

Granville Waratah Soccer Football Club Club Magazine - Season 2008

Presentation Issue 21 September 2008

FREE

KICK



Executive Committee for 2008

President
Secretary
Senior Vice President
Junior Vice President
Registrar/Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Equipment Officer

Noel Dona
Hector Guajardo
Rick Paye
Vikash Solanki
Tony Farrell
Vince Wyatt
Vikash Solanki

TRUSTEES

Mary Fox Tony Farrell

LIFE MEMBERS

L. Walker (dec.)
R. Burnett (dec.)
V. Wyatt
G. Kell
Mrs M. Fox

H. F Jacobs (dec)
D. Sutherland
J. Borg
J. Marsh

A. Saggus (dec.)
I. Tye (dec.)
D. Shipton
Mrs B. Borg

**YOUR CLUB NEEDS
YOU!**

62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 4 November 2008

At the club house

ROBIN THOMAS RESERVE

Harris Street Parramatta

COMMENCING 7.30 PM

We have positions to fill in the Executive Committee.

Have a say in how your club is run, make your club better for your children.

President's Report

I have been involved with the club now for 10 years and for 8 of those years as club President. It has been a personal goal of mine (and I know of the committee) to ensure that for every season, at least one of the teams win a grand championship. For as long as Vince Wyatt's can remember (and that's 44 unbroken years with our club) we have always won at least one Grand Championship.



Accordingly I have always felt that pressure to ensure this unbroken chain of success continues. This season, unfortunately, none of our teams managed to hold the grand champions trophy high on grand final day. Whilst I was (heart) broken on the day, strangely enough, I look back on the season now and see so many other victories that help bring a certain sense of contentment about what we have achieved.

We managed a private clinic with Socceros!! Wow – that's worth a dozen grand championship!!!! The excitement and memories of that day will live with us forever! Knowing that one day young Hugh Guajardo will be telling his grandchildren how he scored against one of the Socceros best ever, Harry Kewell, will always bring a smile to my face. Even today, remembering he the glowing faces of our young players in attendance, don't stop warming my heart.

Meeting Bill Henderson (read more about him later on) and hearing his stories was just a very proud moment for me as I consider myself truly lucky to know him and call him my friend...our friend!!! At the Association Annual Presentation Dinner, he was a guest speaker that kept the 400 in attendance wanting to be told more stories of his life.

Hearing my under 8's team celebrate their first and only win of the year, which was the last game of the season was a wonderful moment. They celebrated like it was a Grand Championship that brought a proud tear of joy to my eye. Reminding me why I coach.

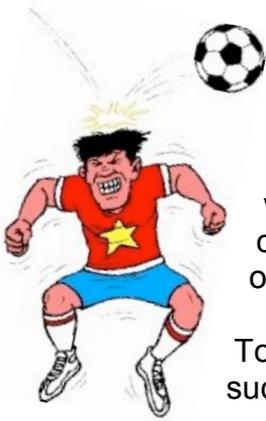
As was the gut wrenching loss of a golden goal (being a very questionable off side goal) with less than a minute in my under 18's final. Whilst it was the worst ever feeling I have EVER felt in a sporting moment, watching how my team bonded after the game was a proud moment. Believe me, sitting as a team in silence having to listen to the opposition sing their victory songs after the game was a very, VERY tough thing to do. And yet this experience was a good experience as it was painful.

Knowing that half of our players are new players to our club, reassures me that the clubs rebuilding is on track.

Of course having so many new players means that we have lost a large number.

The frustrating thing about coaching is that we aim to make our players better. The irony is, is that if they get good enough, they often get poached by representative teams in other clubs. Losing such players weakens our teams, but we go on in the knowledge that these players are better because of their experience in our club.





Unfortunately this is what happened to last seasons grand champion under 13's team coached by Hector. He had such a good team, players were poached. I guess we should be flattered...and proud.

Seeing how our clubs committee is working together (of course more help is wanted) for you and your children is fantastic. I believe that over the next couple of years new parents will become committee members and the future of a club will be in good hands.

To everyone who has donated their time and effort in to the operation and success of the club, I personally thank you.

Be VERY proud of your club, because I am!!!

NOEL DONA

Secretary's Report

Another season over, where did it go? It seemed to go quickly, but we managed to pack a lot into one year.

This season welcomed two under 6 sides, a huge under 8 side, a very competitive under 9's and under 11's, two under 13 sides, one under 14's, one under 18's and one senior side. Our under 6's had a great introduction to soccer via the small sided game. 6 Green, coached by Gabi and Maurice, went the whole season undefeated. They also played a Gala Day at Lidcombe and had a great afternoon at Parramatta Stadium on Grand Final day, playing an exhibition game at half time. The children couldn't contain their excitement as they lined up and ran out through the players' tunnel onto the field.

Under 6 Red, coached by Steve, also had a great season. According to Lisa, their manager and statistician, they won about 80% of their games – a fantastic effort for a first season. Congratulations, I really enjoyed watching these under 6 teams training – the coaches put the players through the same great drills and kept them focused – very hard to do with children that age!



This year, the under 8's was made up of both 7 and 8 year olds as we didn't have enough players to field separate under 7's and under 8's. This team started the season slowly, but finished very strong.

We had five teams playing in finals – U 9's, U 11's, U 13-3, U 13-4 and U 18-1 – a great effort from a small Club with only 10 teams. Our 10 teams include one roo-ball side and two small-sided – so that really brings it back to 7 teams in contention. What an incredible effort to get 5 of these teams into finals. Congratulations to Rick's U13-3 team for making the grand final. There are some very good players in this team and I'm sure they will make themselves heard in 2009, playing Division 2.

Under 9's and under 11's also played a final, but were eliminated early. A fantastic effort when you consider that these teams played most of the season short on players. Congratulations to both players and coaches for a great season.

Under 13-4 were also final's contenders and their coach, Colin, did a great job working with his team to get this far. Here's hoping they go all the way to the grand final next year.

Under 14-3 was a new team this year, recruiting many new players at the start of the season. It took these boys a few games to find themselves, but they finished the season very strong – racking up a few wins and shaking up the competition. I think that the boys' skill and understanding of the game played a big part in finishing the season the way they did. Congratulations to all the players and coaches, Juan and Eddie.

Under 18's also played in the finals, but were eliminated. This is not the way the boys wanted to finish the season, but their level of commitment to the game – given their other obligations (study, work) makes their efforts to attend training and games on weekends, something to be proud of. Most of these players have belonged to this Club for a number of years and it's very pleasing to see them mature as players and as young men. Thanks to the players and their coach Noel for a great season.

We had one senior team this year, playing in division 8. The boys managed to finish the season well, but picked up a few major injuries throughout the year which resulted in some players being out for the season. These boys enjoyed their game and played well all year.

Our Club's objective to manage 10 teams this season was realized. Hopefully, we can pick up even more players next season and continue to build the strength of our Club.

I would like to thank all our coaches and managers for the work and commitment they put into this season. A Club cannot exist without volunteers – special thanks to all the parents and family members who helped our Club this year – your involvement is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to the Club Committee for keeping everything on track and to Vickash for managing the canteen – it was a very successful year for the canteen, thanks Vickash for all your work.

Our web master, Tony Farrell (what a God send!), kept our web site relevant and our system up-to-date. Many thanks for also being responsible for player registration, a great effort – thanks Tony.

Many thanks to Noel and his networking skills – he chased any opportunities our way. A great example was the Socceroo Clinic, that saw a couple of our teams have the chance of a lifetime meeting and playing with some great soccer stars, including Harry Kewell! What a wonderful memory – great work Noel.

It's the players who go out as a team to try and win for their Club. Thank you for playing for the mighty Granville Waratah – we hope to see you back and playing again next year.

Cheers,

Hector Guajardo



PERPETUAL TROPHY WINNERS

The club's Perpetual Trophies were awarded as follows:

U/6 (green)	K & B Perpetual	Best & Fairest	Jomary Alarcon
(green)	H. Bremmell Shield	Most Improved	Jason Ierfino (red) Toufic Darjani
U/8	T Mangion Shield	Most Outstanding	Jason Lee (red)
U/9	Frank Jacob Shield	Most Improved	Dean Astill
U/11	Paul Black Trophy	Most Consistent	Mihir Bhasin
U/13	Sutherland Shield	Most Improved	Kenny Liang
3)			Zakia Yosufi (div 4) Dillon Watson (div
U/14	Vince Wyatt Trophy	Most Consistent	Nahian Chowdhury
U/18	Brian Jenkinson Trophy	Most Consistent	Khalid Allybokus

JUDICIAL

The club record for season 2008 is summarised as follows:

TEAM	CAUTIONS (yellow)	SEND OFFS (red)
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Unfortunately the Association has not been able to give us the exact numbers before the presentation, however I suspect it was even less than last year. WELL DONE!

Remember that we are a proud supporter of Zero Tolerance and we aim to set the standard for other clubs to follow!



MEETINGS

Representatives from all teams attended General Meetings held throughout the year – representatives from all teams need to regularly attend these meeting to continue the success of your club and team.

Registrar's Report

As club registrar it was my role to collect the paper work and money, check the ID's, put all the details into the computer system and send it off to the association so we can get the ID cards so we could play. NOT the most exciting job! But I do get a good look at the make up of the club:

In 2007, we had about 165 players registered at the end of the season in 11 teams. Only one girl was included.

In 2008, our numbers dropped a bit. We had 132 registered players in 10 teams. Not all

the area). We did double our number of girls (a lot more scope for improvement here). One significant characteristic of our community is that it experiences a lot of change and this is reflected in our club: The table below shows the teams and number of registered players, and how many of these were new to the club.

Team	Players	New to Club
U6/Green (SSG)	9	6
U6/Red (SSG)	8	8
U8/Green (Rooball)	14	10
U9/5	14	5
U11/4	11	5
U13/3	13	2
U13/4	13	7
U14/3	15	12
U18/1	17	4
Senior/8	18	7
Total	132	66 (50%)

So half the club is new this year. I hope all of you will be back next year.

Another characteristic of the club is the dramatic diversity in the apparent background of the players. As club registrar I have to check all the passports, birth certificates and other documents provided to prove the age of players, and we do come from a lot of different places. Noel, tells me his under 18's team has 14 different nationalities!

I thought it would be interesting to have a look... and here is what I found:

Country	Player Birthplace/ Citizenship	Apparent Background
Not Clear	0	14.5
Australia	42	7
China		2
India	6	9.5
Afghanistan	3	7
Lebanon		3
Fiji		0.5
Pakistan	1	2
South Africa	2	2
Uganda		0.5
Turkey		1
New Zealand	1	
Ecuador	1	1
Sierra Leone	2	2
Bangladesh	1	1
England	0	1
Nepal		2
Vietnam		1
Iran	2	3
Iraq	1	2
	62	62

A few notes on this table – Mostly, I only have information for players who are new to the club this year. Most players provided either a birth certificate or a passport, both of which have some information that often indicates the player's background. This will not always be right – for example there clearly are some players who might consider their

background to be Indian but came from other countries. And of course, some players have parents of different backgrounds – hence the .5's in that column.

It is an interesting set of countries – and if we were to roll in players who were not new to the club, we would add many others – from Chile to Italy. But out on the fields, the kids are always just another bunch of Aussie kids enjoying their football.



Registrations for 2008

Year	Teams	Players
2008	10	132
2007	11	165
2006	11	180
2005	11	178
2004	11	156
2003	9	139

Where we finished in 2008

	Minor Premiers	Semi Finalists	Finalists	Grand Finalists	GRAND CHAMPIONS
2008	0	3	1	1	0
2007	1	0	0	3	1
2006	3	0	0	1	3
2005	0	1	0	0	1
2004	1	0	3	0	1
2003	1	0	0	4	2
2002	0	3	0	1	3



Tony Farrell



BILL HENDERSON...

OUR LIVING LEGEND!

Bill started playing soccer just before the start of WWII for a small club called Granville East - it does not exist anymore. He has a newspaper cut out in his personal scrap book describing a 9 year old boy named Bill Henderson as a "gifted" goal keeper. A sign a great things to come.!!!

From 1944-1947 he played for Granville Waratah Soccer Club. In 1947 his under 17's team won the competition. In 1948 he played for Granville Kewpies and won a Championship.

From 1948-1957 he played for the Association representative team - the Granville Magpies...and won several championships. So strong was the Magpie team, in the 1940's and '50's, touring national teams would play the Magpies too - and they won a few games!!!.

He was regularly selected to play for NSW and also in 1954 he was called up to play for Australia, being Soccerroo number 128. His father was the 29th player to play for the Soccerroos. He was Australia's first ever Olyroo. In 1956 he played goalkeeper for Australia in the Melbourne Olympics!.

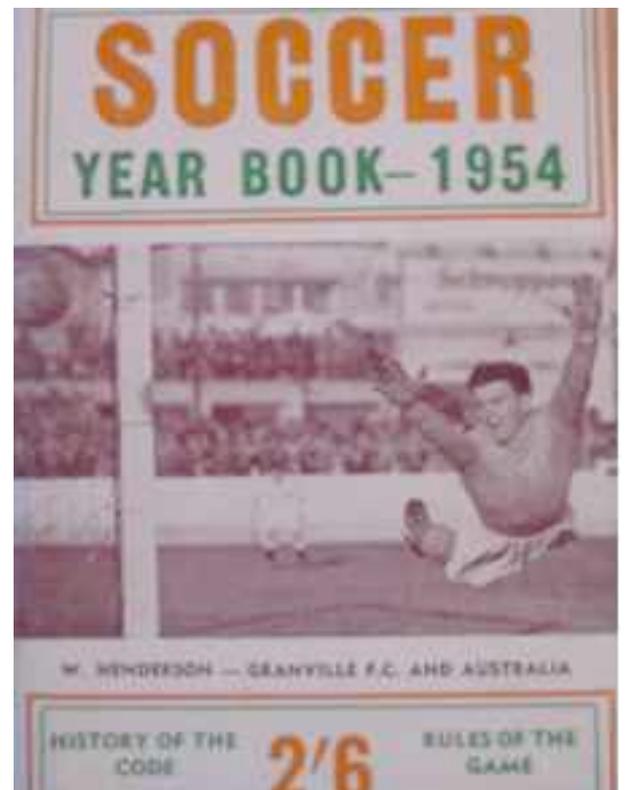
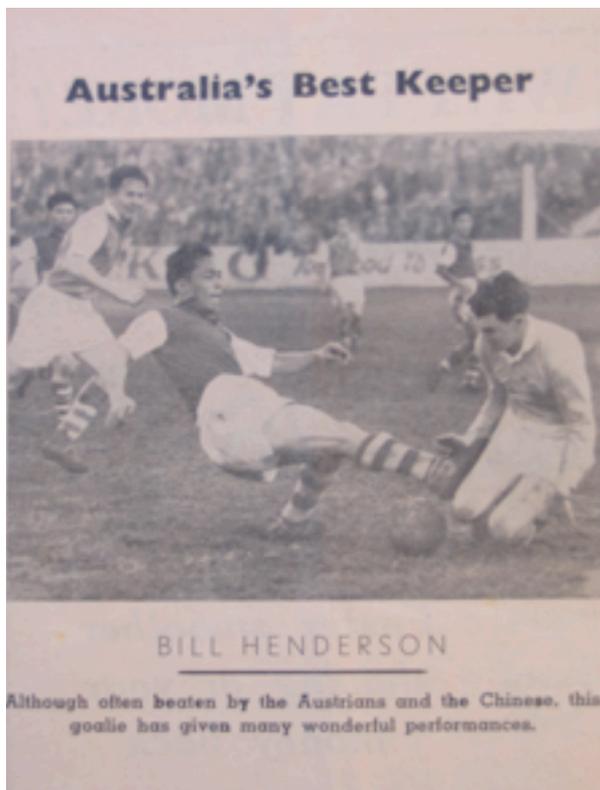
In the mid-50's he was recongised as Australia's best goal keeper!

In 1957 he switched from the Association to the newly formed Soccer Federation and had to play for Auburn, where they won the Championship in the first year.

More recently, his achievements were finally recongised by the national body when he was inducted in the Soccer hall of fame.!!!

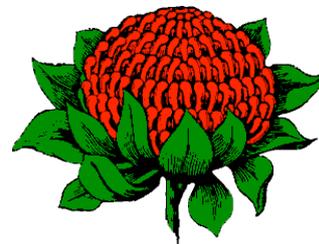


Bill Henderson (centre) receiving his championship trophy at the club presentation at Granville Town Hall.





PLAYER OF THE YEAR



This year the clubs committee has decided to start a new individual player award called the **Bill Henderson Player of the Year Award** – in honor of a great man, a true gentleman, who played for our club as a junior between 1944-47 and then went on to become a Socceroo in 1954. He is to this day, our club's only Socceroo!

So how to decide the winner?

Is it the club's best and most talented player? Not necessarily.

Is it the player who tries the hardest? Not necessarily.

Is it the club's fairest player? Not necessarily, though the committee decided that a player who has received a red card, whilst it does not disqualify that player from winning the award, it would make it extremely difficult.

After much discussion within the committee, we determined the award is designed to recognize 3 very important characteristics we look for in all our players. Three characteristics that Bill Henderson himself has endorsed. The winner must consistently display;

1. **Sportsmanship**
2. **Effort and commitment - to game day, training, team and club**
3. **Leadership - by word and actions**

Each coach was asked to nominate a player or players who they believe meet these characteristics. The discussion was very healthy and vigorous and after almost 2 hours of deliberation, we had a winner of **THE HIGHEST HONOR WITHIN OUR CLUB.**

The winner of the inaugural Bill Henderson Player of the year award goes to;

**“DARRYL
WATSON”**

From under 13's division 3

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



TEAM OF THE YEAR



In season 2002 the Executive Committee introduced this new Award in honour of a life member of the club, the late Mr Frank Jacob. Frank spent decades in the clubs committee and donated much of his time in the clubs operation.

This Award has each team within the club in competition against the other. The Award is based on a points system recognising a team's achievement and most important of all, their fair play.

Whilst we do not have the exact number of penalties for us to determine the exact margin of victory ...it was victory by a country mile to ...

u/13's div 3

'Congratulations!!!'

*****###*****

End Of Season Reports

U/6 Red

Well the season has come to an end and what a season it's been. The boys have played great soccer, improving immensely over the season having lots of fun along the way.

Each Wednesday the boys have turned up for training with their dedicated coach Steve. Steve worked with the boys teaching the boys skills and building up their fitness levels. His great work was evident by the end of the season where the boys began to improve their ball skills and team play. The boys started to pass the ball and play as a team. Thanks Steve. Thank you also to Nick and Louis who helped with the coaching on numerous occasions. An extra hand is always appreciated.



Saturdays was the fun day. Eight thirty on a cold winter morning. Each Saturday the dedicated parents travelled to the grounds to cheer and be entertained by some very special 6 year old boys playing soccer.

Jason Ierfino was extraordinary scoring the most goals for the season and his defensive skills

numerous occasions and showing good dribbling skills almost Maradona like. Matty was a very consistent player who always showed great sportsmanship, making sure to score often and defend well. Michael made a great effort each week with a whopper of a goal against Dundas and some great defensive work. Aaradhya played with passion, attacking the ball at every opportunity. Jason Lee, Benny and Farhan improved three fold by the end of the season and made a great contribution to the team.

Then the Gala Day which Jason and Nasiem participated in. What a contribution they made scoring many goals for the under 6 team and defending beautifully. To top it off Nasiem was also photographed and put on the cover of the soccer magazine.

Thanks boys for the entertainment. We know you all had a great time and we hope to see you all back next year.

U/6 Green

We were undefeated!!!

U/8 Green

To think we only won one game all year is very surprising. We were competitive all year and especially competitive in the final 6 games where we either drew or lost by just 1 goal. In an effort to assist our under 9's team, I let that team have 3 of our under 8 year olds early in the year – don't worry, the experience will make our team better next year when they rejoin their team mates.

So I had a team made up of half under 8's and half under 7's – very few had experience. It took the time to find their feet but I was very proud of the way the team got better each week. What I enjoyed the most is watching get better and having fun.

Dean was our main scoring threat and always worked hard

Joseph and Praanish was a rock at the back and made teams earn their goals.

Nikshep was like a Bengal Tiger in the goals.

Taha was a brave little bull terrier that never gave up.

Joseph had a big kick when he applied himself to the ball and the game.

Sarjad shows he knows how to play soccer by control the middle and scoring goals.

Anthony and Naveen gave their burst of energy to keep the oppositions busy.

Rayan was our only girl who tried hard and earned a lot of respect from the boys.

Ali, Hamza and Obaid could not make a lot of games but showed enough skill and talent to cause lots of problems for the other teams.

This year was about getting the players ready for a full sized field for next season. I am truly looking forward to that challenge and getting a lot of wins!!!

Thank you Mum and Dads for you support!

U/9 Division 5.

It seems so long ago now that nine nine year olds went out for their first real game on the big field - against Kewpies. We went down 2-1, but the score didn't really tell the story - it wasn't really that close. The Kewpies spent most of the match in our defensive third - but some fantastic defence kept them from scoring a lot more goals. Neda, our great break away scorer, got away and he got one in - making it look close. But it was clear that both teams were playing roo - ball on the big field.

Fast forward to our semi-final. Once again against Kewpies, once again we went down to them, 1-0 this time. But what a different game it was - they were never out of it and were playing a totally different style of football. They were playing their positions, delivering great kicks, pouncing on loose balls and starting to pass the ball around.

With five eight year olds having joined us during the season (thanks to Noel and the U8s for three of those) we had a full team. First half goalie Nathan had been one of the best goalies of his age all

year round - with great command of the penalty box. But second half goalie Mihir was catching up fast in the goalie skill department, having also picked up the fearlessness needed for the position. Both were also capable players in the mid field.

Joshua and Qasim had been fearless and determined as fullbacks since they joined us and were a great complement to the natural skill of "I'll take that ball thanks" Hamzah in the center fullback/sweeper position. And take it he would - out on the wing turning defence into attack with style. But Qasim wasn't well that day - so part way into the match he came off and Thomas stepped into a big hole - he played the position with just as much determination. Out in the defensive midfield we had coach's stopper Adrian - who's job was to mark Kewpie's skill-full target forward out of the game. Job done perfectly - he never got the ball. Also out in the defensive mid was our fast stopper Leroy - with the speed and fitness to cover large areas of the field, backed up by great all round skill set.

Various boys swapped into the midfield and forward positions through the match - Like many, Hussein had grown from a determined roo-ball swarmer to a boy willing and able to pass under pressure. Aidan and Dominic both had an attitude that, when latched onto an opponent, they just would not let go. Taufiq, as target forward, combined his strength, determination and a good set of ball skills to push past several defenders at a time - setting up for Neda and Dergam to attempt a break away. Dergam had joined us late in the year and quickly impressed with the accuracy and power of his one touch kicks.

But with Taufiq not well, it proved too hard to penetrate Kewpie's defense. Partly because the boys were playing their positions so well that it was hard to turn that off and move them all forward when we had a free kick close to the Kewpies penalty box in the final minutes.

Whilst it was a great match, I think the best day of the season had actually been the week before - playing Ermington who would go on to win the Grand Final. Ermington had in one early game beaten us 9- nil. But in the round 18 game, the boys held them to a nil all draw. A draw in theory - but the faces of our boys and theirs at the end of the match said that we had won that one.

Tony

U/11 Division 4

This year was my first year as assistant coach and to kick off the soccer season we only had 11 players; some were really excited and some were nervous, but one thought was in our minds and it was to play soccer.

Our first game was at home against Rouse Hill Rams which we started off pretty bad. Rouse Hill was controlling the game well with us going down **2-0** at half-time. We started the second half really good with 2 goals in 5 minutes which put pressure on Rouse Hill.

After the two quick goals, Rouse Hill bounced back and scored a goal which caused us a lot of tension 10 minutes in the game. We then scored a goal off a penalty by Tawab which got us at **3-3**, only with 2 minutes to go.

Then in the dying seconds, Tawab crossed to Nabeel which he volleyed to seal the win **4-3**.

The next game was against Dundas Blk at Curtis Oval. We were playing pretty well with players score 1-1 at half-time. The second half was controlled by Dundas, even though we tried our best with only 8 players. They were passing the ball around, running down the line but in the end we

Even though we lost, we tried our best, especially Kenny with his amazing saves and Tawab, Nabeel and Sahil in the attack, while Cody, Allan and Hamid in the defence.

After that game against Dundas, we versed a good heavyweight team in our competition, Lidcombe Waratahs at home. We kicked off the game well with some hard defence at the back and some good attack in the attacking midfield and forward area.

But unluckily Lidcombe scored we were down at half-time **1-0**. The early part of the second half was quite upsetting with another goal scored against us which we were down **2-0**.

Then after a while, we developed some attack providing with a goal with only 7 minutes to spare. After that goal, we were a little careless and almost let in 3 goals, which we had to thank Cody, Allan and Kenny for defending the goals fantastically. With only 3 minutes to spare, Tawab was on the run down the sideline, ran through the middle and sealed a goal for us to obtain a draw.

Halfway through the season we had some losses, by ending up with 9 players due to Monawar moving to Melbourne and Ahmad going to Afghanistan. Also we had help from **Tony's U/9-5 players, Nathan, Neda, Aiden, Adrian, Hamzah and Taufiq**. They were a good help which made us go on a winning streak and not just me but the whole team appreciated their help throughout the early half of the season.

After the new additions arrived, we were playing like a professional soccer team. We were winning and scoring which put on a show at home for the supporters to watch, but also for the other age groups which were watching some of our home games which was really fantastic to see. We beat Castle Hill Utd **5-0**, Kellyville **6-1**, Wenty Waratah **5-1** and Dundas Wht **4-1**.

Towards the end of the season, we had our little problem when some of our players wanted to play their own way / doing their own thing, which costed us some games, like our **10-1** loss to Lidcombe, almost losing against Dundas Blk **3-2** and drawing in the dying seconds to Pendle Hill **3-3**.

Just before we made the finals, I have seen that there has been a big improvement in the team, Hamid now attacks the ball more often, Kenny's saves get more outstanding, Cody's heavyweight defence and running the ball down the sideline, Nabeel being the playmaker in the midfield with Baris passing the ball more & Tawab and Sahil improved their partnership upfront in the attack, passing the ball to each other, 1...2, 1...2, scores!!!

Towards the finals, the team and I talked about those losses could of costed us almost being eliminated from playing in a final, but everyone was understanding that we need to work on more of playing as a team and if we do, we can get somewhere successful next season.

Just before the last game of the season at Kellyville, I told them that is was our last game of the season and just have fun and play. But I wasn't sure if I should have said that, but actually I could see on the field that it actually motivated them while they were playing. Baris was shooting pretty well, having at least 7 to 8 shots on goal but unluckily missing, Kenny with his tremendous goalkeeping skills, Cody's outstanding defensive work at the back and Nabeel, Sahil and Tawab attack was pretty spectacular. But in the end, we won **5-3** which brought us to the semi-finals.

The day arrived when our semi-final match was against Pendle Hill at Colquhuon Park. Some of us arriving early and some arrived in the last minute, which gave us a scare. Before the kick-off, I could hear from some of the Pendle Hill supporters saying: "**They only got nine players, we're gonna win easily!!!**" What they said made me laugh inside because they made the finals with a full side, but we made it with only 9 players, which for me as my first year at Granville Waratah SFC, made me quite proud of myself and for the team.

At the start we started pretty badly, with Pendle Hill scoring early in the first half, our defence was turned upside-down by the fast and precise attack of Pendle Hill and everyone was arguing with each other. We were down **2-0** at the half. But at half-time, I talked to the team about how we got here to play, we played together with teamwork and co-operation and we were luckily enough at least to play in a semi-final and I could see that they were happy when I said that to them and that actually got them motivated and prepared for the second half.

But the start of the second half was quite outstanding to see, with the defence fantastically stopping and demolishing the attack of Pendle Hill and taking their time in attacking the goals. But the patience was worth waiting for, with a goal coming in the 32nd minute and the score-line was **2-1**.

After that goal, Pendle Hill was sticking really hard on Tawab which restricted us from attacking for more goals, which was frustrating for him and then he gave away a free kick which almost knocked us out of the game and an attempt of playing towards the grand final.

But the frustration turned into excitement and happiness, with a goal just in the dying stage of the game, with a goal set-up in the 44th minute by Cody to Nabeel which got us into extra time at **2-2**.

Extra time was really testing our way of playing the game with only 9 players. Even though we ended up in a sudden death moment, we didn't think about it and we just played soccer. But in extra time, our defence was almost torn apart by being outnumbered, but we were capable of not letting a single goal in which came down between the two teams ending up in a penalty-shootout.

Our 5 penalty kickers were Tawab, Sahil, Cody, Nabeel and Kenny. First kicker was Tawab and his was deflected by the opposing goalkeeper. Then it was Kenny's turn to be in goals and he saved the shot against him. Our next kicker was Sahil, which got his in easily, but Kenny's following turn in goals, they unfortunately scored and it was tied **1-1**.

Next it was Nabeel to kick. His first shot went in but it was an invalid shot, so he had a second shot and the keeper saved it but the referee said that it was invalid too, so Nabeel had his third shot on goal and the keeper saved it. Kenny's third time in goal, he dived but was short of the ball and it was **2-1** to Pendle Hill. Next it was Cody's turn to kick and when the whistle blew to kick, he took his time to shoot and he scored, levelling the scores **2-2**.

After that goal, we decided to switch goalkeeper between Kenny and Tawab. Pendle Hill's first shot on Tawab was saved by Tawab and the score was still level. Finally, it was Kenny's turn to shoot, the whistle blew, and he took a shot, but was off to much and went to the side...

Then it was Pendle Hill's turn with their last kick to go, they take the shot...and it goes in.....

Everyone was emotional, from being happy like Pendle Hill, to the emotions of us sadness and in defeat. But in the end, it was a very good effort by us, bringing a team only with 9 players to a semi-final and losing in penalty shootout. Not many teams would be capable of doing it but we proved them that we could do it and proved that we can be more dangerous when we'll have a full side next year!!!

The final score-line was **2-2 (Regular Time), 3-2(Penalty Shootout)**...

Thank you parents, players and supporters for helping your kids becoming good players, for the support in the team this season and for coming to our games, watching your children becoming stars on the field!!!

Thank you for this wonderful and exciting season. Dennis Watson (Assistant Coach)

U/13 Division 3

Players: Cuan Ellis, Mustafa Ghiasy, James Goldsmith, Dilawar Haidarie, Mahmoud Kameh, Pablo Lara, Parth Nathani, Hamid Rasoli, Panah Rawi, Andrew Taha, Darren Watson, Darryl Watson, Dillon Watson.

Played 18, won 13, lost 5

Goals for 93, against 20

Goalscorers: Hamid 26, Mahmoud 25, Pablo 13, Darryl 10, Andrew 8, Cuan 7, Mustafa 1, Panah 1, James 1, O/G 1

Another successful year, but not as successful as we would have liked, falling at the last hurdle. A great effort from the team, moving up a division after finishing runners up last year, and losing some experienced players when the under 13 squad was made into two teams.

The first half of the season produced some great results, brought about by good attacking soccer, but unfortunately we fell away a little bit in the second half, due mainly to lack of players. With only 11 available for most games, and sometimes less, fatigue and injuries during games against opposition teams with 3 or 4 substitutes became a factor, but the effort was always there, and the skill apparent for everyone to see. For the most part this was a highly enjoyable year, and the attitude and commitment at both training and games made this an easy team to coach, and the boys can be proud of their achievements.

Thanks to all the players who put in throughout the entire season, to the supporters who turned up for every game, and especially to the manager, Ernest, who made a big difference and made everything a lot easier.

Hope to see you all back next year, when we give division 2 a try.
Rick

U/18 Division 1

Simply having a team in this age group could be considered a victory in itself as it has been 25 years since our club entered an under 18's side into the competition.

Given that all but 2 of our players were studying for the HSC means that the season would be interrupted and rightfully distracted by studies exams and assessments. With trainings down to just once a week always meant that the team would be relying on maturity and the skills and team familiarity they had developed over the previous years.

Our goal was to beat the States Champion of Champion team, Wenty Waratah, just once and that was to be in the grand final. Whilst we were the only team in the competition who new how to play against and regularly score against Wenty, we fell one game short of redeeming our 2007 grand final loss to Wenty, as we loss a golden goal thriller to Dundas in the final - a game if based on the number of real chances, we perhaps deserved to win.

None the less I am the proud of my team as we pushed the best and ourselves. Whilst we did suffer the worst defeat in this teams 4 year history with me as coach, 4-7 against Pendle Hill, we did have an amazing semi final victory against them to win in golden goal 4-3. It was perhaps the best feeling I have ever experienced in a winning soccer team as we were 0-3 down with just 20 minutes to play!!!!

A team made of 14 different ethnic backgrounds, I won't single out any players for special mention, as this champion team ...is a team of champions!!

We are the clubs premier team and we are very proud of this responsibility! We will be back next year!!!



Registration for the 2009 Soccer season

***First 2 Saturdays after school starts
in late January - early February 2009***

10.00am- 1.00pm

Robin Thomas Reserve Club House

***Start recruiting...Tell your friends to join the
Mighty Blue and Gold Granville Waratah Soccer Club***

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***Always check our website for all the latest news
and updates. www.granvillewratah.com.au***

***SEE YOU ALL NEXT
YEAR!!...***

....it will come quick!

***P.S. Don't be too surprised to see have new
shirts (with the classic design) next season!***