

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2020 season - Volume 09 - 9th September 2020**



FROM THE PREZ

Back in May and June when the Association was looking at starting the season, we were hoping to get in at least 7 rounds and some finals. With the help of the cricket associations who agreed to delay the start of their season, we will be squeezing in 14 rounds plus finals – this is a great feat in this Covid affected year.

There were two things of concern I raised back in June about stretching the season, firstly the heat. We are now in spring and we can expect to be playing in 30 degrees plus days, especially during the finals. It is important that we are very mindful of looking after ourselves in these conditions by ensuring the players remain hydrated, or rather don't become dehydrated. Drink plenty of fluids and to avoid cramps, eat a banana just before the start of the game as they have a healthy supply of potassium to prevent muscle cramps. Eight years ago I lost an under 18's division 1 grand final during golden goal extra time with 30 seconds left to play because five of my best players were on the bench suffering severe leg cramps!

Football NSW and the FFA have an Excessive Heat Policy which includes having at least a 2 minute water break(s) during the game AND a recommendation to Cancel or Postpone matches when the temperatures hit 32 degrees for children matches and 37 degrees for adult matches. Ultimately it is the referee who decides but we should all be made aware of this policy as we enter mid-Spring weather.



Also outside in the hot sun, it wouldn't be such a bad idea to use sunscreen for both players and spectators.

Secondly, exams! During this time of the year we are getting every close to Higher School Certificate exams and general end of year exams. I always say I am a parent first and so I instructed my own children to put studies first before any match, but having said that, I don't expect players to simply ignore their commitment to their teammates. I ask and expect players to manage their time and studies to strike a balance so that you can do both where possible. Of course some students/players need more time to study and that is OK but please communicate your time away from the team, be it for training or matches, to your coaches so that plans can be made for they team in your absence.

Noel Dona,
Club President.

Coaches and Managers Meeting

Next **Monday 14th September, at 7pm** we will be holding a Zoom meeting (in lieu of meeting in person) for all coaches and managers in the club. We will post the Zoom details on Monday in the coaches WhatsApp group. Each team is encouraged to send a representative if your coach or manager can't make the meeting.

RESULTS FROM ROUND 10

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	5	0	Guildford County
08 Possums	Rydalmere FC	4	5	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	0 (F)	3	Dundas United
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	5	1	Greystanes FC
09 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	3	0	Lidcombe Waratah
10 Dolphins	Greystanes FC	4	1	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	5	1	Merrylands SFC
10 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	2	7	Pendle Hill FC
11 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	1	5	Auburn FC
12 Div. 3	Toongabbie Demons	1	8	Granville Waratah SFC
12 Div. 4	Wenty Waratah	3	2	Granville Waratah SFC
14 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	3	3	Rydalmere FC
AAM Div. 4	Merrylands SFC	2	3	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League Res.	Granville Waratah SFC	3	1	Merrylands SFC
Premier League 1sts	Granville Waratah SFC	3	1	Merrylands SFC

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 9 Koalas** team win for a great update report on their season, thanks to coach **Paul** for submitting it.

Under 9 Koalas – Featured Match Report

With several key players out (with illness and commitments) for our dastardly double header mornings last week (2 x 08:30 kick offs, are you serious?) it was no surprise that an 11:30am kickoff, the sun shining, our home ground advantage, the return of some key players and the Hollywood effect of the pre-game team photo shoot saw the U9 Koalas playing closer to our potential this week in our game against **Greystanes FC**.

We were fluid, quick and clever. We used free space, we used our voices and we had simple plans that worked. As we saw our opponents slowing down in the sunshine, we committed to speeding up and the goals started to flow.

With **Aarya** netting two and one each from **Kaushik**, **Christian** and **Jahia**, we had given the Greystanes goalie a lot to do all game and there were a lot more shots saved and hitting the posts. While each of the shots was a team effort, the ones we netted were blistering (Aarya x2, Christian and Kaushik) and elegant (Jahia with a deft tap to complete a beautiful run).

But there were also some absolutely glorious crosses sailing to the goalmouth from both sides of the field from everyone. With his almost magical power of being in the right place at the right time Aaryan was no more than a toe tap away from some of these crosses at least three times. He will hit them soon. **Nawaf's** movement from defence to midfield paid excellent dividends all over the Greystanes half and his corner kicks should win awards.

Troy and **Juwon** showed great speed and commitment and talent on the ball to keep possession under pressure and/or win it back and **Miles'** goalkeeping was attentive, alive and showed great decision making, grace and courage when we needed it.

We miss **Owen** who has been out for a few weeks with illness but word on the street is he might be back soon. Without him, we've found it difficult to move the ball around the field quickly but that changed this week. When he's back, look out!

This is a very good group of players who have started to gel with each other. There is genuine mateship and mutual respect here. And so much talent. Can't wait to see just what we can do when we're running on all cylinders!

Well done little dudes.

Coach Paul.

**Final Score: 5 – 1 to
Granville Waratah SFC**



Under 8 Possums

Round 10 saw us travel to the synthetic fields of Rydalmere Park for our highly anticipated match against **Rydalmere FC**. Our players and their parents had been looking forward to this rematch for some time against the only team that has beaten us this season. Only one goal separated the two teams in our first encounter which finished up 8-7, so we were eager for the chance – to reverse the result this time around.

Our boys settled into the game quickly and enjoyed some good possession and the upper hand in the early exchanges, however it was Rydalmere who struck the first blow by scoring a goal at the 10-minute mark. Thankfully we didn't have to wait long before **Sineth** scrambled an equaliser into the net to get us going on the scoreboard too.

Then in a great example of guts and determination, **Tristan** began dribbling the ball out of trouble near our own goal, beating a few opposition players to make it up over the halfway line, past a final Rydalmere defender to face a one-on-one with the keeper. At first it looked like the goalkeeper managed to save the shot on goal, then a brief silent pause turned into cheers of excitement as we realised the ball had crossed the line and Tristan's length of the field effort resulted in a memorable goal.



The team warms up

Rydalmere seemed a little flat for the remainder of the first half as Granville took the opportunity to build further momentum, creating several more chances in attack. In another incredible moment for the highlights reel, **Zoran** stepped up to take a corner kick, striking the ball hard and high over several players it curled from right to left and dipped into the goals without any assistance or deflection. What an amazing kick!!!

Unsurprisingly our team was upbeat during the halftime break being up 3-1 against our greatest rival and I encouraged the boys to keep it going with the same intensity for the second half. Before taking the field again I cautioned everyone not to become complacent as Rydalmere will no doubt come back with a plan and a renewed desire to get back into the match.



Sayan in good position to shoot for goal with Sineth watching on

Sure enough, Rydalmere were first to score shortly after the whistle blew to get the second half underway, when our players seemed to hesitate on the ball from the kick-off sending our play backwards. A miskick in defense then allowed Rydalmere to gain possession and their striker made a confident kick into the top corner of the goal. It was

a clear warning sign to our players to remain switched on and that there was still plenty of work and effort required if they wanted to win this match.

The game flowed back and forth from one end to the other with both teams scoring another 2 goals each. **Sayan** got on the scoreboard for us, along with another goal to **Zoran**. Meanwhile in defense **Tristan** pulled off an inspirational save in goals diving to his left, getting to his feet to save a second attempt on goal and then a third - even the opposition parents commented how brilliant our goalkeeper was.

Ahead by only one goal, the remaining minutes were tense as Rydalmere desperately tried to attack our goal in wave after wave and were unlucky not to find an equaliser with a shot or two just going wide of our goal. Then finally the whistle blew to signal an end to the game and a huge cheer went up from all the parent's on the sideline as we'd managed to hang on and get the result we were looking for.

This game may not have been our best as a team, but there were many individual highlights and standout moments throughout the match that made for an overall performance that was well deserving of a victory.

Mehaan (pictured right) was our Player of the Match, who has been improving every week since joining our team, especially his knowledge of the game and support play to his teammates.

Congratulations team, you did it! We are so proud of you.

Coach Anthony

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

Final Score: 4 – 5 to Granville Waratah SFC



Under 10 Dolphins

We were up against **Greystanes FC** FC on the weekend, hoping to improve on our 8-6 loss the previous match. We won the first half 4-2 that game but lost the second half 2-6. Would we see an improvement?

Unfortunately, we didn't! Greystanes passed the ball well and were able to take more shots in our goal area than we could in theirs. They shot accurately and came away with four goals, while we could only muster one ourselves (a nice finish from **Elijah**).

It's hard to pinpoint what is going wrong with our play ... our players can dribble well and progress the ball forward but it's quite disjointed. We aren't stringing passes together that enables us to attack with intent. The team needs to knuckle down at training and start training and playing as a team!

Next week we are joining forces with our U11 team at training and we will enjoy the services of their coach to help us progress our attacking play. We need to get this right if we are to play full field next season!

Coach Andy

Final Score: 4 – 1 to Greystanes FC



Under 11 Koalas

Our match against **Auburn FC** saw a big improvement in the team's attitude and effort after the disappointment from the week before. Okay the team didn't win but we did manage to score a goal and push the Auburn team. Our first half was average but our second half effort was some very good soccer and frankly, we deserved a couple of more goals, especially in the last 10 minutes where we clearly dominated play in front of their goal mouth.

Taking **Leo** out from fullback and putting him in the midfield in the second half allowed him to use his big kick from the rolling ball to keep the ball and the pressure on Auburn. **Krish** ran around like a rovers dog all day and earned himself a Player of the Match award with his non stop defensive effort.

It was good to have **Aryann** back in the midfield and he and **Dhruv** fought over scoring our goal up front – a just reward. **Deon** was back to his best out wide, **Rayan** in goals looked confident again, **Aayan** playing centre fullback whilst **Harish** was absent also has gained great experience looking strong on the ball. **Dev** and **Bhaguv** continued to hustle the opposition.

Sure we let in a few goals but it wasn't because we were dominated but rather because of some lapses in concentration that Auburn took advantage of. The second half we played hard and smarter and this is great to see.

Today I also want to say THANK YOU to **Hrrishi**, **Harish**, **Deon** and **Aayan** who have now officially joined our under 12 division 4 team. We wish them the best of luck and any success they enjoy will be shared by their under 11's teammates!

Coach Noel

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

Final Score: 1 – 5 to Auburn FC



Under 12 Div. 3

Goals in the Sun - Racing from the team photos at Belmore Park to Girraween Park to play against **Toongabbie Demons**, we were primed and ready – hair combed and looking a treat. But the game focus was all there. And had to be.

The boys were trialling a new formation on the field, and new positions; including a change out of Goalie from **Ian** to **Fahad**.

Fahad did himself and the team justice, only allowing one goal in from Toongabbie the whole match, while Ian showed his speed and determination in tireless attack – something new for him out in the field, but you wouldn't know it. Our boys were on the attack in general, garnering themselves eight goals in total against the opposition – and with opportunities for many more.



Goals in the sun for the Waratahs

Goals galore from **Adee**, **Ali S**, **Nithin**, and **Seif**. And our loaded defence was *all over* Toongabbie throughout. **Angus** and **Ethan** hacked away at the opposition in their new defensive positions out back.

Sarth brought his trademark whopping defence; likewise, **Kyran** and **Saharsh** were relentless in denying the opposition any opportunities, and **Tahaa**, **Akeem**, and **Ali** were champion little play-makers.

The boys put in a hard, focused effort – and all the while trying out a completely new game-play. They all shone bright, but it was **Seif** who shone the brightest as our team kicked goals in the sun. He took out Coach's Player of the Match for the day as he never stopped the whole game – he never stops every week to be frank. Dazzling with expert foot work and ball skills – an ability to slide through any defensive obstacles on his way to the goals, whether to score, or set up a chance for another/the team. Well done, Seif. Keep up the endless impressive hard work!



Ian out in the field of play

Well done, Team!

Coach Steve

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

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 1 – 8 to Granville Waratah SFC



Seif is a well-deserved POTM

We would like to thank our major sponsor:

