fresh Jerseys, Fresh Faces – all ready to play the recent days of isolation away. People. Community. Game. PLAY.

The scene was set at Progress Park – appropriate. 'Progress' meaning: forward and onward – to a better and improved destination. (Here's hoping, for all).

Auburn District were our opposition in soccer on this day, but they were also our brothers in arms in battling COVID isolation, inactivity and fear on this day. Everyone nervous, everyone anxious, everyone excited. And then the whistle blew! A sudden jolt – an initial sudden shock – and then off they all charged!



Angus running away with the first goal of the season.

Only mere moments had passed, when **Angus** on the right wing of the Waratahs scored the first goal of the season (pictured above right) – closely followed by another goal from **Akeem** on the Waratahs' left wing. A great one-two punch opening from this fresh, newly assembled team.

Next was **Seif** – ALL THE WAY! – a man on a mission, he drove the ball in hard into the back of Auburn's net. Great defence from the Waratahs throughout this half. And rounding things off, **Akeem** skilfully placed another goal in for a 4 – 0 lead at half time.

A good part of the second half saw **Ali S** repeatedly and valiantly chopping away with corner after corner – ultimately a great pay off seeing him assist **Seif** in nabbing his second goal. Only to then see **Ali S** himself smack one into the back of



Seif makes the net bulge ... again!

the net. Again, great defence from the Waratahs this second half.

Ian in goals never letting any of the oppositions attempts in – quality, solid keeping. **Sarth** forever sending Auburn packing whenever they approached him. **Taaha** likewise seemed to take any oppositional attack personally, and was quick to sort them out. **Saharsh** and **Kyran** every bit laser focused – and in particular some impressive defensive efforts from the two.

Adee and **Fahad** kept things in control in mid-field. **Ethan** – someone wound him up before the game, and he simply didn't stop – seemed to be everywhere, all the time. **Ali H** assisted strong moves up front; and **Nithin** was our final player to score. The last ten minutes were a tight and gripping back and forth from both teams. A 7 - 0 final score to the Waratahs.

The team gelled well together, full of skilled, confident, respectful gameplay. All this a good sign for the new team; and the result a good sign for the season to come. Well done players, coach, and all.

Good to be back in the game!

Coach Steve

Coach's Player of the Match: **Ethan**

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 0 – 7 to Granville Waratah SFC



Coach Steve talking to his new team of Waratah warriors



Ethan, Player of the Match. In the words of the coach: "the glue that held the team together".

Under 12 Div. 4

It was a great effort from our players on the weekend in their first game of the season against **Wenty Waratah**, and first game as a team.

The team is still recruiting for more players and as such only had the starting 11 to use on the day.

Having no reserves led to players not being able to catch their breath and the team conceded four times for no reply. However, the team played well enough to have a very positive effect on at least one person: the brother of **Akash** now wants to play with the team!

Despite the defeat, and with no substitutes to allow energy levels to stay high, the team played gallantly and with desire.

With more training with coach Stephen under their belts, we can expect to see great things from the squad this season.



Coach Stephen

Report by Andy

Final Score: 0 – 4 to Wenty Waratah



Under 14 Div. 3

Finally, the 2020 season has kicked off!

The under 14's went through number of changes, with some players leaving and some new players joining the club. Our first game was against **Wentworthville Uniting**.

From the kick-off, our team was fired up and one of those was our veteran player **Dev**, almost opened the account after 2 minutes of play. However, our first goal was scored by our new recruit **Vihaan** to start off the proceeding.

On the 12 minute mark, **Dev** pounced on a loose ball to make it 2-0. In the 20th minute Granville had a corner and a smart run by captain **Dean** increased the score to 3-0. The 25th minute saw our team score again with a great dribble through midfield by **Wisam**, to make it 4-0.

The second half started just like the the first, with speedster **Ankit**, **Manraj** and **Gene** on the flanks, while midfield was controlled by **Wisam**, **Dev** and **Adam**.

Our next goal came from our right back defender **Ricky**, with a great run down the right-hand side, with a tight angle managed to put away for our 5th goal.

Scant minutes later, **Dev** scored another great goal to make it 6-0. Not long after **Vihaan** scored his 2nd goal while **Gene** did a great run in midfield to get his name on the score board to make it 8-0.

Then in the last minute, **Dev** scored our 9th goal and completed his hat trick.

All other players like **Bryson**, **Soumil**, **Abhijit** & **Dean** did their part for a great victory.

Our next game is against Pendle Hill. Well done team!

Coach Goran

Final Score: 0 – 9 to Granville Waratah SFC

