



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: **Capital** 
RADIOLOGY

Season 2015 The Birdsnest Vol 45 No 3 Understanding the fixture...

Due to some bad luck and some other historical reasons the VAFA fixture for Division 3 has 11 clubs playing eighteen rounds. The bad luck came about with the withdrawal of St Francis Xavier from the competition on the last week of March, leaving alternative solutions with too little time to activate. There is also an odd number of teams in Division 4 which means they also have a similar problem.

Mathematically eleven teams and eighteen rounds is a challenge as it will lead to some clubs playing each other only once, and therefore stuff up any rivalry opportunities for that old fashioned 'home' and 'away' clash.

In addition, having an odd number of teams necessitates a BYE every weekend which runs in conjunction with pre existing VAFA BYEs for the competition. When 'Adam' was playing for Old Melbournians' in 1892, in the VAFA, they introduced a weekend BYE for the Queens Birthday weekend to allow the elite to play representative football. This gave the rest of the teams a mid-season break to recharge the batteries and enable players an extra week to get over injuries.

A few seasons ago the VAFA decided to introduce an additional BYE for the competition in early July, at the request of clubs acknowledging the increased pace of the game and the demands it made on players, partners etc. This is all very nice provided your club doesn't have fixtured BYE's in addition to VAFA BYEs.

So for West Brunswick this is our playing sequence: Five games, BYE, two games, BYE, three games, BYE, BYE, followed by six games. All in all that's sixteen games, four byes and the season finishes on 22 August. If you were trying to coach in this situation and trying to build some momentum week to week the whole job gets a little bit tougher.

For our Thirds team, who are in a different part of the competition and with an even number of teams there are only the VAFA BYEs to contend with...except they only have fifteen rounds, which brings their home and away season to an end on 1 August.

Seniors: Round 3 v Aquinas

This match was our first test in the slippery conditions played at the school ground many kilometers away. In what appears to be inaccurate kicking is as much a result of the pressure applied to the forwards, as well as taking a little while to settle. With the third quarter being dominated by the backlines West was able to kick three goals three which defined the game and allowed a comfortable win

<u>Aquinas OC</u>	1.1-7	2.4-16	3.6-24	5.8-38
<u>West Brunswick</u>	2.7-19	4.12-36	8.15-63	10.18-78

Goal Kickers: D. Muscat 4, D. Ferrier, J. Taylor, P. Carroll, W. Dillon, A. Gibson, J. Sandow

Better Players: E. Lloyd, C. Cashin, C. Wills, C. Germon, W. Baker, D. Fuzzard

Round 4 v LaTrobe Uni

It was claimed that a music festival in Bendigo 'gutted' the La Trobe team, with them saying at least a dozen of their senior superstars were not available to play football but rather get themselves into another groove.

It was a reasonably good day for football and in the first term aided by the breeze, West went about the business of moving the ball around to create scoring opportunities. The second term was again dominated by West but in this case poor conversion led to little impact on the scoreboard.

West's backline was 'all over it' and allowed LaTrobe only one goal to half time.

After the break West was kicking to the scoring end and could have been further ahead but let themselves down with poor conversion. West dominated the ball and used the spaces on Ransford Oval very well, mixing it up across half

back to create scoring avenues. It was another great performance by the dominant backline who kept the other mob to a solitary four goals.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	5.5-35	6.10-46	10.15-75	13.20-98
<u>La Trobe University</u>	1.1-7	1.1-7	2.3-15	4.6-30

Goal Kickers: D. Muscat 4, W. Dillon 3, B. Shepherd 2, A. Gibson , X. Fowler , R. Devlin , M. Holmes
Better Players: , C. Germon , W. Baker , D. Muscat , L. Martin , W. Dillon , D. Fuzzard

Round 5 v Uni High

Playing opposite the zoo was almost like a home game, but the ground runs 'east west' and is unprotected from the elements. It was blustery but at least the wind was blowing straight down the ground. West was kicking into the wind in the first term and were moving the ball well to position. The backline was tight as usual and were attacking the ball when opportunities arose. In the second term the forwards were a bit wasteful but had plenty of supply, enabling West to build a handy lead to by half time.

In the third term West dominated across half back, enabling the team to outscore the opposition who were kicking with the wind. As the pressure increased opposition players were becoming a bit reckless with tackles with a bit too much high contact not controlled by the umpires. Just as the three quarter time siren sounded things got 'willing'; this could have put some players off their game.

In the final term West had too much run in their legs and used the ball far better, to run out comfortable winners.

<u>Uhs-Vu Afc</u>	3.3-21	4.3-27	6.8-44	6.10-46
<u>West Brunswick</u>	2.3-15	8.10-58	11.13-79	16.18-114

Goal Kickers: D. Muscat 5, C. Cashin 3, A. Gibson 2, J. Taylor 2, P. Carroll , W. Stubbings , X. Fowler , B. Shepherd
Better Players: , C. Germon , W. Baker , D. Fuzzard , E. Lloyd , L. Martin , B. Simpson

Reserves

Rounds 3,4 & 5.

West Brunswick's reserves team is very fit and has a number of very good running players. Celebrating Happy Benjamin's 150th club game was enough incentive to get the boys out of the blocks early against Aquinas where they controlled the ball through their mid fielders and gave the forwards plenty of supply. Twenty five scoring shots to seven for the game was the tale of the day.

<u>Aquinas OC</u>	0.1-1	3.1-19	4.1-25	4.3-27
<u>West Brunswick</u>	4.2-26	8.5-53	10.10-70	12.13-85

Goal Kickers: B. Shepherd 4, W. Vagg 3, H. Lewis , R. George , C. Mitchell , R. Benjamin , J. MacReadie-Smith
Better Players: , R. Benjamin , M. Langley , R. George , S. Clarke , H. Lewis , W. Vagg

As mentioned in the seniors report, the LaTrobe team was a little bit undermanned. There were a few players for LaTrobe participating in their first game for the club, and against an organized polished team, would be soon found wanting.

West had Zac Tisdale (Senior ruckman from 2014 and B&F in grand final) back from his overseas trip available as well as a few of the 2014 senior players in the team. In addition 'Happy' Benjamin was celebrating his 200th VAFA game and was eager to show he's still 'got it'.

West was far too skilled for LaTrobe and kicked ten goals in the second quarter, three of which were kicked by Bingle Thompson in the space of two minutes. After a bit of resistance in the third term, LaTrobe was completely 'washed away' in the final term to give West a comfortable victory.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	4.5-29	14.11-95	18.13-121	26.18-174
<u>La Trobe University</u>	0.0	2.0-12	6.4-40	6.4-40

Goal Kickers: Z. Tisdale 7, A. Thompson 4, W. Vagg 2, R. Benjamin 2, L. Hoskin 2, C. Thomson 2, R. George 2, B. Rodin , J. Goy , S. Clarke , C. Bull , T. Walsh
Better Players: , C. Bull , J. Tennant , Z. Tisdale , T. Costa , R. George , C. Mitchell

West had the wind in the first term against UHS and were somewhat wasteful in their shots at goal as they were getting familiar with the windy conditions. UHS was probably the best opposition they have faced for the season and were undefeated going into the game, having won three from three. West were dominant early but in the second term were outscored by UHS who were showing signs of being capable of a solid challenge.

In the third term West found it difficult to get the ball into their scoring zone but some strong marks by Craig Mitchell were converted giving West a buffer at three quarter time. In the final term West continued to run hard and kicking into the wind outscored UHS for the quarter to record a solid 36 point victory.

<u>Uhs-Vu Afc</u>	2.1-13	6.2-38	7.2-44	10.4-64
<u>West Brunswick</u>	4.8-32	7.11-53	10.14-74	14.16-100

Goal Kickers: C. Mitchell 3, C. Thomson 2, M. Langley , W. Vagg , R. George , T. Costa , B. Wolfenden , C. Bull , A. Thompson , B. Rodin , L. Hoskin
Better Players: , D. Fitzpatrick , R. George , J. Simpson , W. Vagg , B. Lichtenstein , C. Mitchell

The Thirds team

West Brunswick is competing in the Club III X (2) competition in its first season with a thirds team. Over the past few weeks it has become quite clear that this level of the competition has some very strong teams and West is around mid point, stronger than some, but well short of others.

The round 3 match v Old Westbourne was a solid team effort resulting in a 61 point victory.. The round 4 match v Ormond was an away game in a different space from the usual grounds. The team was having a little problem with their shots on goal, kicking four goals eighteen behinds before half time, but after the break they recaptured their 'mojo' managing to kick enough goals to make it a respectable 50 point victory.

The round 5 encounter was a loss to Melbourne High School Old boys where West were slow to get moving and trailed for the day, leaving them short by 36 points. Of their season so far the team has three wins and two losses

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. Should you have something to say or whatever, you can also contact the club on westbrunswick@gmail.com.

Richard Benjamin plays 200th VAFA game

In the previous Birdsnest I incorrectly stated that 'Happy' Benjamin was playing his 150th VAFA game v Aquinas. That was not correct as it was his 150th game for West Brunswick, which is still a fine achievement.

Richard joined the club in 2000, having come over from Uni Blues where he played 49 games and now, adding his West Brunswick games, only needed one more game to achieve the VAFA milestone, which he did against LaTrobe. It's quite rare to have a player with two major milestones in two consecutive weeks, so to avoid

banner rash he was given a hearty round of applause.

The 2015 fixture:

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

May 16	v	BYE	
May 23	v	Albert Park	Away
May 30	v	Emmaus StLeos	Home
June 6		Queens Birthday	
June 13	v	Eley Park	Home
June 20	v	Swinburne	Away
June 27	v	Power House	Home
July 4		BYE	

Noticed That...

- Reserves umpiring v UHSOB had Tobes and Boyce officiating, keeping the supporters on edge as to how things may evolve.
- The Ball tickets are on sale. It's on the 23 May, not too far away.
- Five wins from five games for both West Brunswick and St Leos in the seniors and reserves. Are we looking at a repeat season of 2014.?
- The new look 'Executive Jackets' with the sponsors logos adorning every panel makes Ocker's genuine leather sleeved bomber jacket look somewhat more vintage than it already is.
- We will have completed seven rounds of the season with only two home games by the time we play St Leos in round 8.
- Golden Magpie Day & past players day 27 June 2015 v Powerhouse

Golden Magpies

Thanks to the following who have become golden magpies for season 2015, in addition to those listed in previous editions.

Anne	Davis	Peter	Hamilton
Claire	Davis	Caty	Harrall
Murray	Davis	Chris	Hatzistavrou
Ray	Germon	Peter and Brenda	Haysey
Sue	Germon	Michael	Meehan
Peter	Gibson	Alan	Smith
Heather	Guatta	Peter	Webber

We now have 56 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:

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

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). 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.

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.

Chris 'Quiddy' German 100th game

There are claims that Chris German 100th game will allow him to display not only those silky kicking skills but also his maturity in the timing of his run, whether as the ball getter or tackler.

Not so sure is whether we will see his right boot have the polish removed, or his handball skills which many have only ever seen at training. Some thought 'Quiddy' preferred his left foot, rather than understand that's his only kicking option as he would rather be tackled and brought to the ground than kick right foot!! (Maybe he should have attended the Barry Cable (superstar rover with the kangaroos in the 70's) Auskick sessions as a youngster when growing up in Western Australia.)

Quiddy is a hard working committee member and is having a stella season thus far, featuring in the better players nearly every week. Congratulations on 100 great games and hopefully with many more to follow.