

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2020 season - Volume 07 - 26th August 2020**



FROM THE PREZ

This Covid-19 affected year sure is making it hard to play and celebrate our game.

Last week the Public Health Unit provided additional recommendations that clubs should cancel all end of season social functions, gatherings and even trophy presentations. Even though it is some 8 or 9 weeks till we have our Trophy Presentation Day, it doesn't look like that directive will be changing soon, however we will be monitoring the situation very closely.

This a big disappointment as it is a fun day, a proud day, where our Coaches, Managers, players and teams are recognised and celebrated for the special efforts and long hours they have put in throughout the year. But it is not all doom and gloom. Rather than simply not have anything, the Club Committee has resolved to still proceed and arrange for the Minirosos to receive their medals!

So, rather than have the medals presented at a club gathering, instead we will be providing the Minirosos medals to the coaches, who will be presenting them to each player straight after their final game of the season – so make sure you attend the final game, or you will miss out!

We know this is not ideal, but we are making do with what we can do, which we believe is better than what many clubs that have simply decided to cancel and do nothing. This option wasn't acceptable to us as a medal is a keepsake and a piece of personal history.

Okay then, so what are we going to do with our full field teams? How do we recognise their special efforts? And what about the Perpetual team trophies like Best & Fairest and Most Improved?



For this question we don't have an answer yet as trophy types and sizes are determined by how deep a team goes into the finals, and Grand Champions deserve to be recognised and celebrated – they have earned it!

So I guess it's just watch this space and hope we can get together sooner rather than later. Meanwhile good luck to all our teams as they are all in finals contentions!

Noel Dona,
Club President.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Photography Day – Please see below and take note of the time your team is scheduled for their photo shoot. The times have been designed around the time your team is playing on **Saturday 5th September**. There is not much room to accommodate teams that arrive late, so *please* ensure you are on time! The photos will be taken at Belmore Park near the canteen.

Team	Arrive Time	Photo Time	Comment	Game Time
10 Wombats	8:10	8:20	Before home game	9:00
08 Possums	8:20	8:30	Before AWAY game	9:20
08 Koalas	8:30	8:40	Before home game	9:00
06 Wombats	8:40	8:50	Before home game	9:00
12 Div.4	8:50	9:00	Before AWAY game	10:05
08 Wombats	9:00	9:10	Before home game	9:50
07 Possums	9:10	9:20	Before home game	9:50
14 Div.3	9:20	9:30	Before home game	10:00
10 Koalas	9:30	9:40	Before home game	10:00
07 Koalas	9:40	9:50	Before AWAY game	10:50
06 Possums	9:50	10:00	After AWAY game	8:30
10 Dolphins	10:00	10:10	After AWAY game	8:30
09 Wombats	10:10	10:20	Before home game	10:40
11 Koalas	10:20	10:30	Before home game	11:00
12 Div.3	10:30	10:40	Before AWAY game	11:20
09 Koalas	10:50	11:00	Before home game	11:30

RESULTS FROM ROUND 07

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Auburn District	5	0	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Possums	Granville Waratah SFC	12	1	Pendle Hill Tigers
08 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	2	5	Newington Gunners
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	Match	Cancelled	
09 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	Match	Cancelled	
10 Dolphins	Granville Waratah SFC	5	2	Wenty Waratah
10 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	6	0	Rydalmere FC
10 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	1	6	Auburn District
11 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	1	9	Merrylands SFC

12 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	2	1	Pendle Hill Tigers
12 Div. 4	Wentworthville Uniting	Match	Postponed	Granville Waratah SFC
14 Div. 3	Greystanes FC	0	3	Granville Waratah SFC
AAM Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	2	0	Toongabbie Demons
Premier League Res.	Auburn District	2	3	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League 1sts	Auburn District	4	2	Granville Waratah SFC

RESULTS FROM ROUND 08

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	2	1	Rydalmere FC
08 Possums	Toongabbie Demons	0	4	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Wombats	Rydalmere FC	3	0 (F)	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	2	2	Wenty Waratah
09 Wombats	Holroyd Rangers	2	2	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Dolphins	Holroyd Rangers	4	3	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Koalas	Toongabbie Demons	Match	Postponed	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Wombats	Toongabbie Demons	8	0	Granville Waratah SFC
11 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	0	1	Rydalmere FC
12 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	4	2	Auburn District
12 Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	0	3	Auburn District
14 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	8	0	Wentworthville Uniting
AAM Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	2	0	Greystanes FC
Premier League Res.	Granville Waratah SFC	3	3	Rydalmere FC
Premier League 1sts	Granville Waratah SFC	6	4	Rydalmere FC

MATCH REPORTS

We publish 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** team wins for the photos alone, thanks to **Anthony** and **Sammi** for submitting them. The report also contains a nice little anatomy of two well-taken goals. Nice one, **Elijah!**

Under 10 Dolphins – Featured Match Report

The team was up against **Holroyd Rangers** on the weekend and it was a big match for us. Would we see an improvement over our reverse fixture where we lost both halves 4-1 and were never the dominant team? Let's find out...

We were without **Ram** for the game but we still had a reserve player which proved vital. The instructions to the team were to not dive in when tackling, not allow any shots on goal, and to be smart about our defensive play; to anticipate our opposition's great balls skills and not let them simply swerve around us on route to our goal but to try to keep them at bay before retrieving the ball.

The team more or less managed to do this the entire first half and we went into the break leading 2-1!



Josh, Troy and Ajiri swarm the opposition

We opened our account with a fine goal from **Joshua**, assisted by **Nathan**, after we broke up an attack and countered quickly to make the most of it. Scoring the first goal of the game, quite early too, gave the team real confidence. What a time to score your first goal of the season, **Josh**!

While we weren't dominating the play, neither were Holroyd which was a big improvement since our first meeting. Our team were the better tacklers, and won most, if not all, of the 50-50s which helped counter their better passing and ball control skills. But the thing the team does lack is fitness and it showed towards the end of both halves. We didn't track back well enough for one of Holroyd's attacks and they scored from a well-taken shot that our goalie, **Joseph**, could do nothing about. **Joseph** was instrumental in the team being able to go into the break ahead on the scoreboard, performing quite brilliantly in goals with at least three good stops before swapping with **Nathan** for the second half.



Harsh clears the ball and strikes a pose (there's nothing to it, vogue)

It was late in the first half with the score equal at one each and the half-time whistle looming that we witnessed the moment of the match. **Ajiri** puts a nicely weighted through ball for **Elijah** who takes the ball in his stride, and, with a Holroyd defender just about to tackle, shoots for goal. But it's not *at* the goalkeeper, it's *over* the goalkeeper's head and into the net! **Elijah's** just lobbed the goalie to score! What a fantastic goal! And we got it all on camera, too (great job, **Sammi**).

The whistle blew for half-time not long after and we went into the break deservedly leading 2-1, a vast improvement over our 4-1 loss the first time around. We swapped our goalies and went into the second half brimming with confidence.

Again, both teams were quite evenly matched but we were starting to run out of puff. And this is when we started to make some defensive mistakes. The team found it easier to track back in the first half and to get to the 50-50s. Now, we weren't doing those jobs as well and Holroyd scored three goals during this time. One of them was completely preventable (which would prove decisive) but the other two were nice team goals from Holroyd that they might not have scored in the first half.

To the player's credit and with the score at 4-2, we never gave up and we got one back via a great counter attack. **Anuj** received the ball just inside Holroyd's half and put the ball on a plate for **Elijah** for a one-on-one opportunity. He showed great composure to shoot to the side of their goalie to score and put his team back into the match.

Despite the players being mostly dead on their feet, we battled on but the whistle blew and we had to settle for a narrow loss by just the one goal. Still, it didn't really feel like a defeat, such was the improvement over the last time. However, the question of the team's fitness has been laid bare and this coach will now take steps to get his team fit!

For the weekend prior to last the team was up against **Wenty Waratah** but they only could field eight players against our nine with two reserves and so it was more of a training session for us. We saw goals from **Ajiri**, **Anuj**, **Elijah** and **Ram**, and an unfortunate own goal by a Wenty player to make it five for us, while Wenty scored two goals of their own; one a penalty due to a hand ball in the box, and the other a great effort from a team a player short.

Coach Andy

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

Final Score: 4 – 3 to Holroyd Rangers



Elijah and his three step guide to lobbing the goalie!

Under 7 Koalas

Though the team is affected by many injuries and with some parents understandably erring on the side of safety, we still managed to take the field and play a wonderful game against **Wenty Waratah** on Saturday.

We had three of our regular players to draw from; **Roy** had an excellent game after a long absence and nearly scored a goal. He also showed off his skills in defense. Welcome back, **Roy**!

Drisha, the princess in our team, showed great skills and touch on the ball, while **Shrey** was everywhere defending and attacking and passing.

What a trio!

We also enjoyed the services of an Under 6 player in **Omar** so we could have four players on the field.

Omar displayed great football skills and was the undisputed superstar of the game. Well done **Omar**! We hope you can play with us next season!

We may have lost on the scoreboard but we were all proud of players and for the team work and effort they have done.

Unfortunately no photos were taken but the memory of this game will stay with us forever!

Coach Victor



Under 8 Possums – Round 7, Saturday 15th August

After rain cancelled our previous 2 matches last weekend, as well as our mid-week training session, it felt like ages since we'd played together as a team. Thankfully, our field held up well enough after some more overnight rain and we were able to host our opposition **Pendle Hill FC** for our Round 7 match.

Despite our early 8:30am kick-off, most of the team arrived for our pre-match warm up, bursting with energy, eager and ready for action. Pendle Hill got things underway and finally the built-up excitement of playing again was released in what could only be described as a frenzy of energetic, attacking goalscoring from our boys.

Sayan got the scoreboard started with a goal after 5 minutes play and with a mountain of ball possession and field position the match would turn out to be a battle between him (**Sayan**), **Zoran** and **Sineth** to see who would score the most goals.

While our 3 main goal scorers were impressing family, friends and teammates with their skill and accuracy to convert our attack into points, equally impressive were the other Granville players, doing their part in each of their positions.

Tristan had a great first half in midfield getting heavily involved in much of the play and was terribly unlucky not to score a goal himself when a good strike on the ball hit the right-side post, ran across the face of goal and hit the left-side post, much to the anguish of his parents watching on the sideline.

Bijad was putting in another solid performance at left fullback, but with a bit more control and care in his game instead of just trying to kick the ball as hard as he could each time it came in his zone. **Adnan** was continuing his good form after his Player-of-the-Match performance in our last game, using his no-fear attitude to intercept the ball in defence and on a few occasions making a long run through to the forward line in attack.

Pendle Hill scored a goal of their own with a very nice strike into the top corner of the net, leaving **Liam** with little chance of getting a hand on it. At the halftime break we were up 6-1 and I could tell the boys were enjoying themselves and keen for plenty more goals and plenty more fun to continue.

The second half continued much like the first, with another 6 unanswered goals to Granville, with **Sayan**, **Sineth** and **Zoran** continuing to take turns at finding the back of the net with an impressive shooting display on the back of a good all-round performance from the whole team. **Mehaan** continues to improve with each game and was able to alternate playing in the backs and the halves with growing confidence and skill. After taking a heavy knock during the match and needing to be substituted, **Mehaan** also showed he also has courage when he returned to the field later in the game.



Sineth on the ball with Mehaan in support

Yaseen is also improving each week and in particular his positional play in the last couple of matches is allowing him to receive the ball in space, enabling him to help link the play up with his teammates, or on a few occasions get the chance to shoot at the goals. It feels like only a matter of time before **Yaseen** will get to experience the joy of watching the ball go into the goals off his own boot.



Sineth, Yaseen & Sayan on the attack

Liam was lucky enough to experience this joy for the first time this season, after hanging around the forward line for a while during the second half willing the ball to come to him. After a few near misses, he finally got his moment with the goalkeeper off his line momentarily to ram the ball into the net, responding with a leap in the air with spontaneous excitement.

Ashutosh received our Player of the Match award this week, after playing his best game of the season so far. **Ashutosh** doesn't shy away from getting involved in the play wherever he can, and his ball skills and passing game was noticeably effective during this match, contributing to the great success of the team.

Congratulations U8 Possums, your enthusiasm, skill and teamwork produced an impressive game to watch and an impressive final score.

Coach Anthony

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

Final Score: 12 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC



Ashutosh is POTM

Under 8 Possums – Round 8, Saturday 22nd August

This week we travelled to Girraween Park to take on the **Toongabbie Demons FC** for our first rematch game of the season. With an icy cold wind blowing, both teams welcomed the referee's whistle to get the game started so that everyone could begin running around and get warm!

It didn't take long before our team went on the attack toward the opposition goals where we spent most of the first half, apart from a couple of breakaway runs from Toongabbie, which our defenders, **Bijad** and **Adnan**, were able to deal with easily and effectively. There was some great passing and enterprising play, providing a number of opportunities for us to score. However due to some good defense running down our strikers, our shots on goal directed straight at the keeper, or others slightly off target, we were unable to convert any chances before the halftime break.



Mehaan and Bijad defending with Sineth, Zoran and Yaseen close by

I encouraged our players not to change anything as they were doing really well, but to continue to play the same way in the second half and the goals would come. Everyone was contributing to a good game and I was thoroughly impressed that the team was putting into practice our pre-match talk about spreading our attack wider and using the outside channels to get around the opposition.

Sure enough our first goal came after some great work from **Yaseen** down the left-hand edge of the field, where he tenaciously dribbled through some defenders, not giving up on the ball, breaking free into the opposition half before passing to **Sayan**, and then onto **Sineth** who found the back of the net to break the



Sayan on the attack with Tristan, Zoran and Mehaan in support

deadlock.

This opening goal seemed to energise the players and parents alike as the build-up of consistent pressure was finally released and a sense excitement and anticipation grew stronger. After experiencing the rewards of stringing a few passes together between teammates, Granville began to increase their distribution around the field to find an open player. Cracks were starting to open up in the Toongabbie defense as we were able to move the ball effectively from our defenders, through our halves and onto our strikers. **Zoran** was on the end of such ball movement and used his lethal right foot to slam home our second goal and to keep the momentum going on the scoreboard.



*Zoran on the ball with **Sayan, Tristan** and **Mehaan** in support*

A third goal came soon after, when **Tristan** brilliantly booted a goal kick, threading the ball through a number of players to put us straight on the attack, where Zoran once again used his power strike to force the ball through the legs of the Toongabbie goalkeeper. It was enjoyable to watch the team get on a roll and they weren't about to let up any time soon.

Liam was chiming in with some good touches on the ball, along with **Ashutosh** and **Mehaan**, all getting involved and progressing the ball forward. Our fourth and final goal came after more sustained attacking play, leading to **Sayan** unselfishly passing off the **Zoran** near the penalty box, for him to convert his hattrick of goals for the match. This particular passage of play demonstrated the progress the team is making in recent weeks, by showing some maturity in their on-field decisions to look for an open teammate and to execute a well-timed pass.

This match turned out to be one of our best games of the season so far, with many players stepping up and showing how much they are improving and enjoying their soccer. None more so, than **Yaseen**, who received our Player of the Match award this week for putting in a great effort throughout the game, from kick-starting our attack down the left-side of the field, to getting back to defend our goal when no one else was there to stop Toongabbie scoring. Well done Yaseen and keep up the great progress U8 Possums..



Yaseen is POTM

Coach Anthony

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

Final Score: 0 – 4 to Granville Waratah SFC

Under 11 Koalas

Our game against **Rydalmere FC** very much resembled how we played this team in round 1 – back then it was a 1-1 draw and it looked like being another draw until Rydalmere scored a gritty goal.

I cannot thank the team enough for putting in the big efforts every week. Whilst it wasn't the result we wanted, I believe we deserved at least another draw if not better. We scrambled very well, hustled very well and we're getting better at controlling the ball and playing wide, but we just can't seem to find the back of the net at the moment.

Having **Aryan** back in the midfield was very good and certainly helped move the ball around to **Dhruv** who toiled hard up front and got back to help hustle in the midfield.

Bhargav, **Dev** and **Rayan** also did an great job defending and pushing forward but I give a special mention to our strong defender **Leo** and Player of the Match, **Aayan**, playing centre fullback for not giving up until the final whistle.

I cant forget **Hrrishi** in goals who pulled off a number of brave saves. I don't like to do this but **Deon** was not at his best, so I will be expecting a big bounce back game from him this Saturday.

Coach Noel

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

Final Score: 0 – 1 to Rydalmere FC



Bhargav putting in the effort and not being pushed around



Under 12 Div. 3 – Round 7, Thursday 20th August

Into the Cold, Into the Night – Our boys headed into the cold and the night for their make-up game against **Merrylands SFC White**, on what would have normally been a Thursday night training session. The score line tells a different story, 8 – 0 win to us, but the match was well played on both sides – each team putting in a good hard fight. Merrylands just struggled to convert any of their goal opportunities.

Ali chased the ball down every moment that presented itself, 100%! – and walked away with coach’s Player of the Match (Coach Steve: “Congratulations, Ali. You played *very hard*.”). **Tahaa** showed his signature strength in solid defence; joining him were **Angus, Kyran,** and **Ethan** with similar top-notch defensive elements. **Seif, Akeem,** and **Ali S** continually drove the ball hard up front, relentlessly attacking and pressuring the opposition.

Adee and **Nithin** provided excellence in support all throughout; while **Ian** and **Fahad** had almost out of body experiences, trying a role swap in the second half. Ian ran the pitch with gusto, and Fahad gamely took up the goalie jersey. Both did themselves proud, as did the entire team on a tough cold night, where they were all ceaseless in giving it – and giving Merrylands – their all.

Coach Steve

Coach’s Player of the Match: **Ali**

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 0 – 8 to Granville Waratah SFC



Ali, Player of the Match, Playing Hard and Winning Hard



All in a night's work

Under 12 Div. 3 – Round 8, Saturday 22th August

Early Morning Light - Following on from the Thursday night match, this Saturday morning's game was a little bit scrappy. **Auburn District** were primed and ready – an early arrive and focused warm up. We had some late arrivals, and some missing players. We kind of clambered to find ourselves, but then put the gas down once orientated, closing off the first half with a 4 – 0 lead.

Ali S nicely popped the first goal in, off an expertly delivered corner. **Nithin** dropped the next one in, literally, from way up high, and from way way back (Impressive accuracy!).

Goal number 3 came from an Auburn own goal, off the back of intensely imposing pressure from Granville. And **Seif** adroitly knocked our fourth in, moments before the half time whistle.

Our energy seemed to drop in the second half (we were lacking in numbers for reserves), and our focused seemed to falter. Auburn put two in against us in the second half, for a full-time score of 4 – 2 to Granville. We had some missed opportunities within this match, but it has been difficult to maintain momentum with all the recent weather and COVID resurgence upsets.

You're doing good, boys! **Kyran** was everywhere he needed to be, and then some, throughout the duration of the game. **Akeem** and **Ian** were playing top their game; likewise, **Adee**, who brought home coach's Player of the Match for the day. **Angus** and **Ethan**, as always, never gave up. **Tahaa**, **Saharsh**, and **Ali** all guts and determination all through.

Coach Steve

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

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 2 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC



Granville on the move



Granville about to score!



*Adee, Player of the Match,
Playing Hard and Winning Hard*

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 our Club Secretary and Registrar **Andy Gianniotis**.

Andy is now in his fifth year at the club and coaches the Under 10 Dolphins. In his first year he put his hand up to coach his son's Under 6 team. In his second he became the club registrar, taking over from current club vice president and life member Tony Farrell who had his hands full running the club as secretary. Last year he took over from Tony to become the club secretary.

You will all know Andy as he's the one who registered and welcomed you to the club. We wouldn't know what to do without his dedication and wanted to know more about him so this week he takes the 10 questions challenge.

1. Favourite football player?

Lionel Messi (soon to be playing for Manchester City, you heard it here first)

2. Favourite breakfast cereal?

Weet-Bix

3. Wrap me up – Kebab or Burrito?

Burrito!

4. Indian Cuisine – Butter chicken or Rogan Josh?

Butter chicken (the authentic kind, not the fast food version!)

5. Your favourite Cartoon character?

Inspector Gadget

6. Your favourite animal?

Meerkat

7. Favourite all time movie?

The Matrix

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

Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, and Jack London

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

Ancient Greece to meet my ancestors!

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

The A-League Grand Final, as long as the Western Sydney Wanderers are playing, or the World Cup final if not.

