



West Brunswick Amateur Football Club Inc.

Affiliated with the Victorian Amateur Football Association

Mail – PO Box 32, East Brunswick, Vic 3057

Home Ground – McAlister Oval, Park Street, Parkville

President: Benjamin Lichtenstein

Secretary: Matt Holmes

Senior Coach: Angus Hamilton

Senior Premierships: 1960, '80, 2002, '08, '14, '15

Premiers & Champions: 1976, 2015 (Res)

Reserves Premierships: 1989, '98



Season 2016 The Birdsnest

Vol 1

Season 2016 officially commences on the 9th of April, with a home game v Northern Blues at Ransford Oval.

To the victors go the spoils. We will be unfurling our 2015 premiership flag as we host the well credentialed Bullants in round 1. For those who may not remember the score from last season's premiership I have extracted the official result from the last Birdsnest.

<u>Emmaus St Leos OC</u>	2.2-14	2.3-15	7.8-50	7.11-53
<u>West Brunswick AFC</u>	1.1-7	3.5-23	3.6-24	7.12-54

Goal Kickers: D. Muscat 2, B. Irving 2, L. Buckler, A. Gibson, S. Hulm

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

The season launch will be run in conjunction with the club's Family Day, which will include a luncheon from around noon.

For West Brunswick this season is the club's 58th in the VAFA and we find ourselves in Division 2, promoted from Division 3 in the VAFA tradition with the top two senior clubs at the end of the season moving up a grade and the bottom two clubs from the higher Division being relegated. For 2015 there was an exception for Divisions 1, 2 and 3 with the departure of Banyule (playing in Premier C) from the VAFA to the Northern Football League, leaving only one team relegated to ensure an even number of clubs in the lower grades.

The fixture for 2016 has the seniors and reserves playing in what should have been a ten club competition, with eighteen rounds of matches we get to play each club twice; what I like to think is the traditional football season.

Season 2016 marks the 46th year of the Birdsnest as the official organ of the football club. Launched in 1970 the Birdsnest was the major communication tool for getting the word out to our members. The views expressed in the Birdsnest broadly represent the facts, but every now and again there may be a little bit of tweaking to assist readers in getting a better understanding of what's gone on. And sometimes an error may occur which can be corrected with a quick email to the editor.

We have a Bye again...

As mentioned in the introduction, the VAFA determine the fixture and for each grade above Division 3 the competition is made up of ten clubs playing over eighteen rounds.

This means there are home and away games where everybody plays each other twice, once on your patch and once on their patch. And for the past 120 years, the competition, other than 'A Grade' has the two competing sides in the grand final being promoted to the next higher grade and the two teams finishing in the bottom two spots being relegated to the grade below.

Every now and again this can be interrupted when, as in 2015 with Banyule deciding to leave the VAFA, the administrators only drop one team down to ensure there are no 'byes' in the higher grades.

In 2014 AND 2015 clubs 'folding' just prior to the season meant that West Brunswick was playing seasons with only sixteen rounds. As we are now in Section 2 I thought the shortened season was well and truly behind us. Well I was 'shocked' to hear that AGAIN we will have a shortened season because one of the Section 2 Clubs, Monash Gryphons, has 'folded' and the Operations Manager is not prepared to re jig the fixture to restore the Grade to a ten club Grade.

WHAT!! When is the competition going to regain some credibility by sticking to it's own rules?? The season doesn't start for another month, leaving plenty of time to refashion the fixtures of the lower grades, and ensure they have a full and joyful season in 2016.

I can imagine the excuses people would put forward that support the 'do nothing' option and just let the Section have a 'Bye'. These excuses have nothing to do with integrity, respect for the season experience of the non championship grades, and contribute to lessening the whole competition.

Think in these terms. Does a team dropping out, which effectively reduces our games by two matches, lead to a reduction in VAFA fees? We have one less home game leading to one less opportunity to raise some funds, attract our own sponsors, less exposure etc..

If or when you hear the VAFA talking up their contribution to operating a strong competition, remember the do not stick to their own rules, and when it comes to rostering the finals, the joke is more ridiculous.

Coaching Panel

Why would anybody change a winning formula when they don't have to? Our coaches of 2015 put their hands up again which has been endorsed by the committee. So the panel is as follows:

Angus Hamilton will return as senior non playing coach.

Senior assistants to the coach include Billy 'Morgan' Irving, Aaron 'Bingle' Thompson and Matthew Drain

Angus Campbell will continue as reserves coach and is joined by Craig Mitchell. Shane Devers has been re appointed as the club's third XVIII coach and will be joined by Sam 'Clarkey' Clarke. So for each team we have joint or multiple coaches, a very different situation from only a few short years ago.

We congratulate Angus, Bill, Aaron, Matthew Angus, Craig, Shane, and Sam on their appointments and wish them well for a successful 2016 season.

Our Website:

As players and technologies improve all the time, our website is no exception. !! There is a stack of stuff, most importantly training and playing information, as well as history, politics, science and social interaction opportunities. There is also a news section as well as fixtures, golden magpies etc.

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, committee etc are already on the website I do not wish to duplicate everything. 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.

You & Health Insurance

Footy's a dangerous game.

Have you got private health insurance to deal with the likelihood you may need to use it during the season??

Statistics dominate sporting conversations, and the bad news is that football injuries are the greatest source of income to physios, osteos, chiro's, doctors, and are felt by more than 40% of the playing list.

The club does not provide insurance to cover your visit to these specialists.....it's up to you.

The 2016 fixture:

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

April 9	v	Preston Bullants	Home
April 16	v	Eltham	Away
April 23	v	Yarra Valley	Away
April 30	v	MHSOB	Home
May 7	v	Bulleen Templestowe	Away

The 2016 Committee

Thanks to those people putting their hand up to manage the club this season. We have had changes to our key personnel at the executive level, as well as retaining experienced former committee, the full list on the website. The executive roles are:

President	Ben Lichtenstein
Vice President	Louis Martin
Secretary	Matt Holmes
Treasurer	Cody Wills

Thanks to the 2015 retiring committee for their contributions, as well as all those not listed but who provide plenty of ongoing support.

Noticed That...

- Sad news of the death of former player Danny McVeigh who died in February 2016 as the result of a heart attack. Danny played 38 club games from 1982- 1987.
- Congratulations to Angus Hamilton for winning the VAFA Coach of the Year for season 2015. At the VAFA annual meeting Angus highlighted his role as 'one part of the great many' who make West Brunswick the club it is. Winning consecutive premierships against the odds speaks of the great job Hamma has done over the past five years he has been at the helm.
- The Melbourne City Council continues to make access to football grounds in March extremely difficult...This has been going on since 1959 but one wonders if they will ever enter a new understanding of the cricket/football overlap.
- We will be playing a women's game of AFL 9s v Bulleen Templestowe as a curtain raiser to the seniors match. We are looking for women to get involved, so email the club.

Golden Magpies

Thanks to the following who have become golden magpies for season 2016.

Chambers

This year the membership fee is still \$50.!!Last season we had over 65 golden magpies, the contribution goes a long way in helping the football club provide first class services to our players and take some of the pressure off fees.

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Club Bank Account

Bendigo Bank

Account Name:

West Brunswick Amateur Football Club

BSB: 633-000

Acc No: 136422383

Social Plans:

Family Day

Home game- Round 1

9 April 2016

Lunch is free and a range of refreshments will be available from the clubrooms.

Lunch 11:30am – 2:00pm

Current Sponsors

We are pleased to announce the continuation from 2015 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>"

Other generous sponsors:

Insurance House



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

Turf Club Hotel – North Melbourne



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

Builders Academy



Club Partners:

Multifit
Brad Teal
Back in Motion
Benjamin Jewellers

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.

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 night selection. Contact: Evan 'Red' Lloyd if you can assist in any way.

Keeping in Contact

The club's has a linkedin Group – West Brunswick Amateur Football Club
If you've changed your email address send an email to the club westbrunswick@gmail.com to update your details

Club award winners for 2015

David "Max" McAllister Memorial, Best Clubman **Wendel Vagg**

Bruce Ivey Medal, Senior Best and Fairest **Dave Ferrier**

2nd Best and Fairest **Bas Simpson**

3rd Best and Fairest **Evan Lloyd/Cormac Cashin**

Bob Baker Medal, Reserves Best and Fairest **Corey Bull**

Res. 2nd Best and Fairest **James Simpson**

Res. 3rd Best and Fairest **Russell George/Wendall Vagg**

Raph Touzel Medal, Thirds Best and Fairest

Raph Touzel

Stan Hughes Memorial, Leading Goal Kicker
Seniors: **Dylan Muscat (55)**, Reserves:
Aaron Thompson (48)

Do you make home brew?

A recent survey of the beer drinkers at the club reveals there are quite a number of 'amateur brewers' at the club who make home brew.

Anyone who makes 'the brew' thinks there particular mix is the best, but rarely gets a chance to be officially recognized as the clubs best brewer.

We are getting an expert panel together to taste test any brew you make to officially recognize the best at West for 2015. Interested, let Devo know and we will do some work on the rules, judges and incorporate the 'taste off'.

Love footy? Over 35? Over 45?

If you can play, why not play **fortnightly**. We want you at the mighty **Brunswick Mudlarks** - Over 35's AFL in the Inner North.

We're part of the booming Victorian Masters League, and play once a fortnight, for an 11 game season. The rules are slightly modified to prevent injury and to promote **fun** and **fitness**.

We currently field three teams – 35's, 40's and 45's. So if you've played before or perhaps just 'retired' from open age, check out

www.brunswick.mafv.com or call/text our President **Will Glenn** on 0418 429 475.

