



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 7 Selections for the finals..

The unenviable challenge facing the selectors at West is the mismatch in the number of places available in the two teams compared to the number of players available. During the season the coaches have given players scope to declare their availability week to week as many have jobs requiring travel, have partners expecting to give birth, weddings etc and the fixture created the situation of a couple of Saturdays where there was no games.

With this in mind, and the cold weather, quite a few players travelled during the season and consequently missed games.

Week after week the selectors cope with injuries and unavailability when putting the teams together by announcing emergencies to step up should something out of the ordinary occur? The players who have filled in have taken their opportunities and allowed the seniors and reserves to continue winning. So far this season both teams have fielded around forty players, and when there were three teams, our playing list of around ninety players were fully utilised. Now that the Third XVIII season has finished, there are many more players available for games. And in addition to that players know this is the business end of the season and are making themselves available for the finals.

The challenge of playing in the finals is having the best team on the ground, and playing their best football. Each week there are multiple incidents where players are knocked, kicked, getting 'corkies', experiencing minor injuries that reduce their playing efficiency and make them vulnerable to further injury. There is also the issue of 'team balance' with players having different skills, height, speed, ability and confidence that impact on how the team matches up against a particular opponent.

Any player representing the club ought to know that somebody has missed out on playing to give them the chance to be part of the finals. It's a

great honour and privilege and hopefully may lead to the twin success come late September.

Seniors: Round 15 v Glen Eira

Senior coach Angus Hamilton told the boys it was about time we put a stamp on the competition and played how the team second on the ladder ought to play. The Saints were finals aspirants and had rested their so called better players against the Animals (St Leos) to ensure they had some September action.

Bad luck.! The Magpies came out to play and not just for recreation's sake, but to make the lesser teams know how it feels to be under constant pressure against a better team.

West were too tall, too fast and supported each other all over the ground to amass 52 scoring shots to 6. We were not as accurate as we would like but lets say too dominant to care.!

<u>Glen Eira AFC</u>	0.1-1	0.1-1	3.1-19	3.3-21
<u>West Brunswick</u>	5.12-42	7.18-60	12.26-98	17.35-137

Goal Kickers: W. Dillon 3, S. Hulm 3, O. Taylor 2, D. Ferrier 2, D. Muscat 2, B. Irving 2, J. Beer , L. Martin , W. Stubbings

Better Players: , C. Cashin , C. Borovac , B. Simpson , E. Lloyd , X. Fowler , W. Baker

Round 16 v Swinburne

Following the demolition of the Saints, we faced the Razorbacks for Billy Morgan's 100th game. Once again a finals aspirant, the Magpies gave them no chance to take the initiative by applying strong physical pressure from the first bounce.

'Rusty' George in the ruck made his presence felt in the center clearances and around the ground. The Magpies forced the Razorbacks to go wide and play most of their possession in the back half. Great pressure from the back six kept the score line at the lowest.

Our forward set up has improved with more scoring opportunities within the twenty metre

space, giving us a twenty goal haul, and fewer behinds for the third time for the season.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	7.3-45	12.8-80	18.11-119	23.15-153
<u>Swinburne Univ</u>	0.2-2	1.3-9	2.5-17	4.6-30

Goal Kickers: S. Hulm 7, D. Muscat 5, M. Holmes 4, W. Dillon 2, J. Taylor , L. Buckler , B. Irving , C. Germon , B. Simpson

Better Players: , R. George , L. Martin , E. Lloyd , B. Simpson , J. Beer , C. Cashi

Round 17 v St Leos

This was the top of the table clash we have been looking for, being a true test of our progress over the last four weeks. The Animals have remained undefeated this season, and are the only team to beat the Magpies, in round 8 by 48 points.

The conditions were ideal for football at the Animals home ground and there was a slight breeze favouring the river end of the ground. West got out of the blocks early and got off to a good start. By half time West held a handy four goal lead, brought about with constant tackling, pressure on the ball carrier and great clearance work in the centre.

As expected the Animals kicked back in the third term, kicking some miraculous goals to level the goals scored at three quarter time. The final term was tense and hard fought, but the Magpies ran out of legs to go down by just seven points. Lets hope we see them again before the season is finished.

<u>Emmaus St Leos OC</u>	2.4-16	5.5-35	12.6-78	15.14-104
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	3.2-20	9.8-62	12.11-83	14.13-97

Goal Kickers: C. Germon 4, S. Hulm 3, M. Holmes 2, M. Simpson , D. Ferrier , J. Taylor , X. Fowler , W. Dillon

Better Players: , C. Cashin , L. Martin , B. Simpson , W. Baker , J. Simpson , E. Lloyd

Reserves

Rounds 15,16 & 17

The game against the Saints was far below the high standards set so far during the season. Players seemed to be content with less accountability and allowed the opposition to get easy access to the ball deep in defense.

The Magpies had ninety percent of the play in their forward line, so things were a bit lob sided in a cold blustery afternoon. The Saints just sat back and the team did not force their hand. However we still managed 41 scoring shots to 4 which is somewhat business as usual.

<u>Glen Eira AFC</u>	1.1-7	1.1-7	1.2-8	2.2-14
<u>West Brunswick</u>	3.6-24	8.11-59	12.16-88	17.22-124

Goal Kickers: C. Mitchell 2, A. Thompson 2, D. Murray 2, B. Watson 2, C. Naldrett 2, L. Jacobson , P. Carroll , S. Devlin , B. Rodin , B. Wynne , B. Wolfenden , C. Thomson

Better Players: , J. Simpson , N. English , B. Lichtenstein , S. Devlin , C. Mitchell , B. Wolfenden

Round 16 against the Razorbacks is a top two clash. The Razorbacks are second on the ladder and are a serious threat to finals victory, having only lost two games for the season.

They have very good tall capable forwards and in the first half were hard and fast at the football. At the long break the margin was less than a goal, the closest any team has been since we played them in round 9.

After half time West continued to apply the pressure, constant tackling, fast and hard running which led to the Razorbacks losing their edge. In the second half the Magpies added five goals to one, to run out winners by 34 points.

<u>West Brunswick</u>	3.1-19	5.2-32	7.6-48	10.9-69
<u>Swinburne Uni</u>	1.2-8	4.3-27	5.4-34	5.5-35

Goal kickers and better players have been suppressed by the thought police or it has been an administrative error. If you call heads or tails both outcomes are correct.

Round 17 v St Leos saw our first term as quite lackluster, with West allowing too much space in the middle of the short ground. Consequently West trailed at quarter time and needed to get back to hard and smart running to keep their opponents honest.

West kicked ahead in the second term, continued on for the remainder of the game and ran out comfortable winners by 53 points.

<u>Emmaus St Leos OC</u>	2.1-13	2.1-13	3.1-19	4.1-25
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	1.1-7	5.7-37	6.12-48	12.15-87

Goal Kickers: A. Thompson 5, R. Benjamin 2, P. Carroll 2, C. Naldrett , B. Wolfenden , W. Vagg

Better Players: , B. Rodin , H. Paez , P. Carroll , D. Fitzpatrick , C. Bull , B. Lichtenstein

The Thirds team

The season has finished for our Club XVIII players who managed to win five games for the season. This competition was somewhat imbalanced with the top side a late withdrawal from the senior completion due to the lack of players to field two teams.

In addition to that, other teams found players who preferred the 'Clubbies' to their higher standard competition and seemed to be more talented than

expected. Well done to coach Shane Deevers, the team support crew and the players for our first foray into this expanded realm with a 'close but no cigar' effort in our first year.

The ladder after the final game, with wins, percentage and points.

<u>St Francis Xavier OC</u>	13	336.53	60
<u>Albert Park AFC</u>	11	143.63	44
<u>Kew AFC</u>	10	166.98	40
Melbourne High School OB	10	158.18	40
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	5	90.52	24
<u>Ormond AFC</u>	5	60.10	20
<u>Westbourne Grammarians FC</u>	2	31.69	8
<u>Uhs-Vu Afc</u>	1	33.53	4

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.

Noticed That...

- Xavier Fowler's football boots 'exploded' a couple of weeks ago so Craig Mitchell loaned his boots. The magic boots have led Xav to get leather poisoning since wearing them, so a slim chance Craig will get them back.
- Congratulations to Quiddy and Julia on the birth of their baby Jack last week
- Ken Frencham, a long standing VAFA participant, died last week aged 77. Ken was recruited to West as the senior coach

in 1979, and later became president in 1987 & 88. Ken moved to Gippsland some years ago with his wife Lorraine, and had four children.

- Congratulations to Gibbo and Hannah on the birth of their baby Alistair this week.
- It's all happening
- Is Quiddy now a 'gerkin' following his four goal haul, in the absence of Pickles currently in Thailand.

The 2015 fixture:

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

August 22 v Aquinas Home

Finals venues and days of games is still being 'worked out' at VAFA headquarters.

Golden Magpies

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

The phantom

We now have 69 GM's many of whom are 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:

WEST 2000

Sunday 16 August 2015

Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make this years event one of the great ones. With the theme 'when I grow up' getting the crowd in the mood, we went from one extreme to the other, with some dressed as eighty years olds, whilst others were in nappies.

And of course there were many 'somewhere in between' coming as rockstars, golf pros, ninja turtles etc.

A special thanks to the weather gods, with Sunday being the warmest day in August so far this year.

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

Billy Morgan reaches the ton....

Congratulation to Bill Irving on playing his 100th game v Swinburne last Saturday. Billy joined the club in 2004, and looking like a long haired lout played his first club game in the reserve team. Since the Birdsnest editor at the time couldn't recall his correct title, he was named Billy

Morgan, a name which stuck with him for the five seasons he remained with us. During those seasons Bill won the seniors best and fairest three times, and won the VAFA competition best and fairest in 2006, and 2008.

Bill left West Brunswick to pursue his football career at VFL club Port Melbourne in 2009 where he played for two seasons. Not able to crack it for a regular senior game, Bill returned to the VAFA playing for Old Melbournians in 2011. Due to work and other aspirations, Bill dropped out from regular football and returned to West Brunswick in 2012 and played half a dozen 'cameo' games. Those half a dozen games were good enough for him to finish third in the B&F.

Bill is an extremely talented player who kicks the ball 'a country mile'. He is a highly decorated player capable of playing any position on the ground. He has been playing at centre half forward since returning from injury and is one of the reasons the club has been so dominant over the past eight weeks.

He is a great ambassador to the club and we are thrilled he has come back to help us launch our back to back premierships campaign.

Wendel Vagg plays his 100th game too

Wendel joined West Brunswick in 2008 after playing amateur football with Uni Blacks as a junior.

A country lad from Echuca, Wendel fitted in very neatly to the West Brunswick family, and being a clever footballer was knocking on the door for senior selection from the start.

In 2008 West competed for both Senior and Reserves premierships, with many players moving through the teams during the year. Wendel played in the Reserves Grand Final. Over the past few years Wendel has taken some time off to travel the world, and finds his way back to West as time allows. This year he has managed a few senior games, where he acquits himself well with his pace and quick thinking disposals to a running player in a great position.

Wendel is also the Football Operations manager this season and has been doing a terrific job, following the path of Paddy Walpole who managed the role for the past few seasons.

Congratulations Wendel of this milestone, and let's see more great football from you as this year's finals roll on.