



THE BEAR FACTS

CAULFIELD BEARS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

ROUND 13 | ISSUE 31 | JUNE 2018



Platinum Sponsor

 **Gary Peer**

ROUND 14 FIXTURE

Team	Opponent	Home/Away	Location	Time
U8's	Lightning Carnival	Away	JL Murphy Reserve	9.00am
U9's	Lightning Carnival	Away	McKinnon Reserve	9.30am
U10's	Prahran	Home	Koornang Park	8.30am
U11 Polars	East Brighton	Away	William St Reserve	9.00am
U11 Grizzlies	Mordi-Brae	Away	Walter Galt Reserve	3.30pm
U12 Girls Polars	Hampton Rovers	Away	Boss James Reserve	8.30am
U12 Girls Grizzlies	Bentleigh	Away	King George Reserve	10.30am
U12 Polars	East Sandringham	Away	Chisholm Reserve	2.30pm
U12 Grizzlies	East Sandringham	Away	Chisholm Reserve	10.00am
U13's	East Malvern	Home	Koornang Park	9.40am
U14's Girls	St. Paul's McKinnon	Home	East Caulfield	9.00am
U14's	Waverley Park	Home	Koornang Park	11.10am
U15's	Beaumaris	Home	Koornang Park	2.30pm
U16's	Murrumbeena	Away	Murrumbeena Park	1.15pm
U17's	St Kilda City	Home	Koornang Park	12.35pm

Calendar Events

AUG
05

FINAL FAMILY NIGHT FOR 2018

4.30pm – 7.30pm

AUG
05

LIGHTNING CARNIVAL

Under 8's from 9.00am
Under 9's from 9.30am

Major Sponsor



MATCH REPORTS!

If all teams could provide reports and a few photos for the newsletter that would be appreciated! However if nothing is received the scores where relevant, with locations and weather will be all that's published.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It was great to see our Club supporting the SMJFL Charity Partner, the Robert Connor Dawes Foundation, with their beanie round. Teams were encouraged to show their support on Sunday by wearing a beanie and contributing to the Foundation.

The Foundation was set up by Liz Dawes in 2013, following the tragic death of her son Connor who bravely fought and eventually succumbed to brain cancer. In addition to battling paediatric brain tumours and supporting brain matters in the area of research, care and development, the Foundation also provides practical and financial support to patients as they live with the disease.

I have been fortunate enough to meet Liz during my Presidency and have always been in awe of her energy and drive towards finding a cure for this type of cancer and impressed with how she has turned such grief into a positive outlet. I was very proud that the Caulfield Bears Under 13 team were chosen to meet with Liz on Sunday and showed their support with the team running out wearing their beanies. Another example of how junior sport has such far reaching connections within the community.

Louise Nelson

President



Match Day Photos

If you have any photos of your teams for our newsletter, please e-mail them to cbjfcnewsletter@gmail.com



Contact Us

Club Website

caulfieldbears.com.au/juniorteam

Facebook

For the latest in social media, visit facebook.com/CaulfieldBearsJuniors

Newsletter

Please send photos, articles or anything else to cbjfcnewsletter@gmail.com

Team App

Team app is the preferred communication method for CBJFC — make sure you install and enable notifications to stay up to date with your team's news, fixtures and events

Available from the App store or the Play Store — simply install the app, and find the Caulfield Bears Junior Footy Club.

Download our App!



NOTICE BOARD

BY-LAW OF THE WEEK

12.1. Match Footballs

The home team must provide the Field Umpire with the two footballs of the correct size and material and in good condition (as determined by the Field Umpire) no later than ten minutes before the commencement of a home and away match. The away team Captain shall choose which of the two footballs is to be used for the match. The football that is not chosen for the match shall remain on the home team's bench and will be used as a back-up football where necessary.

MILESTONES!

Congratulations to Angus McNeill, Oliver McCurdy and Dominic Nicolay for making it to 50 games. Also congrats to Henery Nicolay who ran through the banner for his 100th club game! Well done all!



Headgear in Australian Football Study

The AFL in partnership with Monash University have launched a study to assess the evidence in relation to usefulness of headgear in youth Australian Football. The Study will evolve over 3 phases and will include the following:

- A survey addressing the usage and attitudes towards headgear by players, parents, coaches and trainers
- A study of injuries suffered by players with and without headgear
- An assessment of forces involved in collisions with and without headgear

The AFL seeks the support of all Junior Clubs in encouraging as many participants as possible for the initial survey phase outlined above. See below for more information on who can fill in the survey and how:

Link: <https://redcap.cdms.org.au/surveys/?s=HXHFECL7MJ>

- Who should do the survey? Player (with parental oversight if needed), parent, coach, trainer, medic, physio or any other type of club affiliate involved with junior football.
- How long will it take? 5-10 mins
- Compensation? Participants will go into the draw to win a \$1000 sports equipment voucher for your football club.
- When? ASAP! No official closing date but likely to be at the end of the season - do it by 30 August to be safe!

Lost Property!

Come home with one less item than when you left for footy? Try checking our lost property inside the Bear Cave!

Anything not collected in the next two weeks will be washed and donated to charity!



AUSKICK

Prep/Kinder

Another great day out on the lovely sunshine for this weeks Auskick session. We have found over the past three weeks and average of 50 children have been attending the clinic, with various factors affecting attendance. This week is our second last session so we are hoping everyone comes out for the forecasted sunshine on Saturday!

Parents are reminded that many of our older Auskickers whom have developed fantastic skills over the years through Auskick and are interested in playing, to contact the Caulfield Bears for next Years under 8's and above age groups. Their website address is <http://www.caulfieldbears.com.au/juniorteam/>

Auskick this week is also followed by the grid & rules games at the MCG at half time! We wish all our successful participants all the best and hope they have so much fun as they step foot on the G!

Lastly, it has been observed that numerous parents don't seem to be in attendance during these sessions. This week any parents who cant be located will receive a phone call to come and collect their child.

Prep and Kinder

For the past 2 weeks we have given more emphasis on playing grid games. We have started our session with a game, then continued with skills in the middle and a game again at the end. This has resulted in our young Auskickers gaining more opportunities to learn the game, get a touch of the ball and more importantly kick a goal. I'm sure you'll agree that they're, confidence, knowledge of the game and skills have improved dramatically. We are also seeing an increased level of confidence across the board but more importantly the children are all having fun.

Grade 1's, 2's & 3's

With a cold start to the morning our groups combined to do a vigorous warm-up comprising of scarecrow tiggly, running drills and a variety of exercises including the popular one hand 'push-up'. With everyone's hands still being cold we skipped the handball drill and went straight into marking that led into the specky bag where the Auskickers look some screamers and had significant hang time. There was excellent team work in the grid games where the kids handballed to their team mates and some big booming goals were kicked.

Parents

Some children have been very disruptive in their sessions and not wanting to actively participate in Auskick subsequently affecting the productivity and learning of other participants. Auskick is a happy place of learning and we wish it to be a positive place for children to develop their skills. Parents need to be nearby to assist with behaviour management where needed.

On a skill development perspective, please observe the instructions that coaches are giving your child and have a go at practicing these skills with your child in the park or backyard. Kids play the way that they practice, and repetition is the key to skill improvement.

This Week

Hot Dog day – with all your favourites!!

Grid & Rules game at the 'G' this Saturday for 30 Grade 1 to Grade 5 children. Will be a great afternoon!

Upcoming Events

Final Auskick & presentation day – Saturday 11th August

Dads vs Kids match – Saturday 11th August

Grade 1 – Lightning Carnival Saturday 25st August!
Get Excited!

For more information about Caulfield Bears Auskick, please contact:

April Matthews,
Auskick Coordinator



Family Night at the Bear Cave

Last one
for the 2018
season!

**At the Caulfield Bears
we pride ourselves on
our friendly welcoming
environment.**

Let's get together and
celebrate the end of another
year of great football,
with a BBQ, raffles and fun
family activities.

*Come join in the fun.
The more the merrier!*

Hosted by the:

- Under 9's
- Under 12 Girls Grizzlies
- Under 12 Girls Polars
- Under 16's

The Bear Cave
Koornang Park,
Cnr of Munro Avenue & Koornang Rd, Carnegie



Sun 5th August



4:30-7:30pm



**Caulfield Bears
Junior Football Club**



MATCH REPORT



U8's

Caulfield Bears vs. Mordialloc Braeside

Location:

Caulfield East



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Cold and windy

Bear of the Week:

Ben and Seb B

Game Highlights:

The first quarter against a howling gale was tough with the ball at times going backwards in the air. Ben against the wind and deep in forward line kicked a fantastic goal.

Lenny was a rock at centre half back, using the wind to the team's advantage; he was tough in defence and kicked it to the attacking wind to provide opportunity for the midfield.

Seb B deserves a special mention, when being rough housed by the other team he did not retaliate; he headed into space, showing maturity beyond his years. Well done Seb.

The final match of the home and away season was a great game by the Bears, singing the song loud and proud after the match. Coach Mauro commended the team on how far they have progressed this year. From a group of kids (some who hadn't even done Auskick) to a team who worked together, following instructions to play great U8's footy. Well done team and lets stay together in 2019.



Editors Note: As per SMJFL By-Law 25.12, scores are not printed for out modified rules games. Also per SMJFL By-Law 23.10, a mercy rule applies to the publication of all scores in U11–U13 matches. No team shall have a winning margin greater than 60 points.

Location:

Banksia Reserve



Min:

8°C

Fine morning

Max:

13°C

Bear of the Week:

Tadhg and Angus W

Best on Ground:

Luca

Game Highlights:

The first quarter was a torrid affair for the Bears with lots of valiant defending and the ball locked in our backline for the entire quarter. The second quarter was equally tough, but there were signs of attacking play from Eamonn and Ed. Will put his body on the line in an inspirational 'eyes only for the ball' contest.

It must have been the stirring John Kennedy Snr style half time address from Derek because the second half saw a complete turnaround in form with the Bears dominant for the rest of the game.

In the third quarter Charlie D slotted a perfect banana goal from deep in the pocket. However, the play of the day was Eamonn taking a mark at half back and then dashing through the centre after selling some candy to get around the mark. Then a pass to Luca who stepped around 2 defenders to slot a goal.

The last quarter saw more domination from the Bears, epitomised by great pressure from Grace through the midfield. Classy goals to Angus B and Andrew closed out the game.



Location:
Darling Park



Min:
8°C

Max:
13°C

Cool, sunny with some wind

Bear of the Week:

Tyler

Best on Ground:

Christian and Samuel

Game Highlights:

The bears started slowly and a bright sunny morning, although we were kicking with wind the Bears couldn't make the most of the wind advantage, a pretty scrappy start. Into the huddle and some firm words from the coach to re-focus the team and remind them of their objectives.

Although kicking into the wind the momentum shifted the bears way, Lucas started to influence more in defence, Christian started to win numerous ruck contests and a number of goals were kicked by the Bears - and the game was on. Expectations were high for the third quarter where we would have the wind advantage, again we struggled to make the most of the opportunity – with a patchy third quarter. This resulted in a tight game where it was all down to final quarter and we the Bears are kicking into the wind.

The challenge was set and the Bears delivered, Samuel kept his work rate high, Lucas kept pushing and Grady took a courageous mark backing with the flight of the ball to take a special grab! Tyler was finding the ball and Nicholas kicked some very important goals. A very strong finish by the team.



U11 Polars

Caulfield Bears 9.7 (61) def. Prahran 1.1 (7)

Location:

Koornang Park



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Sunny, with a strong breeze

Goal Kickers:

Oliver (2), Jacques, Jakob, Johnny, Angus, Tom W, Rory and Noah (1)

Bear of the Week:

Oliver, Dom, Angus, Jack and Lewis

Game Highlights:

Today was the day of the milestone. Dom, Ollie, and Angus all playing their 50th game.

Kicking into a pretty strong breeze, the Polars applied lots of midfield and forward pressure. Jacques and Tom W were instrumental in keeping the ball in the Polar's half of the ground. Jacques was rewarded for all his hard work with the first goal of the match. Quickly followed by a goal from Gus, who celebrated in fine style. Keeping Prahran scoreless while they had use of the wind was a terrific effort.

Jacques continued on his merry way setting up all 3 goals for the 2nd quarter. First Rory goaled, then Ollie and finally Noah drifted forward to get on the end of one for a nice goal. Again, the defence led by Johnny, Dom and Paddy, kept Prahran scoreless.

The highlight of a tight 3rd quarter was a bone jarring sheppard applied by Rory. The ball spent most of the quarter in the mid-field. The end result was that neither team scored for the quarter, however the points went to the Polar's as again Prahran had not taken advantage of the wind.

It looked like the floodgates were about to open in the last quarter. First Johnny, then Ollie, then Tom W and finally Jakob all scoring goals. But to Prahran's credit they fought on and managed a goal into the strong wind and stopped the Polar's run.

All 3 of the milestone players had magnificent games. The self-belief of the Polar's is now such that they will confidently take on any team on any ground.



U11 Grizzlies

Caulfield Bears 7.5 (47) def. Brighton Beach 0.2 (2)

Location:

Brighton
Beach Oval



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Gale force winds off the bay

Goal Kickers:

Otis Karamihos, Daniel Affinita (2), Jackson Jeanes, Isaiah Teycheney and Kristian Taalikka (1)

Bear of the Week:

William Roberts, Joel Farrar, Daniel Affinita, Jed Anderson

Game Highlights:

The fans strapped on their beanies with the U11 Grizzlies' game at the SMJFL's windiest ground against Brighton Beach.

Kicking with the wind, Daniel Affinita struck early. Two roving goals and two big celebrations, with Daniel's wings out wide, it looked like he was about to take off.

The game was a rugged affair, with the gale being the most dominant player on the ground. All day most of the play was forced into one pocket of the ground, with plenty of scrappy stoppages. Both teams found the ball difficult to pick up and this impacted our running game and ability to score quickly.

On top all day, our coaching brains-trust moved the magnets around, trying players in different positions. William Roberts on the windward wing had his best game for the year, fiercely determined whenever it came near him.

All our goals were scored with the wind, with no-one scoring against the wind, when at three quarter time Coach Dale made a deal with the team – if they could score two goals against the wind in the final quarter, they would all get juice vouchers. They sprinted onto the ground in the last stanza with their new chant, "Boost Juice! Boost Juice!" and a new-found energy.

When Kristian Taalikka slotted one through the big sticks, our Team Manager went into minor hysteria, trying to find 20 vouchers, even doing a deal to sway with an U13 spectator who had won one earlier in the day.

In the end, crisis averted as we could only manage one, but still the only one for either team of the day. A solid all round game with players having new opportunities and demonstrating a team-first ethic. Finals now confirmed, but there's still improvement to be made if we want to play at our best.



U12 Girls Grizzlies

St Kilda 11.5 (71) def. Caulfield Bears 2.1 (13)

Location:

East Caulfield



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Fine and windy

Goal Kickers:

Nina, Georgia (1)

Bear of the Week:

Georgia, Elisa, Maddie and Ivy

Game Highlights:

Cold blustery conditions confronted the girls at ECR on Sunday but an exuberant pre-game coach's address had the girls warmed up and ready for business. First qtr had the bear girls resembling JO JO sporting blue ribbons for brain cancer in hair kicking with a favourable 3-4 goal wind towards the playground/\$2 shop end however we were unable to trouble the goal umpire despite this. Instead it was the blue arm band girls in the backline that were kept busy.

Strong robust defence was required and last line desperation combined with run and rebound was keeping us in the game. A lock down mentality in the 2nd qtr needed to be adapted with territory and metres the key into a strong wind. Despite the city girls controlling most of the qtr the bears did not concede and were able to advance the footy forward with a few centre square clearances.

After half time we hit the scoreboard early and applied pressure with strong tackling and good disposal. With the aid of the strong breeze we were able to lock the ball in our forward line for most of the qtr providing our forwards with scoring opportunities. When the ball did come out our mids killed any momentum the opposition tried to muster resulting in a goalless qtr to St Kilda and a well played 3rd qtr. The last 12mins were played out in stoic effort with all girls not giving their opponents any easy possessions and applying pressure whenever they could. Despite the result it was a quite even game and only our inability to capitalise on the scoreboard with the breeze in the first qtr that proved the difference.

A well fought out game with each girl providing contests and effort at each opportunity.

Well played bears.



U12 Girls Polars

Caulfield Bears 6.4 (40) def. Murrumbeena 5.1 (31)

Location:

East Caulfield



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Windy, wet and cold!

Goal Kickers:

Anika, Matilda, Violet and Lucy

Bear of the Week:

Macca, Jasmine, Mia and Anika

Game Highlights:

On a windy Sunday afternoon at East Caulfield Reserve, The Caulfield Bears took on the neighbours and rivals Murrumbeena, in what shaped up to be an epic contest.

The Bears won the toss and elected to kick with the 3-4 goal breeze. Through the ferocious effort in the midfield The Bears were able to win the ball out of the middle and get it going our way. Jasmine set the tone in the middle with strong tackling and 2nd and 3rd efforts to win the ball. We ended the 1st quarter 3 goals up thanks to handballs to team mates in a better position and dodging and weaving from Anika.

The 2nd quarter saw our defence really stand up in the wind and play desperate football. The 3 M's (Maddie, Macca, and Mia) wore their opponents like a gloves and did not give their opponents any easy possessions. Macca provided some great support down back and he 2nd efforts and strong tackles repelled most of the advances the Lionesses made. We are able to keep them goalless when they had the wind which was a fantastic effort by the back line.

Even though I did not think it was possible, the wind picked up in the 3rd quarter, and the breeze was even stronger. It was all one way traffic, and we once again we shared the ball around to pepper to the goals and make to most of the wind. One of the highlights for this quarter was Jasmine's tackling pressure. Against the wind, The Lionesses were able to score a goal which was against the flow of play, through good teamwork and they showed great spirit to achieve this.

Like all good teams we know they were going to lift for the final quarter - which is exactly what they did. Our players were given specific task and they followed instructions well. The final quarter started badly with The Lionesses kicking and early goal. The Lionesses were able to utilise with wind effectively and score a couple of majors. A highlight for this quarter was Maddie going back into a pack to take a great over head mark. In the end, The Bears were too strong for the The Lionesses and we ended up winning by 2 goals.

Great effort girls against some stiff opposition.



U12 Polars

East Malvern 4.6 (30) def. Caulfield Bears 4.3 (27)

Location:

Koornang Park



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Cold and windy

Goal Kickers:

L. Bremner (2), F. McMahon-Johnson and L. Moutsidis (1)

Best on Ground:

Lucas Agar, Leo, Jeremy, Ben, Marcus, Harvey and Lucas Bremner

Game Highlights:

The Polars started with the advantage of a strong wind and managed to get 2 goals on the board early both to Lucas Bremner. Lachy showed strong bodywork whilst all the defenders ran the ball out with great skill and poise. In the second quarter we had the pressure stacked on to our defenders, as the wind was against us. Harvey was like a rock in defence and we managed to keep East Malvern to just the one goal.

In the third quarter it was our turn early to pile on the pressure up forward, as Finn weaved his magic and spun out of a pack to kick our third goal. From then on though we found it hard to get the ball forward and Lucas Agar and the rest of the defenders were under the pump, and did really well to keep East Malvern to just the one point for the quarter.

In the last quarter we knew we would up against it as we were kicking into an ever increasing strong wind, but our ball movement and pressure early in the quarter was some of the best we've shown for the year. The result of this saw Leo kicked a huge goal into the wind to put us in front. Now it was our defenders turn to stand up and for most of the quarter they did, but the constant pressure was just too much and East Malvern managed to sneak one through in the last minutes to get over the line by 3 points.



U12 Grizzlies

St Paul's McKinnon 4.5 (29) def Caulfield Bears 2.1 (13)

Location:

Koornang Park



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Sunny with gale force winds

Goal Kickers:

Seb Poole and Rocco (1)

Best on Ground:

Seb Poole, Henry Abbott

Game Highlights:

We had a gale force wind in the first term but could not score with the wind and St Paul's prayers were answered when they got one into the wind. It proved the decisive quarter for the day

Olly T was terrific in the first term, and in fact all day. Henry Abbott was diligent and showed the way to our boys.

Coach Ken implored the boys at the break that football was a participation sport and spectating was best reserved for AFL matches. We didn't score for the first half while they booted two but we only lost the second half by a point.

Lachie Mackie was reliable, Seb's pace and creativity was too much for them and his hanger perched on a kid's back was too much for the parents especially when he later tumbled through a goal in the third term. Jarvis took a good mark while Felix found space. Hugo applied pressure and Raff offered a few Dusty Martin don't argues.

Kicking into the win in the last we got the ball to Rocco in the goal square shrugged off two tackles to kick the goal. That was worth the day.

U13's

Caulfield Bears 2.5 (17) def. Beaumaris 0.4 (4)

Location:

Jack Barker Oval



Min:

8°C

Max:

13°C

Cold, Windy but sunny.

Goal Kickers:

Charlie Besnard and James Hopley (1)

Best on Ground:

Jackson Cauchi won player of the day.

Bear of the Week:

Harry Nelson, Jackson Healy (Heals),
Ryan Farra (Rhino and Patrick Gerrand (Patty)

Game Highlights:

It was an early start and may have been a little too early for a few of the boys with a few mad dashes home to get mouth guards and boots. But the boys didn't forget to bring the pressure. Kicking into the wind in the first quarter, Patty had plenty of the ball early. Harry was running and baulking off half back and the boys looked good but they couldn't convert this into goals.

In the second quarter, the ball was locked in our forward 50 early but it took some time before Charlie snapped a nice roving goal from the pocket.

The second half opened up a little and the boys had plenty of run and drive down the wings. Ryan kicked a nice ball into the forward fifty where James turned on to his left and snapped a great goal.

The last quarter was mostly played down the dead side of the ground which made scoring difficult for both teams. A couple of shots for goals went across the face but there would be no more goals.

It was a big day for the Beaumaris footy club with their fund raising for the Robert Connor Dawes foundation seeing everyone wearing a beanie and donating to the cause. Jackson was awarded the player of the day by the Beaumaris coach for an outstanding performance.

Location:
Basil Reserve



Min:
8°C

Max:
13°C

Cold and windy

Goal Kickers:

Jimmy (1)

Bear of the Week:

Jack K, Jonah, Luca, Angus

Game Highlights:

'Wild and windy' is how I would describe the conditions at Basil Reserve, which resembled an English moor on Sunday. Cold, blustery and bleak - you could almost hear the ghost of Cathy calling out for Heathcliff. But I digress....

Thomas showed superb judgement in the wind and read the conditions beautifully in the first quarter, Jonah was in everything and Jack K combined well with Andrew, who should be renamed 'Andrew Everywhere', because he was.

In the second term. Ben K to Jack B to coops which resulted in Haddi launching a kick to Jimmy, who finished off with a Jake Stringer like goal. Aiden held it up on the wing and Coops was making multiple entries into the forward line.

The song goes 'They call the wind Mariah' – more apt was Basil, as it blew a gale in the second half. Jack K repelled in defence again, Miro joined Andrew everywhere. East Malvern were attacking relentlessly but our defence was having none of it. No goals but a valiant effort from the team.

Highlights of the last quarter included an intercept from Jimmy, smother from Thomas and great hustle by Griffen. No goals but as coach Rob said, 'You should be very proud of your efforts'. The wind was not our friend today, it owes us one.

U14 Girls

BYE



Location:

DW Lucas Oval

**Min:**

8°C

Max:

13°C

Windy, Raining and cold

Best on Ground:

Harry B, Nick K, Harry P and Dom H.

Game Highlights:

Bears started the match in a real positive way kicking the first goal of the match. Even though it was one of those cold and windy days, The Bears' ball handling of the first half was outstanding. They kept the ball on contest and keep pushing the ball forward.

Rain came at the start of the second quarter and the boys were making few ball handling errors and missed few scoring opportunities. Home team kept the pressure up and scored couple of quick goals. Weather got worse as the game progressed and both teams made mistakes and saw few opportunities went begging. The moral of the Bears was low, and we needed someone to make a statement.

Coach Andrew asked for a BIG last quarter of football from the boys and they delivered exactly as the coach asked. It was a fantastic turn around of momentum as the boys kicked 43 points to nil! You can see the fire on their eyes and they were there to win the game. What a fantastic finish! What a game of football! Scores 43 to 71.



Location:Koornang
Park**Min:**

8°C

Max:

13°C

Cold and windy

Goal Kickers:

Fraser, Kai, Joel, Ethan, Jem, Chris

Game Highlights:

Yet again a very windy Sunday for football, and there was a strong NW wind blowing predominately to the Koornang Road end that would ensure a scrappy game of footy. Henry breaks through the banner to celebrate 100 games for the Bears, we welcome back Gordo and Warbo from injury, but are missing Flynn and Harro to short term injuries and have Ben gone for the year, so we have 1 on the bench to start the match.

We have the wind assistance in the 1st term, and East Brighton start with spares behind the ball, and have obviously had drilled into them to keep the ball on the dead flank, as the continually kicked the ball out of bounds and made scoring opportunities for us difficult. George gets a rushed snap on goal, kicks a point, from the resultant kick in, Fraser earns a free kick and kicks the 1st goal of the game. LT injures his arm, and he's done for the day, so down to 18 players. East Brighton get a rare foray forward and goal, and we are only 3 points ahead at ¼ time.

Now kicking into the breeze, our coaching gurus bravely and wisely go man on man rather than the defensive angle the opposition brought to the game. We are rewarded for still attacking into the wind, Kai gets the first goal of the term, and we are playing a much better brand off football, running the ball into the wind and linking well. It is quite noticeable when it became a one on one contest, we were generally too good for the opposition. Joel bursts through a pack and kicks a goal and we are out to a 20 point lead. The defence lead by Patty and Josh are doing a terrific job in repelling most opposition attacks, many efforts of smothering, spoiling and tackling were a great example to teammates of what's required. East Brighton get a fortunate goal right on ½ time, and we go into the long break with a 17 point lead.

As in the first ¼, East Brighton again put numbers behind the ball, and are only interested in defending. It's a poor ¼ of footy, caused by their only focus on defence, and we only manage the 1 goal, courtesy of Jem, and we go into ¾ time with a handy 25 point lead.

East Brighton have the wind for the final term, but their over defensive mindset has them too far behind in the contest, and both teams kick 1 goal each for the term, ours courtesy of Chris converting a long goal into the wind. So we run out 25 point victors in an uninspiring game, due to the strong wind and an over defensive opposition. We are 1 game and percentage out of the finals race with 2 games left, so will need a lot to go our way to make finals.



Location:
Albert Park



Min:
8°C

Max:
13°C

Cold and windy

Goal Kickers:

Emin (2), Jacko, Charlie-Joe, Jake, Harry S (1)

Bear of the Week:

Jack – Whenever there was ‘stacks on the mill’ and the umpire called for a ball up, it always seemed that the last man climb out of the rubble from the bottom of the pack was Jack.

Billy – I hear Billy had an interesting pre-game motivation session. Well, keep it up as this man was so fired up that even his own team mates were scared of him.

Charlie-Joe – A brilliant return to form at just the right time. He opened up the lake side forward pocket and his goal was the turning point for the match.

Game Highlights:

The first thing I want to say is: It is now mandatory that there be a fire truck at the remaining Bears’ games which fires up its siren every time we kick a goal. I have no doubt that this august level of support squeezed the adrenal glands of the invigorated Bears, as well as mentally demolishing the opposition: how can you rail against a fire engine?

Every game is an elimination game at the moment, with every match determining whether we make finals or not. No pressure. Just to make life a bit easier, there was a forecast of drenching rain and winds up to 55 km/h from the North. Not an easy day to kick goals and the game could be won or lost on the toss; luckily the Bears won the toss and elected to kick into the wind first.

Before the game, the passionate intent was advertised by some impressive chest beating by South, whilst the Bears retained their cool but determined “James Bond” silent assassin demeanour. With South kicking with the wind, the first quarter was going to belong to the Bears’ defenders and the long kicks invariably came flying down from the centre straight to the goal square. South did reasonably well but with only three goals and, letting the Bears sneak one in at the other end, obviously did not stamp their meuniere as firmly as they wished.

The Bears had the breeze for the second quarter and immediately smashed into attacking mode. South, quite rightly, played an extra man in defence, making it hard to the Bears to grab that extra bit of space to score. But score they did, ensuring that they were within a couple of points as the siren called for the half-time break. The atmosphere in the change rooms during the break was so electric that my phone was automatically recharged. The Bears knew that they had a sniff of a win here and their game plan was simple – tackle South to a standstill. They gave credit to their opposition in that if they allowed them to play their free-flowing style, especially with the wind behind them in the third, they would pay the price. They ran on to the ground with singular intent.

The third – the premiership quarter. I know the Coach would agree with me that games are won by forwards, but battles are won by defenders. Once again, the Bears’ defenders were resolute, using their crafty combination of brutal strength in the middle of the backline and their uncatchable speed in the pockets and wings. South threw everything they had and whilst predominately in attack, they were only rewarded with the one goal for the quarter. They did stack on a number of behinds and, with the blustery conditions, every score was valuable.

The three quarter time speech by our runner, Mr Milnes, was one that neither the players or parents will ever forget. Alas, I seem to have mislaid my notes... The Bears didn’t need a quarter time speech, however, they had fire in the blood, light in their eyes and the smell of victory in their nostrils. They had worked so hard to battle their worthy opponents: just twenty minutes more.

The Bears plan was a quick goal at the start of the quarter: thirty seconds was all that was needed to tick that box. The battle continued with the Bears blistering in attack and finally getting the goal they needed to put them in front for the first time in the match. South were able to go against the flow and sneak one in at the other end but the Bears still held the lead by a slim margin. Even with the wind, the Bears tacking was ruthless and slowed the game to a level that it felt like wrestling a glacier. The Bears were in attack in the dying minutes and thought they had scored but an error by the boundary umpire had the goal disallowed. The following confusion as the clock ticked away was as good a goal for the Bears as the siren sounded a three point victory to the Bears.

Two games to go – two wins needed. You can’t make this stuff up.

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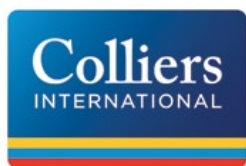


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