



West Brunswick Amateur Football Club Inc.

Affiliated with the Victoria Amateur Football Association

Mail - PO Box 32, East Brunswick, Vic 3057
Home Ground - McAlister Oval, Park Street, Parkville

President: Anthony Gibson
Secretary: Raphael Touzel
Senior Coach: Angus Hamilton

Senior Premierships: 1960, '80, 2002, '08
Premiers & Champions: 1976
Reserves Premierships: 1989, '98

Proud Major Sponsor: **Capital** RADIOLOGY

Season 2014

The Birdsnest

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As we move through the latter stages of the season, the club faces the challenge to keep the focus onto the primary football objective; to have the most skilful team on the field for the finals, all fully fit and firing.

It sounds simple enough considering we have had over twenty five weeks of training and fifteen rounds of playing, to be able to assess the squad of skilled and capable players. The modern game has so much running and sprinting, often without the ball in hand, that getting the level of aerobic capacity required to maintain a finals 'campaign' requires adjustments to the training program, adjusting the amount of running and kicking, and the tapering of players to cater for their football 'experience'.

Using AFL examples, we wouldn't expect that Dustin Fletcher does as much running at training as say Dyson Heppell, due to 'experience', expected positional placement, and ability to recover from a week's hard grind in the game. In the similar vein, West Brunswick anticipates another six weeks of football for most of the players and needs to tailor training accordingly.

And let's not forget players who have played every game compared with those who may have missed a few weeks from injury. Will those recovering from injury be fully 'match fit' by the time finals come along.? And when we are managing the aspirations and expectations of seventy players, squeezing our best 22 for the Senior team, and the next best 22 for the Reserves is quite a challenge.

Seniors Match Report:

Rounds 13, 14 & 15

Over the past three weeks the team has been on a bit of a roller coaster, balancing the football needs with the distractions of the clubs social needs. We played North Brunswick and Hawthorn at home, and followed up against Point Cook at Seawater Reserve last Saturday. Our social needs featured our Golden Magpie luncheon and the 2014 West 2000.

Focussing on the football, North Brunswick, as expected, was quite competitive in the first half. West have not been jumping out of the box in their opening quarters, and often kicking in blustery conditions giving the team less output for the time controlling the ball. By the time the game settles down and having the time to review match ups etc can put us into the second term with many opposition clubs matching us on the scoreboard. North Brunswick was no different, as the scores were level at the main break.

After half time West put their foot down and ran harder, faster and further to achieve a reasonable 49 point victory against the old rivals.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	1.2-8	6.4-40	11.6-72	18.11-119
<u>North Brunswick</u>	3.4-22	6.4-40	8.9-57	10.10-70

Goal Kickers: M. Simpson 3, R. Benjamin 3, M. Holmes 2, J. Nulty 2, L. Buckler 2, Z. Tisdale 2, D. Muscat, A. Gibson, J. Taylor, C. Germon

Better Players: M. Graham, J. Sandow, R. Touzel, E. Lloyd, Z. Tisdale, J. Nulty

The game against Hawthorn attracted the biggest crowd we have had for the season,

with lots at stake for both the seniors and reserves teams, standing first and second on the ladder after fourteen rounds. Hawthorn has been the most impressive team this season, and boasts the fire power up forward of the grade's two leading goal kickers. The average points scored per game by the Hawks is 137 (say 21 goals 11 behinds), with Hawthorn full forward Jason Ince kicking an average of 5 goals per game and forward pocket Sam Gold kicking 4 goals per game.

West have no dominant forward but relies on the sharing of goals among the forward line and midfield to get the team's scores averaging 104 points per game. Clearly the Hawks are a better goal scoring team and West would need to counter this scoring power if they were to achieve a victory.

The first half was a low scoring defensive match, with players from both teams giving 100% effort. There was pressure around the ball for the clearances, but the difference between the teams was the Hawks played with more confidence and self assuredness when they had a chance.

After half time Hawthorn was cleaner with the ball and peppered the forward line, giving their accomplished forwards numerous goal scoring chances. The West backline defended dourly but the ball delivery was excellent and good forwards take their chances. In the third term West managed only two behinds and the Hawks had the breeze in the final term. The signs were ominous but West continued battling to reduce the final score from the whitewash of our first encounter in round 8, where Hawthorn added ten goals to one in the final quarter.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	4.3-27	4.6-30	4.8-32	6.9-45
<u>Hawthorn</u>	2.1-13	5.3-33	8.3-51	13.12-90

Goal Kickers: D. Muscat 3, L. Buckler , M. Thompson , R. Benjamin

Better Players: L. Buckler , R. Benjamin , A. Commins , P. Carroll , C. Bull , W. Baker

Round 15 was the Point Cook match, with West balancing their playing list at the

selection table, welcoming back a few from injury as well as resting a few others. Point Cook were reasonably competitive, not a top four side but good enough to notch up six wins for the season to round 14.

West seemed quite flat in the opening term but needed to put their stamp on the game in the second. We had the misfortune of being given a 'dud' umpire who did very little of the job he was assigned, and spent much more effort looking for infringements that were not about protecting the player going for the ball.

In spite of playing both the Point Cook team and the umpires, West managed a strong five goal second term to put the margin out to 29 points at the half time break. After the break it was a battle of the backlines, with Point Cook adding four goals to West Brunswick's three for the second half, not particularly inspiring football but enough to get the job done.

<u>Point Cook</u>	4.3-27	5.6-36	6.12-48	9.13-67
<u>West Brunswick</u>	5.2-32	10.5-65	12.7-79	13.10-88

Goal Kickers: D. Muscat 5, N. Mitchell 2, Z. Tisdale , M. Holmes , A. Commins , P. Carroll , J. Turner , A. Gibson

Better Players: , E. Lloyd , C. Bull , A. Gibson , Z. Tisdale , M. Thompson , A. Ross

Reserves

Round 13 v North Brunswick

The reserve team is having lots of changes week to week with a number of players returning to the team following the weeks break, and a few others showing form in the thirds, therefore warranting a place in the side. The 'Bulls' managed to get goals on the board early in the game when we played them the first time around, so West focussed on defence more than attack in the early stages of the game.

By half time West held a handy 10 goal lead with little signs of resistance from North Brunswick. Due to some very unfortunate mishaps, West suffered a couple of injuries to key players in the third term, and lost their goal scoring radar, managing only four goals from fifteen scoring shots, possibly one of their worst scoring performances for the

season. In the final term they steadied the ship and ran away winners by 137 points.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	6.4-40	10.7-67	14.18-102	20.22-142
<u>North Brunswick</u>	0.1-1	0.4-4	0.4-4	0.5-5

Goal Kickers: T. Crabtree 5, M. Handscombe 3, S. Devers 3, J. Cubillo 2, A. Thompson 2, S. Creek , J. Tassone , P. Healey , P. Walpole , S. Willersdorf

Better Players: J. Forbes, T. Crabtree, V. Townsend, M. Handscombe, J. Tassone, S. Cree

Round 14 v Hawthorn

As mentioned earlier, the Hawthorn boys had come to play with the car parks packed to overflowing by 11:40am, the start time for the Reserves. The first quarter West were first to the ball and having more accomplished taller forwards, led at half time with better use of the ball and harder running.

In the third term West had the breeze favouring the Park Street end and managed to extend their lead to 52 points, having 21 scoring shots to four for the game. West had done the hard work for the game and looked as though they were 'tired in the legs'. In the final term Hawthorn got a few lucky breaks, and incredible accuracy to reduce the margin to 30 points.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	4.2-26	6.5-41	11.10-76	12.12-84
<u>Hawthorn</u>	1.0-6	3.0-18	4.0-24	9.0-54

Goal Kickers: T. Crabtree 3, M. Handscombe 2, T. Ross 2, A. Forbes , S. Devers , A. Thompson , D. Sheedy , P. Healey

Better Players: T. Ross , D. Sheedy , P. Healey , J. Tassone , D. Fitzpatrick , V. Townsend

Round 15 v Point Cook

With the bus 'fully loaded' the boys made their way to the Point Cook match in high spirits. They may have been somewhat distracted but in the first half of their match their football lacked intensity and skilful decision making. Coach Gus Campbell was none too impressed with their endeavours, and felt obliged to remind each and every player that the efforts delivered to half time were a VERY LONG WAY AWAY from what is required to maintain a place in the team.

After the soul searching 'discussion', the players responded with a far better second half of football. This game may have been the wake up call needed to boost the current players awareness of others returning to the team over the next few weeks, and there will be pressure to get the best 22 on the park.

Some of the pleasing aspects of this game were the return of Captain 'Benno' Lichtenstein following his nasty toe injury, the continued good form of Sheeds, and the improved delivery of the ball into the forward line after half time.

<u>Point Cook</u>	0.1-1	1.6-12	1.6-12	2.6-18
<u>West Brunswick</u>	4.5-29	7.10-52	14.16-100	24.18-162

Goal kickers and better players were not available at the time this publication went to press. If we do find them they will be published in later editions.

Current Sponsors

Our website includes far more impressive logos and information about their contributions. Thank you for all those assisting in making the cost of playing and enjoying Amateur football less for the players.

Our Website:

Each week we have game day photos taken of the matches and they are posted on the website. Definitely worth a look as they capture plenty of the spectacular action going on as well as other bits and pieces.

The website has plenty of other important information including forthcoming player milestones etc.

Take a tour on www.wbafc.com.au. Should you have something to say or whatever, you can also contact the club on westbrunswick@gmail.com .

Noticed That...

- Has Raph Touzel taken bragging rights for the greatest sporting coup in the West Brunswick history, winning the West 2000 first prize of \$1,000 as well as the poster competition.

- The weather on Friday, preceding the West 2000 looked so bad there were minute by minute updates at Saturday's game to check if the same cold front would blot the day on Sunday.
- On Sunday there were more games of football and soccer played on 'our place' than we have seen in a long time.
- There were three Brunswick Masters games on Ransford, four university college games on McAllister and one afternoon soccer game on Ryder.
- Ransford Oval was renamed Mudlarks Park for Sunday's games. I do not think this has the approval of our aboriginal elders at this stage, so we will stick to the traditional naming convention until then.
- The WBAFC legends match had to be cancelled as there were no grounds available to play the game on.

Reflections of my first West 2000

When I joined the club this season I was asking a few of the boys about the clubs off field social activity. Being new to the club I wanted to make sure I attended the functions and get to know the blokes a bit more.

They told me about the various events, the Annual Ball, the nights at the Sponsor hotel, and few of them mentioned a function only by its name, the West 2000. And with the mention was the comment.

"And don't miss it"

At the time I didn't take too much notice and focussed on my footy and getting along to training. Over the past four or five weeks there was considerable function promotion, ticket distribution and a concerted effort to get all the players along.

"Come boys, get behind the West 2000, this is our major fundraiser for the year" spruiked the president

"What can I expect for my ticket?" I asked

"You get a few beers, a feed and a chance to win \$1,000" came the standard reply. "And by the way, there is a fancy dress theme this year about your school days".

In preparation I chucked on my old white shirt and found the college tie and wandered down to the Ryder pavilion around 11:30. I cannot remember what I expected but I was instantly blown out of the water.

There were people all over the park, music blaring from the p.a. system and a big crowd on the

'Members Area' outside the clubrooms door. Below them were BOAG's marquees covering tables and chairs, providing cover from the brilliant sunshine. A casual look at the makeshift bar and I saw the beer flowing constantly, at 11:30 AM. What?.

"Don't just stand there, get your wrist band and get into it".

Well the next few hours flew by as I talked to all and sundry about the footy, home, and the ladies. When the hunger pains came the bbq was a feast of chicken, steak, burgers, snags and about four or five salads.

They started the draw and read out everybody's names, tossing the 'losers' out to the crowd. By this stage things were getting a bit hazy, with beer continuing to flow as yet another barrel was tapped. There was an auction for tickets to enter the last ten places in the draw, as well as kicking competitions, coin tossing and a host of other things.

The draw was done, the winner getting lots of howling, jeering and whistling and I thought the day was over. But No. Around 5:00pm there was an 'invitation' to enter the nude dash, on Ryder Oval, running 80 metres from one soccer goal to the other.

Around twenty five blokes joined the 'dash' and I was told my moment in history awaited. Seemed like a good idea at the time, but as my lungs were bursting after the run, we went back to get our clothes...which were not where we had left them. It was getting bloody cold by now, and I hadn't had a beer for what seemed like an hour but was about twenty minutes.

I hurried back to the rooms and figured my clothes would turn up later. I needed to have that last beer. The day was probably the fastest party I could remember, and it left me with a great feeling of achievement that I had survived my first West 2000 and didn't make a fool of myself.

And when I saw the blokes at training a whole new world was explained, particularly the parts I'd forgotten.

The Remaining Games:

August	9	v	Box Hill North	Away
August	16	v	Chadstone	Home
August	23	v	Manningham	Away
August	30		FINALS	
Sept	6		Preliminary	
Sept	13		Grand Final	

