

# Balwyn Junior Football Club

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## BJFC Newsletter

### Sunday 27 July 2008 – Round 14

Well done to the **Under 11s** and **Under 13s** who had good wins on Sunday after a few disappointing rounds. The Under 13s showed they just need a bit of extra pressure to perform, with the Channel 9 cameras at the ground to record the game!

#### Milestone Games

Congratulations to **Kirk Christodoulou** (U11s) and **Joseph Kurban** (U13s) who played their 50<sup>th</sup> games on Sunday. This is a great effort from these boys and it was terrific that both teams could have a win to help them celebrate.

We also congratulate former BJFC player **Sam Power**, who played his 100<sup>th</sup> game of AFL football on the week-end. Sam made his AFL debut with the Western Bulldogs in 2002 and played 84 games with the Bulldogs before moving to the Kangaroos (North Melbourne) this season. His 100<sup>th</sup> game was the Kangaroos – Melbourne game on Sunday, which, of course, the Kangaroos won. BJFC President John Stragalinos sent Sam a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Club prior to Sunday's game.



#### Tackers Presentation Night – Sunday 10 August

The next Family Night, which incorporates the Tackers Presentation Night, will be held on Sunday 10 August, not August 3<sup>rd</sup> as stated in last week's newsletter. There is no Family Night this Sunday.

#### Trivia Night

A big crowd of around 130 gathered at the Balwyn Tigers Social Club for the Trivia Night last Friday night. It was a terrific night – a great social occasion, some tricky trivia questions (name four countries that have only four letters in their name, excluding Iran, Iraq and the African nations), lots of great auction items and, importantly, an outstanding fundraiser for the Club with proceeds of **more than \$8,000**.

Thank you to all those who attended, to those who donated items, big and small, for the auctions, and of course to those who bid on the night. The highlight was the accommodation in Port Douglas, which was keenly contested and eventually sold for more than \$800. The various AFL Club jumpers and posters, all signed by current players, were also highly sought after.

Many thanks to our Auctioneer, **Pat Dennis**, whose excellent, and sometimes unconventional, techniques managed to take bidders where they didn't realise they wanted to go! Pat is, of course, our Under 10 Yellow coach, and a Jellis Craig Agent and Auctioneer.



A **BIG** thank you also goes to BJFC Social Coordinator **Cath Owen** and her team of helpers for their wonderful organisation of the night.

I would like to make special note of the winners, but must confess that as a member of the second-placed team my table was so busy whooping it up that we didn't hear the announcement of the evening's winning table!!

In a great demonstration of the past and the future of the Balwyn Junior Footy Club, it was the U15s and the Auskick tables who were last to leave!

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday 10 August – Family Night and Tackers Presentation Night (hosted by U13s)

Sunday 31 August – AGM and Presentation Night (hosted by U12s)

### **Call to Arms**

Thank you to all those who donated to the Victorian Cancer Council's Call to Arms campaign and to the players who wore yellow armbands during their games on Sunday.

Until next week ...GO TIGERS!

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## **Match Reports – Round 14**

### **Sunday 27 July 2008**

**Tackers**

**Bye**



**U10 Yellow**

**Camberwell 3 10.8-68 def Balwyn Y 0.5-5**

First half captain Andrew Chau brought out a full team to face one of the top teams in slippery conditions at Lynden Park. The opposition wasted no time in putting the pressure on the backline, with Zanella, Kavanagh, and Christian Ambatsis getting plenty of action early on. Skillful clearance from Jack Ambatsis found it's way to Donnelly who earned a free to kick long to the square. Walby put in an excellent effort to contest the loose ball, and a strong mark to Matt Hallam was followed by another long kick forward. Donnelly again earned the free and the kick resulted in the first behind for the Tigers. Strong tackles from Ukovick, Humphris, and Chau. ¼ time score 2 – 24

Second ¼ saw the boys wake up and man up. Ukovic marked to kick another behind. Campbell earned the free and passed accurately. Dennis put in a determined effort to move the ball forward in the wet conditions. Zanella tackled well and hung on by one hand to spoil the opposition. O'Callaghan and Watt tackled hard and chased well. Strong marks to Campbell and Zanella. Camberwell kept to 4 points for the term. ½ time score 3 – 28

Second half captain Oscar Flugge pumped up the boys for an excellent third ¼. And kept Camberwell to three scoring shots. Humphris won the ruck and Zanella passed to Pasquariello in a great flow of play. Khallouf soon made his presence felt with an excellent clearance under pressure. Campbell and Zanella combined well. Noonan pressured to win the free. Zanella scored with a behind late in the term. ¾ time score 4 – 46

Final term saw Camberwell put on two goals and three behinds in the face of continued Tiger determination to give 100%. Allinson, Campbell and Khallouf pushed the ball out from the mid field to apply the pressure in the forward line. Burgoyne, Zanella, and Campbell continued to attack the ball to earn the free kicks. Noonan tackled well to force the free and kicked a behind. Trademark tackle from Flugge and courage to earn a free from Chau.

A much higher standard of football against a strong opposition – well done.

Opposition award from Camberwell – Andrew Chau. Other awards to be announced next week. Thanks to John Allinson for standing in as trainer on the day, and welcome back D. Pasquariello with the usual strong support from the side line.



### **Under 10 Black            Balwyn B 3.3-21def by Kew Comets 7.6-48**

#### **Balwyn Tigers shine but Kew Comets shoot past in the second half**

After a scintillating effort last week - with the clubs first draw for the season the boys were asked to back it up again this week against the Under 10's undefeated team Kew Comets. Even with the tough battle in front of them our boys did not flinch at the enormity of the task. In matter of fact the boys played with passion equal to that of the parents shown the previous night at the clubs Trivia Night.

Even with two quick goals on the board the boys maintained the focus – a win against these boys would assure our lads with a spot in the finals.

Christian Moritz won the toss and led the boys out on the park; it was our midfield that got us away to a great start - Sam Charles, Louis Cunningham, Wade Brusnahan and Jack Owen are able to match it with anyone in the comp. Dashing sprints out of the centre and silky passes were the flavour of the day. Hazza Vanderkley nailed the first goal of the game with Louis quickly following up with a second. At the end of the first quarter we went in 1 point down and we were in with a show.

The second quarter saw our wingman on both sides - Lachlan Reynolds and Jessie Ward really get into the game. Our backline were put under extreme pressure with the likes of Jason Watkins, Ned Coleman, Nick Warmington and James Lazari fending off attack upon attack. Thumping kicks out from Ben “Huddo” Hudson fed the ball deep up the paddock. Loughy De Burgh nursing a foot injury and commanding the respect of the opposition full back and was unlucky not to score a goal whilst Benjamin Somers and Jordy Moshopoulos continued to present as a second option, and another headache for the Kew defence.

Going into the third quarter the boys were seven points down and very much in the game, the boys were asked to believe in themselves and have confidence to take the Comets head on. This saw the likes of Jack Owen (second half Captain) Harry Kirkland in the ruck step up and Will Prouse showing his renowned true Tiger ticker. As they say in the big league the third quarter is the premiership quarter, and Kew unfortunately turned it on with three goals to no score in the quarter.

The boys were looking tired and very dirty going into the last quarter although the spirit of the Tiger was not yet spent and the boys fought it out till the end. Chris Vanderkley kicked a great goal in the last quarter, whilst we went down by 27 points the margin did not reflect the passion and heart that each boy showed.

Next week lads we are off to play Doncaster at their home ground this will be a great test and one that both Pete and I know we can pass. Lets show the Donny lads who rule the roost with some strong Balwyn Tigers footy!

Goal Kickers: Harry Vanderkley, Louis Cunningham, Chris Vanderkley

Awards: Palace Award – J. Owen

Columbo Award – N. Coleman, L.De Burgh, W. Prouse

Subway Award – N. Warmington



### **U11 Balwyn 4.13-37 def Camberwell 1.1-7**

On a wet Sunday morning at Lynden park, the under 11 Tigers, who were languishing in last place on the ladder, had only one intention in their mind, that was to win this game and get the double over the forth placed Camberwell!

Missing their coach Jim Peters, Phil Alessi happily stepped up and got the message out to the boys that their team, coach, parents and spectators deserved more from this season than what they were giving and that with a little more effort and belief in themselves they could get the job done for 4 quarters.

The game started well with **Andrew Foster** and **Kirk Christodoulou** determined to win every touch in the ruck. They were greatly supported by **Daniel Jackson** and the ever-tenacious **Riley Cranage** roving closely. **Marcus Alessi** got the first six pointer from 25 meters out allowing us to go into the break 1.2.8 to zip. We came out in the second quarter as we finished the first with guts and determination and when **Alistair McIntosh** marked from 25 meters out and directly in front, the resulting goal was never in doubt. **Stefano Di Natale** seemed to enjoy his new role up front and provided great support for the in form **Joshua Somers**. **Jimmy Barring** came out like a young Tiger possessed and never gave up all day while **Noah Bourke** was never seen far from the action either. **Billy Peters** showed his typical courage in the tackles and **Ben Carberry** went non-stop on the flanks even producing a goal in the third quarter. **Sandon Lai**, **Tim Allan** and **Sam Paravizzini** partnered well to restrict Camberwell to only 2 scoring opportunities all game. **George Cleeve-Gerkens** showed great resolve and strength in the half back line and occasionally helped out in the ruck. **Michael Carpenteri** and **Liam Roney** will go down as two of the great success stories of 2008 as their improvements have been outstanding all season and they didn't disappoint in this game either. **Liam Azzopardi** got some great service and managed several shots on goal, even an audacious snap from 30 meters out hugging the right boundary line, unfortunately this one slipped through the wrong side of the posts as did his other efforts for the day. **Alex Dalla-Riva** played a true captains role leading from the front and deservedly received the BOG award from Camberwell at the end of the game. It seemed like everyone had a go at goal at one time or another, unfortunately producing more behinds than goals with the ratio at 13 to 4.

Such was the level played today that every player gave it their all and truly deserved the Colombo's encouragement award that was presented to them. While the Spirit of the Tiger awards went to Jimmy Barring, Noah Bourke, Liam Azzopardi and Riley Cranage.

Goals: – Ben Carberry, Alistair McIntosh, Marcus Alessi & Alex Dalla-Riva (1 each)

(Absent: Jim Peters (coach) & Tom McGowan)



## **U12 Balwyn 2.0-12 def by Park Orchards Black 5.5-35**

The Under 12s slugged out a tough match in the wet against the ladder leaders this week, and gave a good account of themselves. The boys wore yellow armbands to help raise awareness of prostate cancer.

Nic Schwarz had a belter of a match dominating off half back. He was well supported by James Merrett who rucked magnificently. James Morgan produced his best game of the year as he threw himself into packs winning the contested ball.

The Tigers started well being competitive on every line against often taller opponents. Campbell Lane and Brodie McLaughlin picked up plenty of possessions, well supported by Tyler Youngman and Carter Louey. Balwyn's skills, particularly their marking, were very good in the wet.

The play of the quarter started with a fine tackle from Louey that was rewarded with a free kick. Louey's long pass was marked by Lane, who then passed to Nick LeFebvre who also marked cleanly. LeFebvre's kick forward was brought to the ground where Campbell Rome sharked the crumbs and roosted the footy, with what appeared to be a torpy, 30 metres straight through the middle.

There was just one point in the game at quarter time, but over the next two terms the contest slipped away from the Tigers. The opposing ruckman dominated the marking contests, stopping many Balwyn attacks and also going forward to mark and goal. This period saw four goals kicked without reply by Balwyn. The Tigers had attacking opportunities but could not convert them into scores. D'Arcy Noonan was doing strong work in tight, and the backline was held together under great pressure by Matthew Bromell and Sam Cornford.

The boys had pride to play for in the last term, and they came through with a determined performance keeping their opponents scoreless for the term. For the majority of the term the ball was in Balwyn's forward half. If the ball did go into the defensive half it was pushed back by Schwarz and Daniel Speake who, along with Morgan and Michael Bell, provided many examples of a player who was willing to contest the hard ball in the packs despite being outsized by his opponent.

Merrett was helping lock the ball into the forward 50, well supported by Youngman, Louey and McLaughlin. Up forward Morgan and LeFebvre worked tirelessly. Bromell, now playing as a key forward, finished off this great work with a good long goal.

Goals: Rome, Bromell.

Coaches Awards: LeFebvre, Rome, Schwarz, Merrett

Best: Morgan



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## **U13 Balwyn 2.4-16 def Hawthorn 0.4-4**

The Channel Nine film crew arrived for the big video game against the Hawks. The weather was cold and wet and the ground heavy. However, the boys were ready to shine in front of the cameras. Joseph was playing his 50<sup>th</sup> and led the boys through the banner to the flash of plenty of cameras.

The 1Q was a beauty. We won plenty of the ball but could not get a goal on the board ... until Strag broke through with a superb goal to get us rolling. Joel followed up quickly with a sensational long bomb which really got the crowd jumping.

The 2Q was a tough affair. Brent was tagging the Hawks gun player and ended up not only keeping him very quiet but picked up plenty of kicks himself. Well done Brent.

Mitch Jones definitely had some extra vita brits for breakfast. He was under heaps of pressure at centre half back but just kept pumping it back our way. He was great in the air and on the ground – a top effort Mitch.

The 3Q was more of the same and neither side could get an easy kick. Nick Christo was moved to full back where he again showed his class and flexibility. He coolly repelled many dangerous forward moves from the Hawks. Another defender who was in sensational form was Oliver who is getting better and better after recovering from a tough year of sickness and injury.

The final quarter saw Joel in the ruck and he continued where Joe left off. Joel was in everything and seems to have developed some real mongrel in his game. His marking and ruck work were great to see. Joseph showed that he really loved the heavy conditions in the midfield and dominated there with some very strong play and beautiful long kicks. What a way to wrap up his 50<sup>th</sup> game.

Despite all the challenges from the Hawks, we kept them goalless which was an amazing effort from the boys.

It was great to sing the song in front of the camera at the end of the game. It has been quite a few weeks and the boys really deserved and enjoyed this win. We can't wait to see the video!

Goals: Nick Strag and Joel



#### **U15 St Marys 8.10 – 58 def Balwyn 3.11 – 29**

The yellow arm-banded boys come out to a rain soaked Whatmough Park to take on St. Mary's. Our minds focused, and positions set, we only thought about one thing and that was... winning. The battle of last versus second last, it was a big day.

The match was a mud bath from the ball up in the centre. Moving the ball and getting a fluent kick was hard enough let alone marking it in the cold numb hands. Corey McLaughlin set us up for a chance to score the first and only goal of the 1<sup>st</sup> term, but the slippery ball got the better of him. It was looking like a horrid day with the quarter time score: 0.4 to 0.5. It was intense.

Now to tell everybody about the second term would be a bit silly so we might just let that slide and inform our readers that score came to a St. Mary's advantage. A lack of concentration was a fault for some, however, thanks to the best audible obscenity, awarded to Edmund Barrett after telling the injured captain watching from the bench (thanks to last round, football to the eye) to be quiet in a not so calm manner. The defence held up well late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter thanks to some brave efforts from Marcus Privitelli and Dale Louey, constantly keeping the ball moving out of defence. Also a very special mention to James O'Sullivan for his brilliant kicking out of defence. In at half time and no media allowed in to the rooms what so ever.

The boys came out nice and early. Guns pumped. Timmy Golds hair looking bouncy and Tom Brown browsing the ground choosing where would be best for the ultimate run along the boundary and giving another fantastic don't argue. He managed to pull it off in the third giving the team a bit of a lift. We needed it, and it was followed up by a groovy goal to Timmy G. With a goal in the bag we didn't look so bad now, but deep down we just didn't have it in us to keep up with the quick run of St. Mary's.

Fourth Quarter saw a few fantastic efforts around the ground that were inspirational. Sam Lefebvre kicking two goals and one brilliant banana. Conor just tearing through a pack of 5 St. Mary's players. Nick Sharkey constantly presented the team with essential drive down to the forward line (even though he forgot his socks the goose). In the end we left with our heads high and pumped for a win next week against Fitzroy.

This week - Be there. Balwyn Park. 1pm. As many girls (woops, I mean people) as possible.

By Edmund Barrett

