



## 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: Ben Lichtenstein  
Senior Coach: Angus Hamilton

Senior Premierships: 1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14  
Premiers & Champions: 1976  
Reserves Premierships: 1989, '98

Proud Major Sponsor: 

### Season 2015 The Birdsnest Vol 45 No 2 Getting off to a flyer..

Probably the most difficult time for any amateur sporting club is the one or two weeks prior to the first official game. Unlike the professional codes with a rolling cycle from one engagement to the next, mostly because players/employees are on annual contracts, amateur clubs deal with many more difficulties.

For a start there is the finalization of the prior season, the long hard look by all the committee who have suffered 'season fatigue' over the duration of the year and the question of continuation. In the perfect world generally one third of the committee are replaced each year, with a rolling 'internship' as roles are passed from one to another. Get real. We have volunteers who know how much bloody hard work is involved and if you can get a few years in a row that's fantastic.

The other specific additional burden faced by clubs is their three way relationship with the local council and cricket clubs. In Victoria there is legislation that governs the football and cricket seasons, covering aspects such as access, ground preparation and a host of other seemingly minor issues. In the case of West Brunswick, we have the Melbourne City Council as the governors who do not allow ground or clubroom access until 1 April in accordance with the statute.

Basically at each season's end it's out with the footballers (and all of their stuff) and in with the cricketers (and all of their stuff). So simply sorting out all of the clubs playing, training, medical gear etc is a task, trying to discover how well it was packed away six months earlier...has there been any water damage, insects, rodents, compression issues and on and on it goes.

So with personnel changes, gear storage and the like, clubs are already under the pump. And do we have time to focus on the players? Administrative registration requirements, fitness, selection complexities due to some players involved in cricket finals, suitable practice match ups to gauge 'best fit' for playing positions and so

forth. And the eternal problem of jumper number allocation. Unlike the professionals we don't have a player cap, and players own their own jumpers. So introducing a thirds side meant we had around seventy players on the track just prior to round 1. With prior seasons departures and existing players hanging onto their coveted numbers, how do you squeeze everything into what's available.??

And you need to have those new jumpers and numbers sown on and ready in a few days time.

So with so much 'normal pressure' how brave is the club that decides to host a major function on the first game. Are you kidding? Not only did they decide to take the punt and hold a function, success is not guaranteed. Just as covered previously, new personnel, last minute access to the social rooms and the like could all transpire to bite you in the arse. So how did it all transpire?

The coaching staff had three competitive teams on the field for the first time in thirty years. We won two out of three so selections & positioning was good. The field support of trainers, scorers, goal and boundary umpires, interchange and so on were excellent.

And the Family Day. With so much needing to be done just to get the teams onto the field who has time to do anything extra. The luncheon not only had excellent food, provided by award winning Cumulus Inc., there was the presentation and clubrooms decorations that were magnificent. All the premiership flags on display, the legendary (legends) posters were out on show and black & white helium balloons...over the top or just finding a new level. We had cooks, bottle washers, bar staff, raffle ticket sellers, a contingent of help equivalent to our on field requirements.

All in all Round 1 was a magnificent day for the club and a testament to all those who made it so special. The seventy odd supporters thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon and the addition of our new social directoress (Julia) has been great.

## Seniors:

### Round 1 v Hawthorn

If you were asked to describe the playing and environmental conditions for a perfect day for football what would it be.? You would most probably start out with a great 'north south' field, (Ransford Oval) well grassed, but not too hard, temperature around 20 degrees, with maybe the hint of a breeze to take the edge off. Add a bit of cloud cover and a gathering of supporters to take notice of those 'one percenters' that make the game so great and that would probably just about cover it.

West were matched against Hawthorn, last season's Division 4 finalists, who had convincing wins in our 2014 home and away games and boasted a playing list of superstars. We won the game that mattered, so it was a look to see how they bounced back from their loss.

As both teams ran out on the ground the Hawks appeared a little bit flatter (& fatter) than West with ten or more of their previous season's personnel absent. An even first quarter and a half, but from mid point in the second term, with West kicking to the Park Street end, West were simply too fast, ran harder and were able to kick the goals that mattered.

The second half was less intense than the first, with West continuing to dominate possession but missing opportunities they ought have converted.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	2.2-14	9.5-59	13.6-84	<b>14.10-94</b>
<u>Hawthorn AFC</u>	2.2-14	4.2-26	5.6-36	<b>7.8-50</b>

**Goal Kickers:** S. Hulm 3, B. Irving 3, M. Holmes 2, D. Muscat , L. Martin , R. Devlin , M. Simpson , P. Carroll , M. Handscombe

**Better Players:** , L. Martin , C. Cashin , E. Lloyd , V. Townsend , X. Fowler , C. Germon

### Round 2 v Eley Park

In 2013 Eley Park finished the season on top of the ladder, were promoted to D3 in 2014 and were a strong club. They only managed to win six games last season, finishing 10<sup>th</sup>. Had they managed to regroup or did they keep a less enthused list.

At the Box Hill ill shaped ground, West got on the scoreboard early and were far too fit, skilled and accurate throughout the game. Thirty one shots on goal to thirteen shows West were dominant all day against a lackluster Sharks team

<u>Eley Park Sharks</u>	1.1-7	3.6-24	4.7-31	<b>6.7-43</b>
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	6.4-40	11.4-70	16.11-107	<b>19.12-126</b>

**Goal Kickers:** D. Muscat 5, X. Fowler 4, M. Holmes 2, M. Simpson 2, P. Carroll 2, W. Dillon 2, R. Devlin , D. Fuzzard

**Better Players:** , C. Cashin , A. Gibson , L. Martin , D. Muscat , E. Lloyd , D. Fuzzard

## Reserves

### Rounds 1 & 2

West Brunswick's reserves team competed in the 2014 grand final v Hawthorn only to fall agonizingly short by three points. Hawthorn tried hard in the first quarter but were no match for the fitter, running West team after that. A good team win to start the season.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	3.5-23	9.9-63	13.14-92	15.19-109
<u>Hawthorn AFC</u>	1.1-7	3.1-19	4.2-26	4.2-26

**Goal Kickers:** B. Shepherd 3, R. Benjamin 3, W. Stubbings 2, J. Collins 2, B. Watson , M. Langley , H. Paez , C. Thomson , A. Thompson

**Better Players:** , W. Stubbings , B. Watson , J. Collins , C. Bull , R. Benjamin , R. George

In 2013 West Brunswick's reserve team competed in the grand final v Eley Park only to fall short by five points. Last season Eley Park won ten games and it was be expected the game would be a reasonable benchmark for West for 2015.

Not so. West Brunswick completely dominated the game from the start, and with eleven goal scorers shared the ball around at the pointy end to win comfortably by 133 pts.

<u>Eley Park Sharks</u>	0.2-2	0.2-2	1.6-12	1.6-12
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	4.2-26	13.5-83	15.5-95	22.13-145

**Goal Kickers:** C. Mitchell 6, M. Langley 2, R. Benjamin 2, S. O'Connor 2, W. Baker 2, A. Thompson 2, C. Thomson 2, B. Lichtenstein , H. Paez , S. Creek , S. Clarke

**Better Players:** , J. Simpson , R. George , M. Langley , C. Mitchell , B. Lichtenstein , J. Tennant

## The Thirds team

West Brunswick is competing in the Club IIIIX (2) competition in its first season with a thirds team since 1981. Our first hit out was pretty good given the variables mentioned in the introduction, falling short to a very good team.

<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	2.4-16	5.6-36	9.8-62	9.9-63
<u>Albert Park AFC</u>	5.4-34	7.7-49	10.8-68	14.13-97

**Goal Kickers:** M. Dishon 3, R. Touzel 2, J. Ong , A. Coutin , H. Wilkins , A. Carroll

**Best Players:** , J. Anstey , M. Dishon , R. Touzel , J. Ong , D. Padgett , N. Grady

Our second game was much better and it's a pity the statisticians were busy at Box Hill to miss the important goal kickers & better players.

<u>Uhs-Vu Afc</u>	1.4-10	1.5-11	2.8-20	2.11-23
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Good win and the first for the season. Well done.

## Our Website:

Quiddy & Bingle have got the website looking so good that it may be likely the Birdsnest will become redundant. There are a few videos, great photos and lots of other items of interest.

Since lots of information regarding sponsors, are already on the website I do not wish to duplicate everything. New updates regarding our forthcoming social functions are posted regularly.

Space, printing and time can all be managed more efficiently, so I will only cover a few key points and should you wish to dig further, go to [www.wbafc.com.au](http://www.wbafc.com.au). Should you have something to say or whatever, you can also contact the club on [westbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:westbrunswick@gmail.com).

## Richard Benjamin plays 150<sup>th</sup> game

Congratulations to Rich Benjamin on playing his 150<sup>th</sup> VAFA game next weekend. Richard is our oldest and one our longest serving players who has been at the club long enough to have two nicknames. Once known as 'Happy' he is also known as the 'Chairman' and a few other things I'm not allowed to print.

Richard joined the club in 2000, having come over from Uni Blues where he played 49 games with the U'19's, and with brother Stephen, established himself as a key player in the senior team at the outset. Richard's highlights package includes playing in the 2002 premiership team (beating Hawthorn by 35points), on the MCG in 2005 v Fitzroy, and the 2014 premiership team (victory over Hawthorn by 38points).

His incredible durability has been assisted by having a few seasons away from the game in the northern hemisphere, and pursuing sports including skiing, cycling and jogging but he was back with us in 2011 and got back in the groove very quickly.

Richard is a much laid back footballer, with mercurial marking and kicking skills. His ability to position himself in any contest to win the ball is quite incredible and delights for all the fans watching him play as he takes those specie marks and kicks great goals. Well done Rich on this great milestone and your service to the club has been tremendous. From all those who have

watched you play over the years...It's been a pleasure.

## The 2015 fixture:

The full season's fixture is available on the club website and can be accessed any time.

<b>April 25</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>Aquinas</b>	<b>Away</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>La Trobe</b>	<b>Home</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>UHSOB</b>	<b>Away</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>BYE</b>	
<b>May 23</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>Albert Park</b>	<b>Away</b>
<b>May 30</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>Emmaus StLeos</b>	<b>Home</b>

## Noticed That...

- Flag unfurling is a whole new thing when you haven't got a flag pole.
- Senior captain Louis Martin celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday v Hawthorn.
- Home brewsters have been laying down their batches in preparation for the great 'taste off' planned for later in the year.
- The Family Day crowd was probably the biggest game attendance at the club, excluding finals, since 2000..
- The Thirds do not have a 'BYE' on May 16, which will be played at 9:30am on Brens Oval v UHSOB. Should be able to get a few extra supporters along for that game.
- This Birdsnest is Vol 45, No2, which means it is in it's 45<sup>th</sup> year of publication and this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

## Golden Magpies

Thanks to the following who have become golden magpies for season 2015.

Gary	Armstrong	Phil	Leatham
Chris	Ashley	Bob	Lovett
Cliff	Bastow	Scott	McNamara
Robin	Benjamin	Neil	Mitchell
Stephen	Benjamin	Shannon	Monagle
David	Brooks	Brenda	Muscat
Thea	Campbell	Arthur	Ozols
Robert	Chilov	Mick	Pryor
Mal	Cother	Roger	Pugh
John	Curtin	Jock	Rolfe
Nola	Farrell	Tom	Russell
Andrew	Gall	Lachie	Sherry

Frank	Gertz	Molly	Sherry
Hannah	Gibson	Steven	Smythe
Alexie	Hamilton	Haldun	Suleyman
Jeremy	Harper	Troy	Thompson
John	Haysey	Jeremy	Tobin
Bruce	Ivey	Fred	Tointon
Chris	Konstantinidis	Rod	Touzel
Dean	Lampard	Ian	Twyford
		Charlie	Wakefield

We now have 41 paid up GM's many of whom a first time club members.

This year the base membership fee is still \$50.!! This season the club has introduced Tier1 GM, which includes some additional handyman services around the house for those wishing to chip in a bit more.

To renew your membership please make payment to club's account:

#### Club Bank Account

##### Bendigo Bank

West Brunswick Amateur Football Club

BSB: 633-000

Acc No: 136422383

#### Social Plans:

### Annual Gala Ball Remembering The Great Gatsby Saturday 23 May 2015

At Bobby McGees, 186 Exhibition St,  
Melbourne.

See the website for more information.

#### Current Sponsors

We are pleased to announce the continuation from 2014 of our major sponsor for the upcoming season:



We encourage all players to support our major sponsor by having any required radiology scans (MRI's, Xray's, CT Scans and Ultrasounds) at your nearest Capital Radiology

location: <http://www.capitalradiology.com.au>"

James Boags



Website: <http://www.boags.com.au>

#### Insurance House



Website: <http://www.insurancehouse.com.au>

#### Turf Club Hotel – North Melbourne



Website: <http://bevandmicks.com.au/turf.htm>

#### Alink Network Services



Website: <http://www.alink.com.au>

#### Club Partners

#### Club Partners:

Multifit

Brad Teal

Back in Motion

The club is looking for sponsors in any form. If you would like to promote your business in the Birdsnest, website or around the club get in contact with Chris Germon ([cgermon@gmail.com](mailto:cgermon@gmail.com)). We can get you promoted in many wonderful ways... posters, tickets, t-shirts, special dedications, small ads on banners of milestone games, inside the inner sanctum etc.

#### Bayford VAFA Offer.

Buying a car, mention the club and Bayfords will give the club \$500.

#### Benjamin Jewellery

Located in 360 Little Collins Street in the CBD, go in and ask for David or Paul when looking for that special item for your loved one. Let them know you are from West Brunswick and they will look after you.

#### Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help out around the club – in any capacity. Casual once off basis or a few Saturdays during the year. Jobs include time keeping, goal umpire, running the boundary, match day manager, scorer, helping in the canteen on a Saturday or perhaps cooking up a pot of bolognaise for the boys for Thursday nights selection. Contact: Matt McIntosh if you can assist in any way.