

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2020 season - Volume 11 - 23rd September 2020**



FROM THE PREZ

With one round remaining, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate everyone, players, parents and coaches, for your efforts this season.

This season has been like no other in our history and I pray we don't have another like it soon. Notwithstanding we have managed to squeeze in a season filled with fun and reward. For our Miniros, your season officially concludes when the final whistle of your match is blown this Saturday - then you will all be receiving your well earned medals and two players will receive Perpetual Trophies for Most Improved and Best & Fairest.

Last night, our under 6's couldn't wait and they had their medal presentation after their final training session. It was an exciting occasion and the smiles on the faces of the players and parents reminds me that despite the difficulties of season 2020, I know why I keep coming back for more... and why I bleed blue and gold!



I am very pleased to also report that all of our junior full-field teams have secured semi-final berths and our Under 12's division 3 team has already secured the Minor Premiership. We are all very proud of your efforts and we wish you nothing but success in the finals. We know you will do the mighty Blue and Gold proud... and I hope you sing our Club Victory Song loud and often!

I take this opportunity to also mention our flagship team – the Premier League Squad. To have a Premier League squad is special and we are very proud to have them represent us. Remember, as the OLDEST Club in Western Sydney, we have a long and proud tradition. The squad is aware of our history, our many successes and are very keen to continue these successes and add to the our rich and glorious. I invite you to follow their progress as they act as role models for our children. I personal enjoy watching their matches and the skills and talent they display and I am certain you will too.

Grand Final Day is on Saturday 17 October, I ask you to please set aside that day as nothing will please me more than to have big crowds supporting the Mighty Waratah!

Noel Dona, club president.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Last Sunday was the first wet weather playing day we've had for at least four years. It was raining but the vast majority of games weren't called off. When we encounter rainy days early in the season, games are generally called off to protect the fields. As we have nearly finished the season, the need to protect the fields isn't as crucial and so games are generally played.

Last Sunday was wet but there was no lightning, only rain. If there is a chance that lightning can strike, this can be dangerous and so we don't play in those conditions. But no lightning, so no problem.

The only problem turned out to be players not turning up!

I refereed the Under 10 Wombats game on Sunday and only six players turned up for the match, even after posting in the group chat that the game was still going ahead. Thankfully, roughly the same number turned up from the opposition and so we went ahead with the game, six players versus five.

And what a match it was! With the wide open spaces due to less players, the game was end-to-end the entire time. Granville opened up the scoring and by the time the game ended, another 12 goals had been scored by both teams with Toongabbie coming out winners by eight goals to five.

The defining moment of the match was when one of our players scored his first ever goal. **Viraj** wheeled away to celebrate with drops of rain dripping off his delighted face. The players absolutely *loved* playing in the rain! They were losing 6-1 at half time but had lots of fun in the second half, winning it 4-2!

Thankfully this was held in September and so the rain wasn't cold. Which makes the absence of a significant number of players from our various teams even more disappointing.

I do think that some parents just assumed that we don't play when it's raining as we have called off games before due to the rain. This is NOT the case! We only don't play when it is dangerous to do so. A little rain never hurt anyone if parents come prepared. Just ensure your child has some dry clothes to wear home and a bag to bring them and to take the wet ones home in. The club backpack comes in handy in times like these.

So, now you know. **We do play in the rain and your kids will love it!**

Andy Gianniotis, club secretary.

RESULTS FROM ROUND 12

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	11	0	Merrylands SFC
08 Possums	Greystanes FC	2	4	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Wombats	Merrylands SFC	3	0 (f)	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	3	1	Merrylands SFC WHT
09 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	1	4	Auburn District
10 Dolphins	Wenty Waratah	0	1	Granville Waratah SFC

10 Koalas	Guildford County	2	4	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Wombats	Auburn District	7	0	Granville Waratah SFC
11 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	2	4	Greystanes FC
12 Div. 3	Merrylands SFC BLK	0	5	Granville Waratah SFC
12 Div. 4	Merrylands SFC	1	3	Granville Waratah SFC
14 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	5	0	Lidcombe CSC
AAM Div. 4	Lidcombe Waratah	4	1	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League Res.	Granville Waratah SFC	4	1	Greystanes FC
Premier League 1sts	Granville Waratah SFC	1	2	Greystanes FC

RESULTS FROM ROUND 13

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Parramatta City	5	5	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Possums	Granville Waratah SFC	7	1	Lidcombe Waratah
08 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	0 (f)	3	Greystanes FC
09 Koalas	Parramatta City	2	2	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Wombats	Greystanes FC	0	2	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Dolphins	Granville Waratah SFC	3	0	Holroyd Rangers
10 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	7	1	Parramatta City
10 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	5	8	Toongabbie Demons
11 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	2	3	Toongabbie Demons
12 Div. 3	Pendle Hill FC	0	3	Granville Waratah SFC
12 Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	3	2	Guildford McCredie
14 Div. 3	Guildford McCredie	1	0	Granville Waratah SFC
AAM Div. 4	Granville Waratah SFC	7	0	Guildford County
Premier League Res.	Granville Kewpies	0 (f)	3	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League 1sts	Granville Kewpies	0 (f)	3	Granville Waratah 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 U10 Dolphins win due to the special addition to their report, sent in from the referee of the match! Thanks to Tony, our club treasurer, for sending it in.

Under 10 Dolphins – Featured Match Report

Wenty Waratah were our opponents for our first match of the double-header weekend and I was quietly confident that we would see a return to winning ways. Wenty haven't beaten any of the previous incarnations of this team, going all the way back to our endeavours in the Under 8s, so the team had a good chance of securing just our third win of the season.

We ended up winning by just the solitary goal, a nice effort from **Ramcharan** after a bit of a scramble in the goal mouth. I'm pretty sure Wenty had more shots at goal than us but we were well served in goals by **Ishan** and **Nathan** who both pulled off good enough saves to make it onto the stats sheet.

Despite allowing some shots on goal, we still ended up with a clean sheet and so congratulations to our mainstays in defence – **Harsh** and **Ethan** – as well as our defensive mids in **Ishan** and **Ajiri**.



Nathan wheels away to celebrate Ram's winning goal

The main event for the weekend was definitely our match against **Holroyd Rangers** the next day. To recap: we lost our first match against them 8-2, and we lost the second in a 4-3 thriller. Would we see a progression to a win in the final game? Let's find out...

We were without **Anuj** and **Troy** for the match and so we had just the nine players to draw upon with no reserves. We did, however, have the rain to contend with which made things soggy for everyone but this was only a bad thing for the watching parents, most deciding to huddle underneath some nearby shelter. The kids? They absolutely loved playing in the rain!

Ramcharan opened up the scoring for Granville with a nice first half goal assisted by **Ishan**. That's two goals in two days for **Ram**, I'll be very impressed if he can manage another goal in the last game of the season this Saturday. You can do it, **Ram**!

Nathan made it 2-0 with a tap-in from a great cross by **Ajiri** that followed his fantastic dribble from deep in our half. This was a really great goal because it looked so slick; from the ball being in our half to the tap-in, the entire sequence only took a few seconds. It was one of those moments when the team just clicked. We just need to click more often!

We entered the break with a two goal lead and it was my dearest wish to send the team out in the exact same formation as the first half. Whatever we were doing was working very well, and I wanted to see more of it. Unfortunately, this couldn't be managed and so we swapped goalies for the second half with **Nathan** going in goals and **Joseph** playing outfield.

Again the team played very well and restricted Holroyd to just the odd shot on goal, while we managed to increase our score when **Elijah** added yet another goal to his haul for the season. **Ajiri** picked up another assist to make it two assists from him for the match.

Harsh was a rock in defense but his passing is now starting to be a key feature of his game. Both **Ethan** and **Harsh** are getting more confident on the ball but it was **Harsh** who topped the Key Pass stat for the game with two key passes. Well done!

Ajiri and **Ishan** also played very well as we have worked out the best way to play these two. The instructions were that when one player was up the field, the other was to stay back and defend. Both players carried out these instructions to the letter and was probably the reason we secured the clean sheet.

The game ended with a 3-0 scoreline and wasn't the team happy with the result! The coach certainly was, as were the watching parents.

With the season drawing to a close this weekend, the team can show how much they've improved when we play Auburn District this weekend. We drew the first match 4-4 but lost the second one 2-4. Let's end the season with a win!

Coach Andy

Final Score on Saturday: 0 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC

Final Score on Sunday: 3 – 0 to Granville Waratah SFC



Joshua watches as his shot heads towards goal, with Nathan watching even closer, while Anuj looks for the rebound

A special addition to this report, from the referee (Tony, the club treasurer): You see lots of different games up close as the person with the whistle. For the Under 10 Dolphins match on Sunday, I got the best view of what I consider the game of the season. To me, the winner was team work and determination.

As the game started, Holroyd showed great ball skills. They were clearly a highly skilled team and their team work wasn't bad. Whilst our Dolphins team is pretty good, the skills shown by Holroyd in the opening minutes just seemed at a higher level, and I was expecting them to break through Granville's determination and take the match.

But wow, our boys lifted themselves! It was clear they were working to a plan. Their defence was fantastic - patiently working and slowing down the highly skilled Holroyd players until they made a mistake and then taking the ball. And when our team got the ball, you would see great soccer - balls lifted high across the field to a spot a forward was already running for. As he took off for the goal, others were running forward for the cross or rebound. The Holroyd keeper put in a great effort, but eventually the balls went in.

Exhaustion was a problem in the second half, I could see it on the faces of the players and the 2-nil half-time lead didn't seem like it would be enough when Holroyd had the slope on their side. But our defence was strong and well organised, and importantly, the good defence was leading to more attacks, keeping the ball away from our goal.

Exhausted Waratahs just kept running to the other end of the field, and we got one more. But Holroyd never gave up, with less than a minute on my watch they were still giving it everything and our team was resisting just as hard.

The game would have been worthy of a Grand Final! Great effort by both teams, but particularly by the Waratahs.



Elijah wheels away after scoring while Ishan punches the air in delight

Under 8 Possums – Round 12, Saturday 19th September

For our Round 12 match we headed to Bathurst Park to take on **Greystanes FC**. Unfortunately, **Zoran** was missing from our line-up for this game, but we had nine eager Granville Waratah players assembled and ready to go.

With the advantage of running slightly downhill in the first half, Granville had the better of the field position and chances on goal for the first 10 minutes or so. **Adnan** was trying hard in the unfamiliar role of playing striker, desperately racing after the ball each time it was pushed into the open field toward the Greystanes goal.

Mehaan provided some timely kicks from fullback to get us on the front foot, while **Ashutosh** impressed by tackling his way through opposition traffic, dribbling and passing the ball effectively onto teammates. This forward



Liam on the ball with Ashuosh and Yaseen

movement allowed **Sayan** to bag a couple of goals toward the end of the first half, along with **Sineth** sneaking one into the net a minute before the whistle blew.

At the break I congratulated the boys on some great work so far, but warned that Greystanes will have the advantage in the second half running down the slope, so we should focus on clearing the ball away from our own end as quick as possible.

Sineth continued to work hard in defense and attack, chasing down any Greystanes player who had the ball and was rewarded for his efforts with his second goal not long after the restart. Greystanes, however, were not giving up and for about 5 minutes or so of play they dominated the game through some persistent tackling and passing resulting in 2 goals of their own.

Tristan managed to initially save both attempts on goal by knocking the ball away from the target, however on each occasion it fell into the path of a Greystanes player who was able to convert on the second attempt.

Granville finished the match strong with more good teamwork and positive play but were unable to increase the score any further. Overall, the boys played very well, no more so than **Ashutosh** who had a standout first half and was awarded our Player of the Match. Well done boys!

Coach Anthony

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

Final Score: 2 – 4 to Granville Waratah SFC



Ashuosh was awarded POTM

Under 8 Possums – Round 13, Saturday 20th September

For our second match of the weekend we woke up to discover a grey, wet morning and the unfortunate prospect of closed fields and a cancelled match. Thankfully, Belmore Park was declared open and we headed down to the ground to play **Lidcombe Waratah FC** with our umbrellas and wet weather gear along for the ride.

Once again, we were one player down for this game, with **Mehaan** unable to join us this time. As it turned out our opposition could only manage 4 players to show up and requested we play with equal numbers to make it an even match. I agreed to the request and our 4 rain-soaked players from each team began to run around the extra wide-open space that fewer numbers provided.

Lidcombe were first to score a goal and I immediately started to wonder if this agreement to play with less players would backfire as a couple of the Lidcombe players clearly had both speed and talent. However with a full set of players on the bench we were able to rotate with fresh legs every 6 or 7 minutes and we began to get the upper hand. Our champion goal scorers for the season (**Sineth**, **Sayan** and **Zoran**), showed their class by each getting a goal before the first half ended giving us the ascendancy.

We were 3-1 up at halftime and going pretty well when unfortunately the opposition coach decided to make an issue of the first half refereeing and threatened to walk with his team unless he could officiate the second half of the game himself. This was a surprising and disappointing development, however thanks to the Granville Waratah President, Noel, we were provided with an alternate referee from the club in order to defuse the situation.



Sayan on the Ball with Ashutosh and Sineth in support



Umbrella spectators in the rain

Having a neutral referee for the second half helped to quieten the dissent from the opposition, but even more effective was the four more unanswered goals that the team put into the back of the Lidcombe net.

Our boys really got into their groove in the second half with many players having a standout performance. **Yaseen** was full of running and made some very effective challenges on the ball to link up with teammates. **Sayan** used the wet conditions to his advantage as he danced around with the ball changing directions multiple times to bamboozle the opposition.



Ashutosh looking to defend our goal

Our ever reliable defending duo of **Bijad** and **Adnan** were stopping Lidcombe from progressing too far into our territory, with **Adnan** using his puffed-out chest like a superhero to repel the ball and send it back to where it came from with twice the power. **Tristan** was having another outstanding game as goalkeeper by firmly and confidently grabbing hold of any attempt on goal by Lidcombe, much to their frustration.

Zoran was hungry for action and kept a watchful eye whenever Lidcombe had the ball, like a predator stalking its prey, ready to pounce at the smallest sniff of an opportunity to race away and score, which he did successfully on two occasions. Unsurprisingly it was **Sineth** and **Sayan** who got the other two goals to finish our game on a high.

Apart from the ugly incident at halftime with the opposition coach, I was excited and full of pride for our players and parents who pushed through the challenging weather and off-field drama to notch up a memorable win. It was difficult to choose, but **Sayan** received our Player of the Match award for demonstrating his brilliant skills to beat defenders and his unselfish play to pass the ball to teammates.

Well done U8 Possums, you were complete hero's in this game, you should be very proud of your efforts and the joy that came with victory!

Coach Anthony

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

Final Score: 7 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC



Sayan was awarded POTM

Under 11 Koalas – Round 12, Saturday 19th September

Our match against **Greystanes FC BLK** was another game where we put in a good effort and had the help of some under 9 borrowed players to lend a hand... or is that a foot?

The first half was a bit of a disappointment - we moved the ball around the park a bit but just not as good as our opposition who found holes in our defence to score three goals before half time. I can accept having goals scored against us if they were good goals, but we were sloppy and left players unmarked. At half time I asked the team to lift and do better... and they did!

The second half started with us scoring first and playing strong. We kicked well, made passes, played wide, and tackled hard. Our energy levels was high and we were determine to win the second half.

Player of the Match was **Dev** who made some great saves as our goalkeeper and earnt the applause of our opposition. Even though we let in a second half goal, the team did not stop.

Leo kept Greystanes under pressure with his big kick on the rolling ball and right on the full time whistle we scored another well deserved goal to win the half 2-1.

The boys were excited with the finish and I was proud of the team.

Coach Noel

Final Score: 2 – 4 to Greystanes FC BLK

Under 11 Koalas – Round 13, Saturday 20th September

Well, when **Toongabbie Demons** turned up with only five players, we helped them out by giving them four borrowed players from our under 10 Dolphins and Koalas.

This was just a fun game in the rain where Granville Waratah were really playing Granville Waratah. Both teams enjoyed the run in the park, rather than being at home doing nothing.

Coach Noel

Final Score: 2 – 3 to Toongabbie Demons



Under 12 Div. 3 – Round 12, Saturday 19th September

People and Play - Everyone was keen for a game of soccer this day. The sun was out, and so were the parents and players. **Merrylands SFC Black** were determined to put on a good show, and so were we. There was a good, healthy sense of competition, infused with respect, from both sides. Go, you good thing! Game ON!

Angus and **Ethan** were running hard, and running hard defence. **Nithin** and **Ian** were stepping on the gas up front. **Seif** put the first goal in, off a skilful assist from **Adee**. **Fahad** was steady and strong in goals; and **Ali** applied dexterity in scoring our second goal before the first half came to a conclusion.



Eager to play

The second half saw our boys setting up camp in the opposition's half for most of its duration. **Akeem** was the first to launch one into the back of the net, bringing us to a three-nil lead. And by the close of the match, Adee scored our fourth, and Seif again for our fifth and final.

Sarth, **Kyran** and **Saharsh** put a stop to many a Merrylands play. **Ali S** and **Tahaa** worked hard throughout.

It was **Nithin** who walked away with Player of the Match, for all his tireless efforts always putting our team at greater advantage.

Coach Steve

Coach's Player of the Match:

Nithin

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 5 – 0 to Granville Waratah SFC



Half-time energy supplements



Nithin, well earned Player of the Match

Under 12 Div. 3 – Round 13, Saturday 20th September

When it Rains - Rain started in the early hours of this Sunday morning; and continued all the way through to kick off, and to the whistle's final blow. Drenched and soaked, the boys' bodies may have been, but their spirits and efforts certainly weren't dampened. **Pendle Hill** hosted us on this cold, wet day.

Tahaa, Angus, Nithin, and Saharsh were hard at work on the right side of the field, constantly hacking away, gaining ground, and retrieving possession of the ball.

Ali S took impressive corner after impressive corner; and then impressively scored the first for the rain-soaked day. **Seif** and **Ali** were steadily on the attack; **Kyran** and **Ethan** were giving it their all in defence.

Fahad denied Pendle Hill time after time in goals, **Sarth** reliable by his side. **Adee** provided solid support on not-so-solid slippery grounds.

Akeem was speeding and gliding between the raindrops (the day's Player of the Match), and was absolute magic as he scored the second Granville goal for the day.

Nithin put in our third and last goal with an extraordinary floating lob from way out. There were some missed opportunities from our Waratah boys; but they acquitted themselves well in tough conditions, taking with them a victory of 3 – 0.

Coach Steve

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

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 0 – 3 to Granville Waratah SFC



Making moves between the raindrops



Plotting and planning for playing in the wet



The sun shines at end of day for Akeem, Player of the Match

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