

# Balwyn Junior Football Club

[www.balwynjfc.com](http://www.balwynjfc.com)



## BJFC Newsletter

### Sunday 10 August 2008 – Round 16

“Arctic blast”, “freezing temperature”, “bleak ... challenging conditions”, “freezing, wet and muddy” – these are just some of the descriptions of Sunday’s weather in our match reports below and very accurate they all are too. On what was surely the coldest day of the season/year/decade, we congratulate the BJFC boys on their unflinching Tigers spirit in taking to the wet and muddy playing grounds for the final games of the regular season. Well done, the match reports indicate that every team and every boy put in a 100 per cent effort.

Special congratulations to the **Under 10 Black** team who have made it to the finals in Gold Division. They play Canterbury B at Victoria Rd Reserve, Hawthorn, at 12.30pm this Sunday and would love a big crowd there to support them. We wish them all the best ... Go Tigers!

#### Milestone Games

It has been a big year for milestone games at the Balwyn Junior Footy Club this year. We have had **8 players** from the Under 15s play their 100<sup>th</sup> game. Congratulations to you all – it is an outstanding effort to reach 100 games in junior football. We have had **28 boys** play their 50<sup>th</sup> game this season – all but one from the Under 11s, Under 12s and Under 13s - **Luca Zanella** must have been an early starter to reach his 50<sup>th</sup> game in Under 10s. Congratulations to all these boys also. And, of course, we have had one (former) player reach his 100<sup>th</sup> game in AFL footy – Sam Power (North Melbourne).

#### Tackers Presentation Night

A big crowd turned out for the final Family Night and Tackers Presentation Night on Sunday. Congratulations to the Tackers on their great season. We look forward to seeing you all back at the Club next year. The Tackers received their trophies on Sunday evening, with the individual awards won by the following boys:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Best and Fairest</b>	<b>Rhys De Highden</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Best and Fairest</b>	<b>Matthew Cheah</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest</b>	<b>Will Golds</b>
<b>Most Improved</b>	<b>Christian Ambatzis</b>
<b>Spirit of the Tiger</b>	<b>William Lambert</b>
<b>Coach’s Award</b>	<b>Bradley Whelan</b>

#### Canteen

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Committee is seeking volunteers to help run the canteen during the three weeks of YJFL finals, which begin this Sunday. We require four people to assist on two hourly shifts, from 9.00am to 4.00pm. If you have some time available and can help out, please contact Annette Jones on 0414 379 551 or email [tj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tj@bigpond.net.au).

## AGM and Presentation Night

The Club's Annual General Meeting and Presentation Night for Under 10s through to Under 15s will be held from **4.30pm on Sunday 31 August**. More information will be emailed to you closer to the time – or check the website [www.balwynjfc.com](http://www.balwynjfc.com).

As noted in last week's newsletter, the Committee will have the following vacancies for 2009:

- Treasurer
- League Director
- Communications Manager (newsletter and website)
- Social Coordinator

If you are interested in nominating for these, or any other, positions, or would like further information, please contact BJFC President John Stragalinos on 0419 528 271.

Finally, and most importantly, the Committee extends its thanks to the many parents who have assisted the Club during the season. We especially acknowledge the Coaches and Assistant Coaches, who have given so much of their time (and their hearts) to coach the boys. We appreciate your valuable contribution to the club and to the boys – encouraging them, improving their skills, and helping them to develop into good footballers and good team players. We thank the Team Managers for their time and effort in making match days run smoothly and helping to maintain communication between the club, coaches, players and parents. Thank you to the runners, the trainers, the umpires, the scorers, the statisticians, the timekeepers – the game can't go on without you. Thank you to all those who have helped out on the canteen – it has been a handy little money earner for the Club. And, of course, thank you to the parents and other family members who come along each Sunday to cheer along the teams – it is great for the boys to play in front of their fans.

We look forward to seeing you at Presentation Night.

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## With thanks to our Sponsors



# Match Reports – Round 16

Sunday 10 August 2008

## Tackers

“Arctic Blast”, the news presenter reported!! ..... Polar Bears wouldn't have played on the top oval at Balwyn on Sunday morning!!! Yep, the Tackers played at home for the final game of the year and it is the game that will be etched in all of the boys' minds during the summer pre-season. Cold, tough, cold, down and dirty, cold, wet, cold and did I mention bitterly cold? We played Whitehorse Colts and both teams should be commended for their application in very trying conditions. I include families in this who braved the worst weather of the year!

We finished off the year in a very positive way. The team's development was significant, and the individual progress of each and every boy is something that they can be very proud of.

Our first half captain, Michael Tsalikis had a very solid game, including a screamer that he took in our forward line. Ryan Lumpreiks, Rhys De Highden, Khoi Cao, and Jackson Gillard all worked hard up forward.

Down back, Lucas Mucciante chased hard in the wet and was well supported up back by Josh Bilston-Gourley, Tom Campbell, Thomas Braddy, Dan Crowley and Nicholas Sette.

Our centre line was strong all day, led by Christian Ambatzis in the ruck. He was helped by Will Lambert, Jack Fitzgerald, Joseph Parente, Edward Stents and Will Golds.

Ed Keith played a significant role for the team. Playing out of the back pocket Ed snagged two goals for the team (we gave Ed plenty of latitude to move around due to the poor conditions!).

Max Chew Lee, our second half captain played his best game of the year. With ferocious tackling and some great running, Max was instrumental in our forward thrusts.

To our full squad of 25 boys - congratulations on a fantastic year. Your progress has been well documented and I am proud to say that I had the opportunity to coach each and every one of you.

We look forward to another exciting year next year as many of you play Tackers again



## U10 Yellow Hawthorn Citizens 2 11.16-82 def Balwyn 0.2-2

The bleak weather made for challenging conditions as the boys took on Hawthorn at their home ground for the last game of the season. Hoping to continue where we left off last week, the enthusiasm in the rooms was promising and a strong contingent of supporters braved the cold to cheer them on. Alas the come from behind victory eluded us, but the boys held their heads high and sang the club song with gusto at the end of the game, taking with them words of wisdom about their journey on the football field, as well as their transition from boys toward becoming young men.

1<sup>st</sup> ¼ saw many spirited efforts with Chau in and under to chew mud but win the ball. Kavanagh was again strong in defence with several clearances and a great mark. Ukovic combined with Hallam to see Lefebvre clear the ball forward. Hallam picked up the only score of the ¼ with a behind Great pick up by Rishi in the wet, with strong tackles from Ukovic, Campbell and Donnelly. Lefebvre flew high in a great mark attempt, Zanella and Ambatsis cleared well in defence, adjusting well to the slippery conditions to tap the ball forward. Score 1-17

2<sup>nd</sup> ¼ saw Kavanagh and Rishi combine in defence to mark and clear the ball under relentless attack. Dennis took a great mark, Chau cleared well under pressure, and Watt made it first to the ball to clear to the centre. Pasqua tackled hard and number 6 Jacob Khallouf was everywhere to cut off the attacks at the half back line. Matt Hallam continues work well in the ruck contests. Score 2 – 44

Score 2 – 44

3<sup>rd</sup> ¼ had the boys continuing to keep up the effort. Noonan cleared well from the centre, Campbell in under the pack. Humphris marked strongly, and earned the free in another contest.

O’Callaghan put in a great chase, Donnelly marked well, and determined tackles from Kavanagh, Walby, and Khallouf. Score 2 – 64

Final ¼. Humphris won the ruck in several contests and Khallouf continued to fire. Zanella marked well and Chau moved the ball forward, with shepherding from Humphris allowing a promising kick to the forward line. Allinson tried hard and was unlucky to not break through the hawthorn defence. Lefebvre earned the free and strong tackles from Humphris, Chau, Flugge. Pasqua dodged till the end to get the ball out accurately under pressure, and Rishi cleared well also. Final score 2 –81

Awards: *Spirit of the Tiger* – Spencer Noonan and Jack Ambatsis

*Columbo’s* – Rishi, Ben LeFebvre, Sean O’Callaghan, Robby Kavanagh, Andrew Chau, Lucas Watt, and James Walby

*Palace Cinema* – Lachie Campbell



### **Under 10 Black Balwyn 2.3-15 def by Beverly Hills 4.5-29**

#### **Freezing temperature and injury takes its toll this weekend – but watch out Canterbury the Tigers will be back with vengeance!**

How blinking cold was it on the weekend? Pete and I felt guilty sending the lads out to battle in such appalling conditions, but true to form the boys stood up and battled on!

The conditions made the Arctic Circle look like a summer retreat, full thermals and electric blankets were discussed prior to the game by Pete and I, however, we thought it was only fair that we suffered in kind with the boys.

The Hollywood “wannabes” from Beverly Hills 90210 caught the 9.10 ferry and rocked up with a full team (including three on the bench) - feeling confident given their last outing with the Tigers. However, our game plan was simple consolidate on our skills and give it a crack. An injury depleted side saw us take to the field with 16 standard players and 1 gun recruit – Bradley Whelan from the Tackers.

Ben “Huddo” Hudson, Jason Watkins and Nick Warmington (Down and Dirty Player of the day) played a magnificent game in defence. Ned Coleman played his standard tough game copping a “red card” worthy stomping to both hands (and battled on). Will Prowse scored a blow to the nose that would have floored Rocky Balboa and asked to “just wipe it and I’ll go back on” when being attended to by the medical staff. Ben Somers suffered mild hyperthermia and was able to talk himself to go back on the ground. Chattering teeth uncontrollable shaking and goose bumps was what greeted all at each interval change (and the boys were pretty cold as well).

Once again the mid field played an amazing game given the conditions – Sam Charles reportedly had to put his fingers in warm water post game to get feeling back into his fingers after strong taps on centre bounces. Louie Cunningham scored our two goals for the day and played fantastic wet football, he was ably supported by Wade Brusnahan and Chris Vanderkley. Given the polar like temperature this did not stop Christian “really cool (actually freezing) cat” Moritz putting in a solid game.

Harry Kirkland played his best game yet for the season whilst Lachlan Reynolds is gathering strength and momentum for the finals. Jordy Moshopoulos and Jesse Ward ran hard all day getting in and under in plenty pieces of play. Loughy De Burgh is still battling a foot injury but still gave us half a game of solid football. At one stage we had only 15 players on the ground – given the final score it is a true reflection of our boys “never say die attitude”.

Boys the “home and away” season has now been and gone and whilst you performed fantastically – we’re now at the “business end” of the season – it’s Finals time! With James Lazari, Daniel

Murphy, Jack Owen, Lachlan Ryan and Hazza Vanderkley all returning from injury we will raring to go in our first final against Canterbury.  
Boys lets show everyone how good you really are! Never doubt yourself – believe in yourself and your team mates.  
At the moment you are champion boys but we are not a champion team – yet!  
Awards: Ben Hudson, Jesse Ward, Lachlan Reynolds, Ben Somers



### **U11 Balwyn 6.10-46 def. by Macleod 10.2-62**

Another close one that slipped away in the last moments. The score doesn't do the boys justice at 16 scoring shots to twelve. The day was freezing cold, our spirits were high and our endeavour was excellent. We were right in it until five minutes to go. Two late goals to Macleod, the ladder leaders sealed the game.

#### **Best players: -**

Columbo Award: Noah Bourke

MVPs: Alex Dalla-Riva, George Cleeve Gerkins, Daniel Jackson, Sam Paravizzini, and Josh Somers

Spirit of the Tiger: Billy Peters

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What a season the boys had. Each of them can be proud.

- Marcus Alessi: A skilful, tough, fighting onballer. Took the speckie of the year. Can play football!
- Tim Allan: Resolute whether in defence or attack. Kicked a brilliant goal over his shoulder earlier in the year. Continued to improve all season.
- Liam Azzopardi: A dashing footballer. His superb banana goal from the boundary at home a few weeks ago has become a club legend.
- Jimmy Baring, What can we say! He runs, he tackles, he handballs over the heads of opponents, he never stops. A pure excitement machine who the fans love to watch!
- Noah Bourke: Tough and gritty. He is a straight at the ball attacker. Always gave 100% and was a pleasure to watch.
- Ben Carberry: One of our most skilful players with his speed and running. He was an asset to the team.
- Michael Carpinteri: Stunned the crowd with his speed on the wing in the last game. Cut off many goals in the backline throughout the season. Will continue to improve.
- Kirk Christodoulou: The man mountain of the team. He never gives up, he ran into some excellent form at centre half forward late in the season.
- Riley Cranage: Always to be found under the packs, getting the ball out or kicking long racking left footers into the arms of his team mates. A great season.
- Alex Dalla-Riva: The backbone of the team. Ran over 5 to 6 kilometres per game, marking, running and bouncing the ball. He kicked goals from 40 metres. His tackling was a great addition to his repertoire. What a season he had. Another excitement machine and a pleasure to watch.
- Stefano Di Natale: Played all over the ground, in defence and attack. Showed his speed and skill kicking a goal off the ground in the latter half of the season. Always gave 100%.
- Andrew Foster: A new comer to the team who added real value. Started off well at full forward during the season and then moved to the ruck. Last game showed he can also play as a class back man.

- George Cleeve Gerkins: Another classy new comer. Never took a backward step. Held down centre halfback and beat many of the opposing best centre half forwards. Has a real future and will continue to improve.
- Daniel Jackson: Continued to improve all season. Loved it at either end of the ground when he had the opportunity to run straight at the ball. Will evolve into a very handy forward/midfielder next year.
- Sandon Lai: Another big improver. Showed all the qualities a good team needs, courage, skill and dedication. A beautiful judge and reader of the game. A pleasure to coach.
- Alistair McIntosh: Started slow but finished with a bang. His silky skills and speed and long kicking thrilled the crowd. At his best on the ball and through the packs.
- Tom McGowan: A strong utility player. Hard at the ball and never let the side down.
- Sam Paravizzini: Our “Mr reliable”. The best full back since Jeff Southby. Played brilliantly at full forward in the last game of the season [why didn’t the coach move him there earlier!].
- Billy Peters: Hard nosed centre man who can take a speckie or tag the opposition’s best player. A very even season, with best on ground in the first and last games.
- Liam Roney: The big improver – by the end of the season, he was picking up kicks, tagging and borrowing into packs. His dedication was terrific.
- Josh Somers: Another class player -put him in the forward line or in the ruck. Our leading goal kicker. His specialty is spinning around opposing players, running away from the goals and then slotting one through with a wrong footed banana.

#### **Coaching Team:**

- MacIntosh: Team runner, showed glimpses of that turn of speed for which he was renowned once upon a time!
- Phil Alessi: Put the coaches under pressure when he stepped in to coach a winning game – boys loved his drills and passion.
- Tony Azzopardi: The Mr Big of football in the Under 11’s – always in charge, nothing escapes his notice and makes the team run like a well oiled machine.
- Leigh Baring: Cool judgment in a crisis and wise counsel always ensured that the right boys played in the right place with the right attitude.
- Jim Peters: Was well understood by the boys (even though he often mispronounced their names!). He loved the passion of the Team.

Well done boys.



#### **U12 Balwyn 3.3–21 def by Hawthorn Citizens 6.7–43**

The Under 12s finished off their season with a tremendous effort in the wet. Playing the only side this year to have inflicted a big loss on the Tigers, it was important that the boys gave a good account of themselves and that they did with the scores at three quarter time still level. The Tigers fought out the final term, with a few late goals to the opposition creating a scoreboard that did not give a true indication of the closeness of this match.

All boys gave their best and are to be congratulated. A standout was James Merrett who showed strength and courage all day to win in the ruck and around the ground. Merrett brought many players in to the game, with Marcus Italiano and Brodie McLaughlin capitalising on his work in the packs. Nick LeFebvre was also going very well in the wet.

An open forward line produced results as Sam Cornford, Carter Louey and Charles MacCallum won the ball, with a Louey handball to McLaughlin producing the first goal of the match. A fine MacCallum mark ended in a set shot goal from a sharp angle, and before the end of the quarter MacCallum and Cornford combined to feed the ball to McLaughlin for his second goal. The game was fairly even for the next two quarters, although Hawthorn kicked two goals in the second term indicating the extra pressure placed on the Tigers' defence. In the second term Luke Privitelli was at his best down back, well supported by Ryan Jago, D'Arcy Noonan, Costa Kazakos and Daniel Speake, all boys who committed themselves to win the ball. In the third term Matthew Bromell and Luke Privitelli were moved to the half forward line with great effect, although three points were the outcome of the quarter's struggles. Merrett continued to dominate the midfield well supported by James Morgan, Campbell Rome and Mitchell Dyer, while Cornford and Ollie Marett were strong in defence. In the last term the Tigers found it difficult to relieve the pressure on the defence. The boys were generally out-sized, but never out-performed as they give their all in every pack. The Under 12s had a fantastic second half of the season. They displayed clean hand and foot skills, and their marking showed significant improvement. These factors allowed them to keep possession and move the ball into their forward line to maximise their scoring opportunities. Well done to the fans who came out each week to encourage the boys in all weather. Well done to all the boys and also to the coaching staff, particularly Coach Stuart Rome, for producing a wonderful season of determined team footy.

Goals: McLaughlin (2), MacCallum (1)  
Coaches Awards: Privitelli, Noonan, Italiano, McLaughlin  
Best: Merrett



Colombo's  
250 Whitehorse Rd, Balwyn  
Ph: 9836 6442

### **U13 Fitzroy 4 9-33 def Balwyn 2.2-14**

Our last game was played against another pretty big side in Fitzroy who will appear in the finals. But our boys decided from the first bounce that they would make life very difficult for the Roy boys.

In the 1Q, Fitzroy were beating us in the centre and putting plenty of pressure on our backline. But our backs were magnificent. Taylor, Strag, Johnno and Dan were everywhere ... marking, tackling and running the ball out of the danger zone. Lachie Mackie got in on the act and gave us fantastic drive across half back. Unfortunately, we couldn't break through their powerful half back line.

In the 2Q, Fitzroy kept the pressure on and despite some great work by Christian and Kieren, we were in danger of losing touch with the roys. But in a moment of coaching magic, Mitch Jones was moved to full forward and five minutes later made the coach look good by booting 2 very clever goals. This was a big lift for the boys going into half time.

The 3Q was a very tough affair with neither side giving ground. Strag was moved into the centre and quickly delivered results. Oliver, Declan and Jaddy lifted and gave us plenty of drive. Joe Canty and Nick Christo copped blood noses but returned to the field looking like extras in a horror movie. They must have scared the roy boys because they were sensational for the rest of the game. At 3Q time the boys had a real chance of an upset.

The final quarter was again very tough but unfortunately, we could not get the breakthrough. However, the boys showed plenty of grit and ended the game in full attack mode. Sam broke through the centre with a long bomb to Mitch who was running onto it but the siren beat us. We went down but the roys had to fight every inch of the way.

Congrats on a very good season, boys. We were against the odds on many occasions but you never stopped trying. There were some great wins and plenty of improvement from many players and as a team. We are all very proud of you. Have a good summer and we'll see you all next season!

Goals: Mitch Jones 2



**U15 Surrey Park 11.13-79 def Balwyn 6.4-40**

Having watched the rain tumble down all day, it was a brave and hardy group that raised themselves (some from their sickbeds) to take to the field at 3pm on Sunday against Surrey Park. The rain had stopped, but it was freezing and very wet and muddy (why is that always the case when we have the white shorts!)

Everyone battled with great effort all day, but our opponents were just a bit stronger and finished their work a bit better.

It was pleasing that the scores don't tell the true story of the match – at  $\frac{3}{4}$  time we certainly had them very worried and they had to pull out all stops to get over the line.

Our boys never gave up and as usual, it was a pleasure to watch them.

And having just referred to my notes apparently Sharkey was "BOG". Not sure who wrote that though – any ideas anyone?

So, that's it. The carnival is over. No more U15s, no more Tigers. The players held back the tears at the end (tough guys), although there were sightings of jumpers being kissed and hugged before being handed back!

See you all at the Break Up Party on Friday night when we will lay this era to rest in style!

