

# NEWS FROM THE NEST

Official newsletter of the Belconnen Magpies Football Club



## Grand final berths up for grabs

The first week of finals was a mixed bag of results for the Magpies. The 1st grade women and 2nd grade men both lost out on chances to head directly to the grand final, but will have a second bite of the cherry this weekend. Meanwhile, faced with a do-or-die elimination final against Ainslie, our 1st grade men notched up an emphatic victory in their best performance of the season.

All of this now means that we have three teams preparing for preliminary finals this weekend. Our 1s women and 2s men will be taking on Eastlake, while the 1s men will face off with Queanbeyan.

Whether watching from the stands or via the internet stream on your couch at home, we hope you'll be cheering for all of our men and women this weekend!

## Attending this week's matches

This weekend's matches at Gungahlin enclosed oval will be ticketed, meaning that all spectators who wish to gain entry to the ground will need to secure a ticket online. Spaces are limited, so if you would like to get a ticket please email [football@belconnenmagpies.com.au](mailto:football@belconnenmagpies.com.au) to find out how to secure tickets.

Matches will also be live streamed on the [AFL Canberra Facebook page](#), so you can follow along from the comfort of your own home!

## Game times

2nd grade men vs. Eastlake - 11:25am  
1st grade men vs. Queanbeyan - 1:50pm  
1st grade women vs. Eastlake - 4:45pm

# MUTUAL BROKERS

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## *Volunteer of the Week: Tom McInnes*

This week's BMFC volunteer of the week is Tom McInnes!

It was all hands on deck over the past weekend, as we hosted our last day of footy at The Nest for 2020. With four finals being played there were plenty of jobs to be done, and this week we would like to put out a special thanks to Tom McInnes, who selflessly volunteered to man the gate for much of the day.

Tom has demonstrated that he is an excellent clubman, following in the footsteps of his big brother Will! Great stuff, Tom!



# WEEKEND RESULTS

1st Grade M	21.11-137	defeated	Ainslie	9.6-60
1st Grade W	1.1-7	lost to	Queanbeyan	8.12-60
2nd Grade M	5.7-37	lost to	Ainslie	6.4-40

## FIRST GRADE WOMEN

*Bobby Moroney*

Our BMFC Women's First Grade team entered the Semi Final against Queanbeyan feeling very confident following a strong all-round team performance in the final home and away game against Eastlake. Before the game we spoke about ensuring we played with high energy and effort, and ensuring that we played the high-pressure style of football that has brought us success throughout the year.

Early on the ball lived in Queanbeyan's half of the ground and two goals against us in the first four minutes was not the start the start we wanted. We were second to the ball and kicked the ball in hope far too often. If it wasn't for the efforts of our defence, particularly Maddie Dwyer, Melissa Pellow, Amber Allen and Nikki Aboui, the score could have been much worse. We finally started to get some control of the football late in the quarter and managed to get some repeated forward entries, but ultimately unable to make the most of our chances.

The second quarter started a little more promising. Shae Krushka, in her first game with our First Grade side this year, moved into defence and quickly looked like she had played at this level all year. Our pressure was certainly better early, but our disposal continued to let us down. Too many unforced turnovers resulting in a 40 point deficit at half time.

At half time we felt that we were not giving ourselves a chance to be involved in the contest. We were turning the ball over too easily and our pressure wasn't at the level that we pride our self on. We challenged ourselves to lift the pressure significantly, particularly in the first 5 minutes, and to not allow Queanbeyan to continuously receive uncontested possessions.

To our girls credit they responded really well. Our tackle count was much higher, Kaitlyn Bailey started to get first touch at the ruck contest, Maggie Gorham and Jacqui Spence got more involved around stoppages and collectively we began moving the ball with a bit more confidence. Emma Zouch worked tirelessly all night and was rewarded with a goal for her efforts.

A score line of 19-6 in the second half was pleasing, but we need to be starting our games much stronger and not relying on turning things around after half time. Despite the disappointing result, all is not lost! We will learn a lot from this week and will definitely come out a more determined team next week.

Finally, good luck to Emily Pease who will perform at the AFLW Draft Combine on Tuesday. We know Peasey will perform amazingly and then get back to helping us defeat Eastlake and book our spot in the 2020 Grand Final. Go Pies!

### Semi Final

vs Queanbeyan @ Allinsure Park

BMFC 1.1-7 def by QAFC 8.12-60

**Goalkickers:** E Zouch

**Best:** A Allen, K Bailey, M Gorham, S Krushka, M Dwyer, N McKay

# FIRST GRADE MEN

*Brock Weston*

What a difference a week makes in footy.

On a wintery Sunday afternoon our first grade boys recorded their most impressive win of the season over arch rivals Ainslie at The Adero Law Nest. After back to back losses at home to Queanbeyan and Eastlake we were searching for a form reversal which was to be made more difficult against the reigning premiers who were in search of a 5th successive flag.

With a heavy focus on a fast and aggressive start we went into the first quarter kicking against a reasonable breeze. Our first quarters had cost us dearly in previous weeks so staying in touch at the first break was a must. Ainslie managed 3 majors to our 1 in a physical opening term but we knew we had held them well.

In the second our focus turned to quick clean movement giving our forwards scoring opportunities. We started to scrap and surge the ball forward and our forwards competed very well. Sam Glyde, Lexi Bennett and fan favourite Little Lenny Hadrill were applying pressure and the goals started to come. The second term saw us post 8 goals to 4 as we took a 14 point lead and a heap of momentum into the half time break.

The half time chat highlighted a need to raise our intensity as Ainslie were sure to come into the third quarter breathing fire and as predicted they came out hard. Young midfielders Seb Quirk and Max Monaghan worked perfectly with stalwart James Bennett as we absorbed Ainslies early pressure and went on the counter attack in an attempt to extend our lead. The goals continued to come against the breeze as we managed to kick 4 while restricting Ainslie to 2. This was another win as our defensive unit were doing very well repelling Ainslies forays forward. Jack Baker slotted in nicely behind the ball and Brad Hoffman was reading the ball and using his usual dash to break lines and drive the ball forward. Heading into the final term we were up by 32 points but determined to finish the game with our foot on their throats.

Kicking with the breeze in the last quarter, we focussed on winning the ball at the source and getting it outside to our runners. Our connection through the middle of the ground was the best it has been all year and our tackle count had almost doubled that of the previous 2 weeks.

Our forward pressure elevated once again and their defenders were unable to get any clean exits. Our midfield dominance coupled with our forward half pressure saw us post our second 8 goal quarter of the game as we ran out 77 point winners.

This weekend we take on Queanbeyan in the Prelim Final. They will be stinging from their defeat at the hands of Eastlake on the weekend so we will need to improve greatly on our efforts from the weekend if we want to compete with them.

## **Elimination Final vs Ainslie @ The Nest**

**BMFC 21.11-137 def AFC 9.6-60**

**Goalkickers:** S Glyde 7, A Bennett 6, A Dess 3, L Hadrill 2, T Simpson, B Egan, L McKay

**Best:** J Bennett, S Quirk, S Glyde, M Monaghan, A Bennett, L Hadrill

# SECOND GRADE MEN

*Trent Hopkinson*

Finals time was here, and the boys were pumped after finishing the regular season undefeated. We knew that after two arm-wrestles in previous encounters with Ainslie, it was going to take something special to secure a place in grand final.

Kicking into the wind in the first quarter, Lukey Mac was good at the stoppages early, whilst Benson's welcome return from injury resulted in our only goal of the quarter, generated by an outstanding passage of play from the backline. The backline started terrificly, in particular Joey Kenna and Oz whose multiple efforts on halfback prevented numerous Ainslie forward entries.

The midfield started well in the second quarter, as Chip and Djali showed composure when getting first possession from the middle, while the forwards presented well with Moons and Poschy scoring all 3 goals in the quarter. The backline again held strong leaving Ainslie scoreless for the quarter, providing some real penetration in attack that started at half back with Paddy and Fraser. Similar to the first quarter, we knew that Ainslie were going to come out hard in the 3rd quarter being 2 goals down and with the wind at their backs.

The footy continued to be hot in the middle, with Fek continuing to win ruck taps and provide well for the midfield. Although we weren't able to make an impact on the scoreboard, our defensive pressure across the ground was outstanding. The entire backline continued to show their class and grit defending well and providing forward momentum up the field, particularly Gus Collins, who showed why he debuted for 1st grade last week.

We have made a habit of getting the first goal in the last quarter, and Lachie stressed that we needed to do the same on this occasion. A beautiful clearance from Djali from the centre bounce allowed for Youngy to step up and produce a much needed goal.

Though we continued to mount pressure through multiple forward entries, we were unable to capitalise, with Moons hitting the post and couple of umpiring calls not going our way. We showed tremendous grit and determination to hold onto our lead for the majority of the last quarter, due in large part to our outstanding endeavours in the backline. Unfortunately, poor discipline let us down in the end, with Ainslie kicking the winning goal with 60 seconds left to play.

Another opportunity to secure a grand final spot beckons this week. With plenty of positives to take into the upcoming showdown with Eastlake, we are looking forward to ripping in!

## **Semi Final**

**vs Ainslie @ Allinsure Park**

**BMFC 5.7-37 def by AFC 6.4-40**

**Goalkickers:** D Posch 2, M Mooney, S Young, B Ochieng

**Best:** F Miller, J Kenna, O Smyth, L McGilvray, A Collins, B Ochieng

# 2020 TEAM PHOTOS



The 2020 Belconnen Magpies 2nd grade women, coached by Stephen McCaskill



The 2020 Belconnen Magpies 3rd grade men, coached by Brendan Trevaskis



The 2020 Belconnen Magpies 4th grade men, coached by Brendan Trevaskis & Drew Somerville

# THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

Grade	Date	Time	Opponent	Ground
1st Grade M	3rd Oct	1:50pm	Queanbeyan	Gungahlin
1st Grade W	3rd Oct	4:45pm	Eastlake	Gungahlin
2nd Grade M	3rd Oct	11:25am	Eastlake	Allinsure Park
Rising Stars				
2nd Grade W				
3rd Grade M				
4th Grade M				

Check out all competition ladders and results here: <https://aflcanberra.com.au/fixtures-results/>

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