

FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter
2020 season - Volume 12 - 30th September 2020**



FROM THE PREZ

I know it seems weird to still be playing soccer in October but its year 2020 and almost anything goes. It just doesn't seem right to be going fishing and attending to my veggie patch, whilst still training and getting ready for finals. The season will end soon but five of our teams still have plenty of work to do, and hopefully a very large trophy to collect! We congratulate them and simultaneously wish them all the very best in the finals. I look forward to posting on social media your spirited renditions of the Victory song post game!

Meanwhile, all our Miniros teams have received their medals and completed the season but rather than wait for next year, the club will be conducting an 8 week Skills Development Course commencing 6:00pm Tuesday 20 October 2020 at Belmore Park. The course will be tailor made by Tony Basha from the Australasian Soccer Academy. He will be implementing the course together with a number of our coaches.

The course is practically FREE as it will only cost \$100, or just one ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER. This course will be a great way for your child to continue his or her soccer learning and development. It's also an opportunity for new children to participate and prepare themselves to join next season. And if of course you choose not to participate, that is fine too, but we look forward to seeing you early next year to celebrate our 120th season!

You will be able to register for the 8 week course next week as we are just awaiting Football NSW approval. So tell your friends and watch this space!

Noel Dona, club president.

REGISTER NOW
registrar@granvillewaratah.com.au
8 WEEK SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
FROM TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER TO 8 DECEMBER
6:00PM TO 7:00PM
@ BELMORE PARK, NORTH PARRAMATTA
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
FROM AGES 5 TO 11 YEARS
COST \$100 OR AN ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER

RESULTS FROM ROUND 14

Congratulations to all our junior full-field teams, they all made the finals! Well done to all coaches and players. Our All Ages Men team also made it as did our Premier League Reserves. Our firsts team had it in their hands to make the finals but our opponents on the weekend, Auburn District, were just too strong on the day.

Age Group Div.	Home Team	Home Score	Away Score	Away Team
08 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	1	2	Auburn FC
08 Possums	Pendle Hill SC	0	7	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Wombats	Newington Gunners	0 (f)	3	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Koalas	Toongabbie Demons	0	5	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	4	2	Merrylands SFC
10 Dolphins	Auburn District	5	3	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Koalas	Parramatta City BLK	3	12	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Wombats	Granville Waratah SFC	0	8	Auburn FC
11 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	0	7	Merrylands SFC
12 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	3	1	Merrylands SFC
12 Div. 4	Greystanes FC	2	2	Granville Waratah SFC
14 Div. 3	Granville Waratah SFC	3	0	Greystanes FC
AAM Div. 4	Toongabbie Demons	1	5	Granville Waratah SFC
Premier League Res.	Granville Waratah SFC	2	2	Auburn District
Premier League 1sts	Granville Waratah SFC	0	5	Auburn District

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 U12 Div. 3 team wins for a great summary of their lead up to the finals. Thanks to **From the Sidelines** for sending it in.



Under 12 Div. 3 – Featured Match Report

Round Up! Round Up! – The final round of the season. A culmination of hard work on the soccer field, and hardships with COVID off the field. This team of troopers have outdone themselves throughout, only having lost one round throughout the season.

They have pulled together, this collection of individuals, and made a strong singular unit, utilising all their unique strengths and skills. This game they were a little flummoxed by **Merrylands SFC White** and their close-knit defence. Our Granville boys had many more opportunities to land several more goals, but, they never gave up. The final score – another win, 3 to 1.



Seif on the attack

We were down a player in our goalie – strong defender **Sarth** stepped into the role – and kept things safe. **Tahaa** converted our first goal, off a tense penalty kick. Tahaa, **Akeem**, **Seif**, and **Nithin** were constantly driving the ball into Merrylands’ defence – and making them work hard. **Angus** and **Kyran** were slugging away hard with their defence duties. At the halfway mark, we were 1 & 1.



Tahaa, cool under penalty pressure

Ali S, **Ethan**, and **Ian** were showing dogged determination, and pressured attacks; Seif found the net, putting us in the lead. And Ian was next to score, giving the space and confidence to continue the lead. **Ali** was stepping on the gas, propelling forward for attacks; **Adee** and **Saharsh** displayed significantly impressive skill and determination with both defence and attack elements.

It wasn't the strongest game from our boys; it wasn't their weakest. It's been a long year – and a long journey. And they're now into preparations for the upcoming Semi's. They should all be proud of the work they have achieved on and off the field during a tumultuous year. Bravo to all.



Granville and Merrylands White, a healthy sporting fight

A special mention to **Kyran** – new to the team, new to the club this year. He has acquitted himself with quiet confidence and determination, making himself a valuable part of the team; and growing week in, week out.

Congratulations, **Kyran** – your Player of the Match this week stands also as a testament to your achievements the entire season. Well done, Granville! Hip hip hooray!

Coach Steve

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

Report by **From the Sidelines**

Final Score: 3 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC



Kyran, Player of the Match, after impressing all year.

Under 8 Possums

Windy and wild weather at Binalong Park was the scene for our final game of the year against **Pendle Hill FC**. Parents and players alike were feeling a mix of excitement and sadness that our season was about to come to an end. The excitement was fuelled by the fact that we had beaten this team 12-1 when we first met, so we arrived at the ground anticipating a big finish in our last round match. The sadness had been building up all week with the knowledge that the fun and friendships that have developed over the past few months were about to stop.

Emotions aside, it was now down to the players and two twenty-minute halves of soccer to see if we would finish on a high. Granville were first to kick off to get the game started and players were busy trying to get the upper hand and move the ball toward the opposition goal. With a few early attempts on goal it seemed only a matter of time before we would be streaking ahead on the scoreboard and enjoying a comfortable lead.



Zoran takes a shot with teammates in the goalmouth

However, Pendle Hill were doing their best to hassle for the ball as both teams were quite bunched in the middle of the field and getting in each other's way. We were clearly not on our game in a somewhat chaotic first half of soccer, which saw our defenders miskicking their clearances, our strikers misfiring their shots and our midfield lacking any purpose and direction.

With a nil-all score at halftime this game was not going according to the script, making a few of us on the sideline a little apprehensive by what we were seeing on the field. As the players drank from their water bottles and ate oranges, I reminded them to get back to the basics by controlling the ball and calling to each

other for the ball and passing it into space in order to go around the team instead of trying to dribble through the middle.

With a renewed focus and an eagerness to put in a big effort in our final 20 minutes for the year as a team, the boys ran back out ready to make up for the lacklustre performance in the first half.

Immediately the players were more switched on as their passing and calling for the ball began to open up the play and provide opportunities to dribble downfield and attack Pendle Hill's goal. A great example of this was a goal kick from **Tristan** to our fullback **Adnan**, who controlled and turned on the ball before booting it down the right-hand side of the field directly to a waiting **Zoran**, who dribbled with speed before crossing it into the middle for **Sineth** to score the goal. The whole length-of-the-field movement involved 4 of our players, long accurate passing, good communication and awareness, as well as speed and skill, not allowing Pendle Hill to even get a touch on the ball until it reached the goalsquare.

Finally, the teamwork began to click and our play was gaining momentum. As if a tap had been turned on, the goals now began to flow at a rate of one every few minutes, resulting in a 7-0 second half effort and final score. **Sayan**, **Sineth** and **Zoran** fittingly finished their successful goal scoring season by sharing the 7 goals between them. **Liam** was unlucky not to bag one after a few attempts in good position, with one shot flying into the box and taking a deflection from the boot of **Sayan** and into the top corner of the net.

Despite the early worrying signs, this team has rarely disappointed all season and I was so happy for the players to finish off their season on a winning high. What was most pleasing was that they clearly listened at halftime and put into practice what we knew we needed to do to play the sort of soccer we were capable of producing.

All the players contributed well, particularly in the second half of this match, with **Zoran** receiving our Player of the Match award for his running and tenacity on the ball, along with a brilliant corner kick which landed at the feet of his teammate Sayan which resulted in a goal.

Well done U8 Possums, once again you showed great team spirit to take hold of this game and to come away with a win, demonstrating that soccer is best played when you work together toward achieving results.

Coach Anthony

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

Final Score: 0 – 7 to Granville Waratah SFC



Zoran is the Player of the Match

Under 10 Dolphins

Our final match for the 2020 season was against **Auburn District** who turned out to be our nemesis team. They were the team to beat in 2018 and yet again in 2020. Don't ask me about 2019, they had the second worst team in the competition! While we came out on top in 2018, our first match against them this year ended in a four all draw and the return game saw us go down by four goals to two. Auburn District are a passionate club, full of pride for getting results on the field and you always need to lift your game against them. Would we continue on from our wonderful result last week against Holroyd? Let's find out...

We kicked off and it was immediately clear it wasn't going to be a walk in the park. More like a gut-busting fitness session that lasted nearly an hour! Both teams' players were comfortable on the ball and adept at picking out a good pass, but it has to be said that Auburn were doing this better than our team overall. We ended up playing counter-attacking football against their more possession-based game and this would have worked a treat if we could finish our chances. But, alas, we couldn't.

The game finished after eight goals has been scored, but, unhappily for us, we only scored three of them. The two chances that went begging for us ended up being the difference on the day. I think that had they gone in, a draw would have been a fair result.

Still, the game had it's moments – we saw goals from **Ajiri, Elijah, and Nathan** – and everyone else either pulled off a key dribble, pass, or a tackle to make it onto the stats sheet. So our team has players all contributing, now the struggle is to take their team play to the next level.

The plan is for this team to play in the Under 12s next year as we have seen the success of last year's U10 Dolphins in making the finals after becoming division premiers, and we hope to emulate their success. Your team is an inspiration **Coach Steve!**

Coach Andy

Final Score: 5 – 3 to Auburn District



Under 11 Koalas

For the final match of the season we were up against **Merrylands SFC** and we again borrowed players from the under 9's to help make up numbers.

This match was more about having fun as the players chopped and changed a bit. I can't blame the lads who have put in big efforts all year.

Dev started in goals but **Bhargav** ended up in goals. **Leo** started centre back but ended up centre midfield. **Dhruv** started centre forward but ended up right fullback – all enjoying the different roles and having a bit of fun.



It was good to see the team implement the strategy we recently developed at training to take corners and get the ball into the goal mouth. This has been a weakness all year but in the past two or three matches we have applied maximum pressure on our oppositions and scored a goal for the efforts. It was especially pleasing because when we were awarded the corner, the boys knew what to do without me having to give any instruction – this is a very good sign they are learning, and this is all I can ask for!

Coach Noel

Final Score: 0 – 7 to Merrylands SFC



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