

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2020 season - Volume 04 - 22nd July 2020**



FROM THE PREZ

At the end of the season we hold our Trophy Presentation Day. It's a wonderful day where the Miniroos receive medals and the full field teams receive trophies – the further into the finals the team goes, the bigger the trophy – let's hope we are presenting BIG trophies this season!

For all our new members, it is important to note that these are not the only awards we present. There are also the Perpetual Awards we give to each team that include, Best & Fairest, Most Valuable and Most Improved.

And there are still three more Awards we present:

- the **Team of the Year** - worked out on a mathematical equation
- the **Young Player of the Year Award** for our Miniroos, and
- perhaps the highest honour we can give a player, the **Bill Henderson Player of the Year Award**.

Bill Henderson (pictured right) was a very proud Granville Waratah junior who played for us in the 1940's and even won the 1946 under 16's Grand Championship – his team photo and 1946 trophy still hangs proudly in our Robin Thomas Reserve Clubhouse. Bill went on to represent Australia as a goalkeeper in 1953 and was also selected for the Olyroos in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.



We rightly honour him with this Award and, god willing, he will again present his award at our Presentation. He is 91 years old this year.

To win his Award you must excel in three key areas, Leadership, Commitment and SPORTSMANSHIP. I want to focus on Sportsmanship for this piece.

I tell the teams that I coach that I have two goals, firstly to make you a better soccer player, and secondly, to make you a better person – sportsmanship has lot to do with that.

Sportsmanship is easy when you win, so it is to be expected but when you are losing, that's when it really tests you. Growing up as a



boy I wasn't a very good soccer player, in fact, I was hopeless. Not from want of effort but I simply wasn't very talented – and also my coaches weren't very good either but that's another story. Despite all of this, the one thing I did get taught was sportsmanship - it's the Australian way, mate.

I was taught;

1. **To Respect the referees – even when they are wrong, they are right;**
2. **Always clap a player if he is taken off the field injured, especially if it's the opposition;**
3. **Always shake hands after the match; and**
4. **Always give three cheers to your opposition, especially if you have just lost the match.**

The value of the post-game three cheers cannot be underestimated and I expect ALL OF OUR TEAMS TO GIVE 3 CHEERS, even if we don't get 3 cheers in return. It is a proud long time tradition we have in our sport and one we must continue.

Granville Waratah will be known as a club that practices good sportsmanship, and as a family club, we can be very proud of that. No matter the score or the behaviour of the opposition, we will aim high and build a reputation of being good sports, especially when others may not expect it from us, that is the true test and if you pass that you are worthy of winning the Bill Henderson Player of the Year.

Go the Tahs!

Noel Dona,
Club President.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Membership Packs

The Membership packs – backpack, cap, and water bottle – have now been handed out to all teams but if you haven't yet received yours, please come to the canteen during training to claim one.

We also promised a training T-shirt, this is still coming and we hope to hand it out within the next fortnight at the latest. It's not compulsory to wear the shirts when they arrive but it looks good when all the kids are wearing the same uniform. We also encourage players to wear their training shirts to and from their Saturday games, it gives an impressive look for the club if everyone does it.

The Canteen

We have managed to get our canteen running because we simply can't do without it on match days but it is currently being managed by the Club President who already does so much for the club.

Last year we tried out a roster based upon when teams were playing at home. It more or less worked and we want to try it again this season, starting from next weekend. When your team is rostered on for canteen duty, please volunteer to be one of the two we need to keep the canteen sufficiently staffed. It's a great experience, we promise!

RESULTS FROM ROUND 03

Not the best round of football, results wise. However, some teams are still doing very well: the Under 12/3s are still undefeated with another resounding win, although they've now conceded for the first time. Get it together coach Steve!

The Under 14's came crashing back to earth with a defeat against Rydalmere but maybe the team didn't want to be promoted to a higher division! We'll see in the coming weeks.

The U8 Possums and U10 Dolphins also recored their first losses; Rydalmere edged out the Possums in a nine goal thriller, while the Dolphins were up against Holroyd's inhouse academy team with a pocket dynamo slicing them apart.

Both our Premier League teams were stood down as a result of last week's abandoned game, which is a shame considering their performance and efforts on Sunday. I hope the squad has learned the lesson!

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Holroyd Rangers	5	2	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Possums	Granville Waratah SFC	7	8	Rydalmere FC
08 Wombats	Dundas United	7	0	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	5	1	Newington Gunners
09 Wombats	Lidcombe Waratah	1	1	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Dolphins	Granville Waratah SFC	2	8	Holroyd Rangers
10 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	2	2	Pendle Hill Tigers
10 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	0	9	Toongabbie Demons
11 Koalas	Auburn FC	3	0	Granville Waratah SFC
12 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	11	2	Toongabbie Demons
12 Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	8	0	Merrylands SFC
14 Div. 3	Rydalmere FC	5	0	Granville Waratah SFC
16 Combined	Granville Waratah SFC	3	3	Regents Park
AAM Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	4	2	Merrylands SFC
Premier League Res.	Merrylands SFC	Stood	Down	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League 1sts	Merrylands SFC	Stood	Down	Granville Waratah SFC

RESULTS FROM ROUND 04

Our Premier League teams are starting to show their worth with two outstanding wins on Sunday night. If you aren't coming along to watch, you're really missing out on some high octane football – the first team players were pinging the ball around like pros and keeping possession well, only to then explode into action and score some wonderful goals.

I was lucky enough to be just behind the net for our third and fourth scores and they were both sublime, well-taken goals, the fourth a nutmeg through the goal keeper's legs. So come along and watch our next Premier League match at our home ground at Belmore Park, the canteen will be open to serve you some hot drinks while you take in all the action.

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	2	1	Merrylands SFC
08 Possums	Merrylands SFC	2	6	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Wombats	Greystanes FC BLK	15	0	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	5	2	Greystanes FC WHT
09 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	7	0	Pendle Hill Tigers
10 Dolphins	Auburn District	4	4	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Koalas	Parramatta City	3	7	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	2	3	Auburn FC
11 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	0	8	Greystanes FC
12 Div. 3	Wenty Waratah	0	7	Granville Waratah SFC
12 Div. 4	Guildford McCredie	1	4	Granville Waratah SFC
14 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	11	0	Merrylands SFC
16 Combined	Merrylands SFC	2	1	Granville Waratah SFC
AAM Div. 4	Holroyd Rangers	3	0	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League Res.	Granville Waratah SFC	3	0	Holroyd Rangers
Premier League 1sts	Granville Waratah SFC	4	1	Holroyd Rangers

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 Possums** win again for submitting the best photos along with a great report. Thanks to Arun for the report and photos.

Fair warning to all the other age groups: your photos will need to be good to overcome the cuteness factor of the Under 6 Possums and Wombat teams!

Under 6 Possums – Featured Match Report

Our match on Saturday against **Rydalmere FC Black** was held at the home ground in wonderful warm weather. This was the first of the season that the players could really play without any jackets on right through the match.

The team really proved their mettle by raring against the opponents like champions. While **Agni** was the undebatable champion of the week, what was really noteworthy was that the team mustered good spirit in defending their goal often.

Shrineel and **Ilyas** displayed great defensive capabilities, while **Deeksha** and **Avyaan** came in as surprise packages with their tackling skills.

Edin marched towards the opponent goal a few times, but was unlucky not to score. He was a wonder to watch, as usual.

Overall, it was a great show - with the opposition team displaying their best. The team really missed **Ali's** contribution on Saturday, only to see his magic turn up the next day... you won't want to miss the match report from Sunday!!!

Results aside, what was seen was a happy and satisfied team - that went back with pride in their eyes.

Coach Anubha and **Arun**

Report by **Arun**

Our Sunday match was against another **Rydalmere FC** team, this one is called the White team (or WHT) to distinguish it from the Black team we played on Saturday.

It was a wonderful day for the Granville Possums - playing their



first game outside home ground. To everyone's surprise, the team raged like unformidable pride of lions. The opponents lost the count of goals with the way the champions charged towards them.

While the team had maintained the momentum from the previous games, what was unmissable was the team spirit. They experimented with passes - hitherto untried - and it worked wonderfully well. The opponents, despite on their home ground, were shaken and surprised by the speed of attack and team strength of the Granville Waratah team.

Agni continued to be the Player of the Week with his centre-forward moves. **Ilyas, Shrineel** and **Ali** displayed great muscle returning to the goals whenever their team warranted support near the goal.

Avyaan raced with his prowess to the centre-forward and guarded the mid-field whenever attacks were raised while **Deeksha**, with her improving tackling skills, gave the opponents a tough time and helped to keep the ball near their goal. Focus and team spirit was infallible - and was very pleasing for the parents to watch.

Needless to mention, the support and encouragement - and most of all - the pride of the parents is the backbone of the enthusiasm of all kids. This was shown during the match and their volunteering to commit to the team culture is exciting to note.

Hoping to see more of these wonderful moments of pride...

Coach Anubha and Arun

Reports by Arun



Under 6 Wombats

Our Round 3 game against **Lidcombe Waratah** was a nice sunny day, warm ups went well and the kids were excited.

The game started very strongly for Granville and we scored early and another goal was added shortly after by us. The taste for scoring is there!

Aditya scored a very powerful goal and played really well.

Rutvi had a few good tackles and stopped a few good runs from the opposition.

Sreeyan had a great game and scored a really great goal, a clean, one touch kick into the goal, he was very proud of himself and so were we! **Sreeyan** also showed good skill and rolled the ball backwards away from the opposition defenders, great trick **Sreeyan**.

Rohan played a strong defence game and stole the ball a few times.

Aidan had a few good dribbles and was very strong in his tackles.

Krithik had a couple of great chances and was in the right spot to receive the ball for his chances at goal.

Herschel was very passionate about the game and was very energetic in chasing the ball and tackling.

A few things we needed to work on are: no talking when the ball is in play, keeping spacing and chasing the ball when the opposition has possession and tackling.

Well done everyone!

Coach Melvin

Coach's Player of the Match: **Sreeyan** for his great goal. Well done **Sreeyan**!



Our Round 4 game against **Newington Gunners** was a nice sunny day to be playing at home.

With our Round 3 game still fresh in our minds, the team were keen to work on the lessons learned from the previous match. We focused on two things: Spread out and make a big box (this was great and also stopped the talking during the game), and also to keep watching the ball. This helped to reduce the amount of times the players were distracted.

The team did the two focus points very well today; we kept formation and also covered more ground. There was no talking during play and everyone was switched on.

Aditya played very well. He had a small injury and that only made him play better! We saw great determination and focus and the result was a hat-trick to Aditya! How awesome!

Rutvi tackled very well and was involved in stopping a few good chances from the opposition.

Sreeyan didn't play due to a non-football injury. Get better soon, **Sreeyan**, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Rohan played a strong defensive game, ran down and defended the ball well. And also did well with some assists for our goals.

Aidan stole possession many times and stopped a few goals, he was very energetic to the ball and didn't let anyone get the ball back. He cleared the ball effectively away from the opposition team many times. You had a great game today, **Aidan**, and listened carefully and kept your position in the formation. You were also great at practising your celebration during warm-up, well done!

Krithik had a couple of great chances for goal and was able to defend well in keeping the ball in the opposition half. Great defending!

Herschel played very well and stole possession and dribbled the ball away for some clear runs, he was very fast and was able to keep the ball away from the opposition many times.

The team did really well and the focus areas we wanted to work on improved. There was less talking during the game and we understood spacing. Next things we will work on are keeping possession and scoring.

Well done everyone!

Coach Melvin

Coach's player of the match is: **Aidan** for his great game. Well done **Aidan**!



Under 7 Koalas

The Koalas were up against **Holroyd Rangers** on Saturday.

It was a hard fought game for our little champs as the opposition were a strong team and scored first.

The game continued with our Waratahs fighting hard to pressure their goal but the opposition had some opportunities to score.

Our players were a bit surprised by Rangers' performance and strategies as they initially overran us, managing to put the ball into the net quite a few times.

However, Granville managed to score some goals too as **Roy** and **Shrey** did very well to score three goals against the opposition.

Karthik and **Arjun** ran towards the goal and defended against the opposition well!

Samridh, **Mani** and **Drisha** too ran all around the ground, tried passes and dribbled well with the ball.

We missed one of our key players **Khang** today as well, hopefully he can join us for the next match.

Despite the tough fight, our Waratah team learned lots from the match and will take that experience into our next training sessions and games.

Well done team!! Keep your spirits up and you will definitely rock in future games!

Coach Victor



Under 8 Koalas – Round 3

The team had a early start for our Saturday game against **Holroyd Rangers** but by kick-off time we warmed up and ready to go. We have history with this team as they were the only team to beat us last year. We wanted the win!

So the game started and it started fast. Both teams came out firing. It was end-to-end for five solid minutes. Both teams looked like scoring. But, unfortunately, a breakaway by the opposition from a mistake by Granville was costly. The opposition scored and we were 1-0 down.

At that point the boys fought to to score, but unfortunately it was tough and the opposition scored another two before half-time. The boys just couldn't string the passes to find a team mate, they were stretched across the park by a great opposition.

So we started the second half with a positive outlook towards scoring first. And with alot determination we scored off a corner swung in and **Christian** was able to knock the ball in the back of the net. It was 3-1 with 15 to go.

We still struggled to get a hold of the match and it was hard work chasing the score. Then the opposition scored another to make it 4-1. After the almighty effort we'd just put in, this visibly broke the boys.



But the players picked themselves up and we played on and fought and found ourselves with free kick after **Jude** was taken out outside the box. He took the free kick and was able to beat the keeper and put the ball in the back of the net. Great kick **Jude**!

So 4-2 down with only five minutes to go we had hope to get two more just to draw. Unfortunately, the boys were tiring and finding it hard to get a hold of the game and with a few minutes to go the oppostion scored their fifth.

It may have been a bad day at the office for the result, but for the effort the boys put in I am very proud of them and also for keeping up the fight to the end.

Coach Ferras

Final Score: 5 – 2 to Holroyd Rangers

Under 8 Koalas – Round 4

For the second game of our double-header weekend we faced **Merrylands SFC**. After a below-average performance on Saturday, I could see the boys showed up to win on the Sunday. The warm up was spot on and we were ready to go.

The game started and the boys went out on the pitch with a purpose.

Movement on and off the ball was incredible. We had full control of the game. We were passing, calling and making space. Unfortunately, we lost the ball in the middle of the park and Merrylands pounced on the mistake and ran away to score first.

The boys were not dishearted, they stayed positive and kept putting pressure on Merrylands. But we couldn't find a way through and went into half-time still trailing 1-0.

Merrylands kicked off the second half and within only a few minutes, after sitting in the opposition half for five to six minutes, **Jude** found himself one-on-one with the goal keeper and scored a cracking goal to even up the score at 1-1.

We were back in the driving seat. The boys kept the pressure, with **Isaac**, **Christian** and **Mahmoud** having shots at goal and keeping possession well.

Then, with just five minutes to go, **Jude** found some space 10 yards out from goal and took a great shot that beat the 'keeper to put us ahead for the first time in the match.

Jude's goal turned out to be the winner as the game ended 2-1, completing a great come-back from behind win.

Coach Ferras

Final Score: 2 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC



Under 8 Possums – Round 3

As our team began to slowly assemble on a bright and sunny morning at Belmore Park it was immediately clear that we were in for a challenge as our opposition, **Rydalmere FC**, were already busy doing their warm up drills looking very organised and disciplined.

Unfortunately **Tristan** was missing from our line-up this week due to school holidays, however with perfect timing we welcomed a new player to the ranks, **Yaseen**, who added some much-needed depth and enthusiasm to the group.



The match started at a cracking pace and didn't let up until the final whistle. Against the run of play and in our first attacking move of the game, **Sineth** scored the first goal for **Granville** to get us going on the right foot, before Rydalmere hit back with 2 goals of their own. Next **Sayan** found the back of the net for our team, only for Rydalmere to repeat another double dose of goals to take a 4-2 early lead in the match.

Our Goalkeeper, **Liam**, was doing well to put his body on the line as Rydalmere were making good use of their skilful and accurate strikers who were finding their range from well outside the box and drilling their attempts into the top corners of the goal posts, making it extremely difficult for our players to defend.

Sayan scored his second goal to bring us back in touch with our opposition just before the halftime break, which we greatly needed in order to regroup and come up with a plan to counter what we were up against. We had made a few errors in defense in the first half and were guilty of not clearing the ball out of the danger zone with any conviction, giving Rydalmere too many opportunities to attack.

Bijad (pictured right) volunteered to play goalkeeper in the second half and he



didn't have to wait long to get into the action as Rydalmere went on the attack early with two quick goals to jump out to a 6-3 lead on the scoreboard. Despite this set back our boys continued to work hard to improve their calling and passing which provided a bit more shape and opportunity in our game as a result.

Adnan was having a great game at right fullback and helped to shut down the flow of goals and feed the ball upfield to the likes of **Liam, Zoran, Sayan** and **Sineth** who were beginning to find more open space out wide the longer the game went on. The tide was beginning to change as **Zoran** got on the scoreboard with a timely strike and soon everyone on the team was getting some good touches on the ball. Our new recruit, **Yaseen**, was gaining confidence and **Ashutosh** joined in the wave of possession that Granville was beginning to enjoy.

With Rydalmere under pressure, **Sineth** showed his class with the ball at his feet and with renewed determination he got our team back level with 3 unanswered goals. Excitement was fever pitch around the ground as the scene was set for a nail-biting, cliff-hanger final few minutes to see which team could find the winning goal.

Rydalmere's goalkeeper managed to deny several attempts on goal by Granville, much to the anguish of our players and parents, which then turned into heartache as we watched Rydalmere run the length of the field and hit a clean strike into the goal in the very last second before the referee's whistle blew full-time.

Despite the loss on the scoreboard, this was a thoroughly entertaining, high-scoring, end-to-end battle by both teams who showed great enthusiasm and commitment. Once again, I was impressed with our team's ability to fight back after being on the back foot as well as putting into practice some of the things we've been learning at training.

Liam won our Player of the Match for an impressive effort in goals in the first half and his contributions to the team in the second half. Well done Liam and well done U8 Possums.

Coach Anthony

Final Score: 8 – 7 to Rydalmere FC



Under 8 Possums – Round 4

For our second match of the weekend we travelled to Merrylands for our first away game of the season against **Merrylands SFC**. Conditions for playing soccer could not have been more perfect as the beautifully prepared, flat, lush-green pitch, beamed under the bright blue sky, matching the glowing excitement of players assembled and ready for kick-off.

Tristan re-joined our team for this match giving us a full quota of players to choose from, which now included the luxury of 2 reserves.

Sayan wasted no time in scoring the opening goal of the game after only 40 seconds of play, as if he was still charged up with unused energy from our match the previous day.

To their credit, Merrylands responded soon after with one of their own goals through a very nice shot on the run from one of their key strikers. Some good passing down the left side of the field between **Zoran**, **Sineth** and **Sayan**, saw Granville score a second goal and the early signs of confidence amongst the team were looking very promising.

Bijad and **Adnan** were stamping their authority at the back with some hard contact defense, good decision making and clearance kicks, giving the rest of the team a solid platform in which build from. Our midfielders were busy trying to link up with each other and a brilliant through ball from **Tristan** provided **Sineth** with room to work his magic and score a well-worked goal.

We continued to enjoy the bulk of possession and field position, when moments before halftime a corner kick from Merrylands saw the ball strike **Liam** on the forearm and unfortunately ricochet into the goals. Nonetheless it an impressive first half and I was looking for more of the same from the team in the second 20 minutes, with a continued focus on our passing game.

Zoran got things going with well-deserved early goal after spending most of the match looking to position himself in good areas of the field off the ball. The whole team was now starting to work more as a unit, from **Tristan's** effective goal kicks, **Liam's** clearing kicks and runs down the sideline, **Ashutosh's** passing and **Yaseen** timing his interceptions to perfection. All of this good work meant that our 3 main strikers, **Zoran**, **Sineth** and **Sayan**, were almost getting in each other's way with the amount of ball they were receiving in



Liam on the ball with Sineth and Zoran



Liam takes a free kick at goal

attacking situations.

Sineth went on to score 2 more goals for Granville to take the game away from Merrylands and to seal an all-round solid performance from our boys. This was a very pleasing team effort and a very rewarding one as a coach to see our style of play mature and develop in such a short period of time. We still have much to learn individually and as a group, but I think we will benefit greatly from these 2 games back-to-back, with improved cohesion between players and a better understanding of the different roles each player can make to contribute to the team.



Adnan chases after the ball

I didn't select a Player of the Match for this game, which was just as well, as it would have been very difficult to choose one player from so many good performances. Great game boys!

Coach Anthony

Final Score: 6 – 2 to Granville Waratah SFC



Under 8 Wombats – Round 3

Our first game of the double header weekend was away to **Dundas United**.

Jyanshu was first up to wear the goalkeeper gloves. He made excellent saves and showed he is very brave in goals. Dundas managed to get past our defenders on an occasion and I was certain the ball was in the back of the net. It took the crowd a moment to realise that **Jyanshu** had made an excellent diving save to his left and got a hand to the ball to push it wide. Nice work **Jyanshu**!

Rania bravely and proudly raised her hand for second half goal keeper duties. **Rania** was amazing in goals too! Dundas were in on goal but **Rania** made the block with her feet and even came off her line to chase the ball down with enthusiasm. Good job **Rania**!

Yash is showing his leadership skills on the field. **Yash** was asked to manage our backline and did an outstanding job. He showed me can read the game and is always in the right place at the right time to turn defence into attack. Thank you **Yash**.



While the result didn't go our way on the day, I was impressed with the way the team showed no fear and are putting our training skills into practice on the field on game day.

Coach Michael

Final Score: 7 – 0 to Dundas United

Under 8 Wombats – Round 4

Round 4 was our second game of the weekend and we were up against a very tough **Greystanes** side.

We were missing 4 players today meaning we only had 5 players to represent our club. **Rose, Nicholas, Tania, Rania** and **Zain** had it all to do themselves this time.

We all knew we had the odds stacked against us. Greystanes had a team of 10 boys who were ready to play and they were up against a reduced strength side.



Nonetheless, I am the proudest coach in all of Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association!

Without a doubt, the best player on the field today was our own little wonder kid, **Zain**. Greystanes boys may have been bigger in stature but they could not come close to stopping the silky footwork **Zain** demonstrated today. **Zain** would come back to help the defence and once he had the ball he would dribble past one, two, three, four and even five players before FINALLY he was tackled through sheer numbers. Outstanding stuff **Zain**!

We were outnumbered on the field but not outclassed. **Rania** and **Tania** teamed up well to make tackle after tackle to frustrate the attackers. I am very proud of the way the girls get stuck into the tackle.

Rose won the ball in the first half and made a nice run past several boys getting tackled. **Rose** is a diminutive girl but she showed the Greystanes boys she was not going to be bossed around on the field. **Rose** made an excellent dribble in the second half and was only stopped by getting fouled. She dusted herself off and got straight back up without hesitation. Good girl **Rose**!

Nicholas was our midfield specialist and showed everyone how well he can pass the ball to teammates that are in space. **Nicholas** made several individual runs with the ball. On one occasion, the crowd, including the Greystanes parents, applauded his solo run. **Nicholas** is still only five years old and playing with our Under 8s and it is the cutest sight to see. In the second half, **Nicholas** bravely stepped up to goalkeeping duties and put in an amazing effort to make more saves than anyone could have possibly imagined.

Greystanes made it past our defenders and it was one-on-one with the goalkeeper. It was a certain goal. However, **Nicholas** managed to get behind the ball and saved it with his knee. The crowd, including the Greystanes parents, broke into applause and cheers!

At full time, the coach and parents of Greystanes came up to me and my team to congratulate us on an outstanding performance and effort. The Greystanes coach privately congratulated me for the bravery the team showed and how great the kids are.

We didn't win on the scoreboard, but we won the hearts of players and parents alike. The team represented our club proudly and each player is a star. Thank you kids.

Next time, we will have a full strength team and I look forward to the rematch. Go the mighty Waratahs!

Coach Michael

**Final Score: 15 – 0 to
Greystanes FC**



Under 10 Dolphins

Our weekend of football was both a chastening learning experience and a bad tasting one... so, we should try to remember it but understandably don't want to. On Saturday the team was up against **Holroyd Rangers**, but we had our work cut out for us as it turned out they are their in-house Academy team. We were wondering why they were scoring for fun and we saw first hand why.

We held them out for the first 5 to 10 minutes but their players were very quick on the ball and confident in their passes and we ended up conceding eight times throughout the match. It was a good experience for our players – they can see the next level to reach if they apply themselves and put in the practice at home and at training.

We did score two goals ourselves, very nearly completely identical goals they were too. **Ajiri**, who we've got on goal kicking duties, kicks the ball hard enough to land in the opposition half and accurate enough to find **Nathan** out on the left and steaming down the wing. **Nate** keep the ball well, angles towards the goalie and then at the last moment presents the ball on a plate for **Elijah** to tap home.

It wasn't long before we did it exactly like before – **Ajiri** to **Nathan** to **Elijah** for the tap in, showing the delighted parents watching that the first one wasn't a fluke. But apart from those moments, we struggled to keep our attacking moves going and thus didn't create enough chances to counter the number that Holroyd were able to create.

But, as a great Russian revolutionary once said: "defeated armies learn well." And learn we will.

And on Sunday, after watching a match that at times resembled a rugby league game, we experienced quite an ugly incident where the opposition coach created a frightening impression on our players, having to be restrained by parents while trying to escalate a tense situation. It's not something that belongs in youth sport and we have taken steps to ensure we don't see a repeat.

The game itself, if you forget the rougher than normal play, was a good match... both teams scored good goals, Granville scored six goals to two for Auburn, but unluckily for us, two of our goals were own goals – one an unfortunate one that we could do nothing about, and the other one a beautiful header from **Ishan** that didn't go exactly the way he wanted and flew over a bemused **Harsh** (in goals first half) and into the net.

And so the match ended a 4-4 draw but it's a game we don't want to remember and that's a shame.

Coach's Player of the Match (Saturday): **Ajiri**

Final Score (Saturday): 2 – 8 to Holroyd Rangers

Final Score (Sunday): a 4 – 4 draw



Under 11 Koalas – Round 3

Our match on Saturday against **Auburn FC** was frustrating as the team had some good moments in front of their goal and some good hustle but we just couldn't find the back of their net.

At the other end of the field, we put in some good effort but not for the full 60 minutes. We scrambled well in the first half but when we lost our shape we were punished with a soft goal through the middle. The same thing happened in the second half allowing two more soft goals when we lost our way.

Rayan was good in goals in the second half and saved some good shots to stop the score being more against us but we need to learn to play hard and smart.

When we do play wide, we move the ball down field well and create opportunities.

Player of the Match was **Devansh** who was playing his first ever game of club soccer. He was obviously very excited to play and worked hard every minute he was on the field. His positional play needs work but that is understandable. We all look forward to seeing him improve. The rest of the team needs to remember to stay focused for the full game.

Coach Noel

Final Score: 3 – 0 to Auburn FC



Under 11 Koalas – Round 4

Despite the score line blowing out, I was very happy with the effort and the attitude of the team – they never gave up!

It would have been easy to give up when **Greystanes FC** were hammering our goals and we couldn't score, again, but we didn't!

Sometimes we just have to accept the opposition are more talented than us. The boys understood that they were still very determined to play their very best and put in the big effort. They matched Greystanes in their effort until the final whistle. Our effort was as good as Greystanes and I was proud of my team!

The fullbacks toiled hard and when I saw **Harish** shout at his own teammate late in the game, I felt his anger and passion! Yes! This is what I want to see. He wanted to see his teammate play smarter and better – he demanded it. This is the leadership the team needs.

Dhruv and **Dean** worked hard up front and out wide but only had limited chances in front of goals.

The midfield worked hard with a bulldog effort from **Krish**, as did the fullbacks **Ayan**, **Leo** and **Hrrishi** who came off the goals in the second half.

Player of the Match was **Rayan** who made some really superb saves that even earned the applause of Greystanes.

Coach Noel

Final Score: 0 – 8 to Greystanes FC



Under 12 Div. 3 – Round 3

Strong and Fast - Granville were hungry and ready from the get-go against **Toongabbie Demons** at Belmore Park on the Saturday morning of our first double-header for the season. They only knew one gear – and that gear was top gear!

Ali S was the first to convert, assisted by **Seif**. Then Seif – all the way. **Nithin** and **Angus** were creating moments. And **Tahaa**'s defence excelled. Seif put in the third, from afar, with a deft touch.

Ethan was clocking up kms, tearing up and down the field. Ali S put in the fourth – right and high, with another lovely assist from Seif. Then Seif followed it up again with his own, for Granville's fifth. **Akeem** ceaselessly brought the ball up the line.

Ian and **Sarth** worked together, smashing away any approaching Toongabbie attempts. **Kyran** was putting new strategies into place up front. **Saharsh** delivered the ball back and forth to where most needed. Seif continued to give it his all – and Akeem smoothly rolled number six in. Ethan and Saharsh worked hard to set plays up.



A team strong and fast

Nithin negotiated the opposition defence to land goal number seven. Tahaa and Akeem had some nice interplay in creating opportunities; while Ali S skilfully struck the ball over Toongabbie's goalie, for goal eight. Akeem kept the gas on; and again Ali S manoeuvred with some beautiful footwork to bring us to a 9 – 0 halftime, off of a hard-earnt assist from **Adee**.

The second half saw Toongabbie regroup and step up their attack and defence alike, putting in two goals – to our two goals for this half also (Nithin and Seif). The final score 11 – 2 to Granville. The Waratah boys definitely tired in the second half – partly due to having only one reserve to interchange with – mostly due to the fact that they simply went all out from the start, not wanting to leave anything left in the tank. Each week, the boys are getting fitter. Each week, the boys are working harder as a team.

Coach Steve

Coach's Player of the Match: **Ali S**

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 11 – 2 to Granville Waratah SFC



Ali S is Player of the Match

Under 12 Div. 3 – Round 4

Dauids vs Goliath - For our round four Sunday game there was a distinct point of difference between the Granville Waratah and **Wenty Waratah** teams on this day. *Size*.

Wenty had a noticeably sizable difference up against our Granville boys – and none more so than their goalie, who simply towered over all. This Wenty height advantage presented a psychological and literal obstacle for our Granville boys, especially in respects to attempting to score goals – where the Wenty goalie seemed to simply blanket-cover the goals, just by standing there. Easily it seemed he would swat away shot after shot as though they were simply tiny pesky flies without much relevance... This lasted the first ten minutes, then the Granville boys found their footing and their focus, and wasted no (more) time in converting their opportunities into goals, shooting low and to the sides of the giant Wenty goalie (as opposed to high – and into his arms). By half-time, Granville made it 3 – 0 ahead over Wenty.

Akeem was the first to break the titan spell in the first half, and find the gaps (and continued to bring he ball to their goals throughout the match). Then **Seif** found his mojo; and lastly, before the half time whistle blew, **Ethan** put in his answer to the initial feeling of outsized and outgunned. Not anymore!

The ball moved slow(er) on the thick of this field, but everyone dug in – everyone. It was a real team effort, with each player rising even higher in their play of game, and play of team, than ever before. Ball skills were top notch – and passing and calling jumped to a new level. It would be a great advantage to see this continue, and to grow even more.

Kyran was comfortable and confident, concentrated on delivery of consistent quality defence. **Ian** and **Sarth** continued their dynamic duo act, defending the goals, **Tahaa** their trusted companion there too. (Sarth taking home player of the match). **Saharsh** ran and ran – **Angus** ran and ran – Ethan ran and ran!

Adee was giving it his all and putting his body on the line against every opponent. **Fahad** and **Ali** provided non-stop quality support throughout. And **Ali S** was forever making moves and opportunities where possible.

Nithin was the first to add to the tally of scores in the second half. Seif was everywhere he needed to be, doing everything he need to do; and put the next two goals in (both from runs started at halfway!). Nithin put in our last goal for 7 – 0 win.

Our boys may have been smaller in stature – the Davids to their Goliath; but, they all were heart and courage – and banded together to make one skilled solid team.

Coach Steve

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

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 0 – 7 to Granville Waratah SFC



*A proud coach with **Sarth**,
Player of the Match*



David vs Goliath

Under 12 Div. 4 – Round 3

Our Saturday match against **Merrylands SFC** saw the team prevail by eight goals to none.

The entire team played well today with great movement and passing.

Our Player of the Match was **Costa** who executed excellent one-on-one attacking, staying on his feet and was quick throughout the entire game.

Everyone improved playing as a team today. Many thanks to the players from U12 Div. 3 team who helped out to complete the squad.

Shout out to goal keeper who did not let one ball through today! Great work **Alexander!**

It was a great game to watch. Go the Waratahs!

Coach Stephen

Final Score: 8 – 0 to Granville Waratah SFC



Under 12 Div. 4 – Round 4

In terms of excitement it seems it was all reserved for our Sunday game and what an exciting match it was between Granville Waratah and **Guildford McCredie**.

Both teams tried their very best to win the game. Both teams were equally strong and demonstrated excellent skill and performance.

Our midfield and defensive players were impressive, **Kyriakos** and **Meya** doing an excellent job. **Kyriakos** was awarded Player of the Match for performing a great job of winning the ball and releasing it on time exactly as instructed by the coach before the game.

Overall the players demonstrated great improvement in passing and working together, however there is definitely room for improvement as the players continue to train on both Tuesday and Thursday nights and develop their skills also working as a team.

Coach Stephen

Final Score: 1 – 4 to Granville Waratah SFC

Under 14 Div. 3 – Round 3

Our Saturday game was a top of the table clash against **Rydalmere FC**. Both teams were undefeated going into the game so we knew it would be tough. The boys had the privilege on playing on Rydalmere's recently completed new synthetic turf field, part of a successful sports grant from the government.

Things did not look good for the Granville team, as a number of players could not attend. We managed to field just 11 players, with no substitutes for the game. This involved moving players around in different positions.

The game did not start well for our team, as we were under pressure from the kick-off. We were caught napping in the defence, with **Dev** pulling off great save early on. Our team was made to work really hard, however **Wisam, Gene, Aaron** and **Ankit** tried some runs down the flanks to get into the opposition penalty area. However, our touches were not working for us and we managed to lose easy balls to the opponent, giving them chances to attack and have more shots on goal.

With all the pressure and mistakes creeping into our game, we finally conceded our first goal, after 15 minutes. The boys tried to rally back into the game and our back line tried really hard to contain the opponents, but a great through ball from Rydalmere midfield exposed our back line and we were down 2-0. **Bryson** and **Ricky** really tried hard together with **Abhijit, Soumil** and **Adam** to contain Rydalmere, but our opposition was too strong for our team.

The second half saw **Dev** back in midfield while **Wisam** went in goals. We had some great plays first 10 minutes and had some serious shots on goals, with **Vihaan, Ankit** and **Dev** combining. However, with no substitutes, the boys were really feeling down and out of fuel. This was obvious during the last fifteen minutes of the game with Rydalmere scoring another three goals.

Coach Goran

Final Score: 5 – 0 to Rydalmere RC



Under 14 Div. 3 – Round 4

For our Sunday game, the team were up against **Merrylands SFC**, at our home ground.

To try and energise the team we had some players available with a substitute and a team talk to boost confidence for the boys. A couple of players had niggly injuries from the Saturday game, but were determined to play.

From the kick-off the boys were fired up to get back into the winning groove. We were attacking our opponents' goal like a pack of hungry wolves. It did not take long before we scored our first goal after **Wisam** pounced on a loose ball.

On the 12th minutes mark, **Dev** scored his first goal using his left foot. **Wisam** scored again in the 16th minute after some runs down the left with **Ankit** and **Vihaan** after **Wisam** did some great turning skills to score.

Wisam pounced on a lose ball again, to score our 4th goal. **Gene** had some great runs down the right flank, and has been threatening number of times, however right on halftime, **Gene** outpaced his opponent to go on one-on-one with the keeper, to score our fifth.

Manraj who was in goals had an easy task in the first half. **Aaron** took over goalkeeper duties in the second half.

Second half saw **Manraj** come out, and Manraj did some great runs down the right-side combing with **Ricky** and **Vihaan**. However, **Gene** followed up with some great runs in the 40th and 45th minute to score two more goals and completing a hat-trick.

Vihaan also got involved and scored our 8th goal.

Abhijit, **Soumil** and **Bryson** did their part and ensured Merrylands did not score any goals.

Dev scored two more goals while captain **Dean** also scored, to complete a big victory.

Dev, **Wisam** and **Gene** all scored hat-tricks on the day. (Ed: Amazing!)

Good turn around for the team from our previous match. Well done!

Next opponent: away to Lidcombe Waratah.

Coach Goran

Final Score: 11 – 0 to Granville Waratah SFC

