

NEWS FROM THE NEST

Official newsletter of the Belconnen Magpies Football Club



Weekend washout

Consistent with the unpredictable nature of the 2020 season thus far, matches across all grades in Canberra were cancelled last weekend due to ground closures following the recent downpours.

While it was disappointing not to get out on the park, the washout provided an opportunity for our playing group to rest and prepare for the upcoming finals run. With only 4 rounds to go, the club has put itself in a position to play finals in nearly all grades, but a strong finish to the season will still be required

As footy returns this weekend, all 7 senior grades will be taking on the old enemy - Ainslie. These clashes present a particularly big challenge for our 1st and 2nd grade men, who will take to Ainslie Oval looking to maintain their unbeaten records against a fellow premiership contender.

UPCOMING 1ST GRADE FIXTURE

Rd 7 @ Ainslie

Rd 8 vs. Tuggeranong

Rd 9 vs. Queanbeyan

Rd 10 vs. Eastlake

ADERO LAW

Sponsor of the Month



Adero Law's employment lawyers are your experts for employers and employees in Australia. For advice on matters, workplace investigations and negotiations, our team bring a passion, with a proven track record, that inspires confidence. It's no secret employment law can be a complex issue so let our experts help you navigate, negotiate and help form a strategy that best fits your needs. Adero Law approaches your case based on your individual requirement and offers formidable representation with a focus on achieving the best outcome. Find out more at our [website](#).

Volunteer of the Week: Charlie Baker

This week's BMFC volunteer of the week is Charlie 'Z Bull' Baker!

As a regular member of the rehab group over the last few seasons, Charlie has consistently shown a willingness to put aside any frustrations with injury set backs and donate his time and effort to help out the club in any way we need. The latest example was last round at Stirling Oval, when he stepped up at the last minute to time keep for most of the day. Thanks for your continued support Charlie, we look forward to seeing you get back out there and kick a bag in the next few weeks!



CAPTAIN'S SEASON UPDATES

FIRST GRADE MEN

James Bennett

We've had a great start to the season, sitting undefeated after our first 5 games. It's been great to welcome a new coach and many new and returning players to the footy club.

The highlight so far has been having so many players make their first grade debut for the club. This includes local juniors Tom Simpson, Mackinley Miller, John Rees, Charles Miller and Cameron Johnson, and Marist juniors Seb Quirk and Brendan Egan.

We've also welcomed recruits Oscar Smyth, Mitch Maguire, Nick Eynaud, Josh Buchanan and Luke Redfern into the club. It's also been great to have former BMFC players in Andrew Dess, Jack Baker, Blake Chapman and Luke McKay return to the club. Isaac Taylor and Len Haddrill are working hard in the rehab group to make a run at the back end of the season.

We've had 33 players play first grade over the first 5 weeks, with injuries requiring changes week to week. With so many new players, the team has had to come together well each week with new guys coming in and contributing strongly.

Whilst we are focussed on winning now, giving so many guys first grade opportunities is also preparing us well for the future. One player performing very well this season is Brad Hoffmann who is taking his game to another level as the premier key defender in the comp. He is regularly beating the best key forwards in the competition and is providing great rebounding for us out of the defensive half.

Over the last couple of weeks with the wet weather we've had to get creative with training – a road run, a stretching session, an F45 gym session and some pizza! We are looking forward to getting back to the Nest for training and games soon. In such a short season, we are fast approaching the business end and we will look to get quite a few players back from injury and have strong competition for spots in the first grade side as we come into finals.

SECOND GRADE MEN

Ryan Bradley

The 2's have made a perfect start to our shortened season. Having won all 5 games, the boys have had a combination of tough, grinding wins and overwhelmingly convincing wins. Close games against Ainslie and Queanbeyan have really showed the character and talent the group has. We have shown that we are able to maintain pressure for long periods of game time while also being able to respond quickly when down and wrestle back momentum.

Our backline has been our strength this year, with players such as Paddy Horan, Djali Bloomfield, Ozzy Smyth, Chuckie Miller, Brad Posch and Sam Cooper all leading the way. Most backlines are lucky to have one or two General's that lead and direct the rest, however we seem to have hit the jackpot with an entire backline worth of them.

Most promising is the number of young Rising Stars players we have blooded. The contribution they have given already shows the club will be in great stead for years to come. Thomas Simpson, Brendan Egan, John Rees, Jack White, Lachlan Smith and Tom McInnes have all had good runs at senior level and shown they have the talent to be solid 1st grade players in the future.

The 2's will greatly miss Ned Gatenby who has made the decision to retire. Ned played his last ever game (or so he thinks) against Tuggeranong Hawks and finished his playing career on a high, racking up bulk possessions through the midfield and kicking a ripping snap goal. Ned has given an overwhelming contribution to the club both on the field as a player and captain, and off the field as a coach and volunteer. While we'll miss Ned on the field, he will still be around and we're excited now for the contribution he can give as a coach.

The challenge now is to maintain our good start for the remainder of the season and into finals. Both senior sides have been disappointing during finals campaigns over the past 5-7 years and this is the challenge for the club – finding a way to win the one game that really matters.

CAPTAIN'S SEASON UPDATES

SENIOR WOMEN

Amber Allen

Hello everyone, we are half way through the season and what a ride it's been! Pre season (number 1): new coach, new coaching staff, tons of new players. Ripper feel through the squad, practice match 1 down, ready for practice match 2. BOOM Rona hits - ISOLATION.

From home: Whip learns Italian, Rose learns knitting, Ash learns to sing with her mouth closed, I try my hand at juggling while Ciel practices her sleeping. Bobby, who in the midst of battling life with a teenage daughter a pre teen son AND a wife is constantly keeping the other 60 women in his life up to date with structure booklets, at home workouts, funny gifs and some unreal quotes to keep us motivated, positive and driven throughout the tricky time.

Pre season TAKE 2: We all dreaded what was ahead, training 3 nights a week seemed daunting but Bobby and the coaching staff were great. The big news of pre season 2 was late walk-in 2020 Bainrot Medalist, 2020 BMFC Women's BNF and 2020 BMFC Women's Players Player awardee Maggie Gorham, Mags' skills and kind and funny nature had been sorely missed and the excitement couldn't be contained when the big dog walked out on the oval to train. A quick intra club match down. The girls were back and ready to roll!

2020 SEASON Game 1 kicked off well, a pretty big win against Ainslie had our confidence up easily. It was great to see a couple new players to the club in Maddy Dwyer and Ally Morphett run amok. The girls have continued to improve and gel with the side seamlessly. 2020 has seen us debut 3 talented and deserving women: Tahlia Tait, Alex Staib, and Claire Koski. We have also welcomed back Hayley Kemp, a premiership winning junior and a massive asset to the side. I've been so impressed with the way we have played this first half of the season. We recognised that we have all the potential to be a premiership winning team with the talent and skill in our squad, but I love that our main focus has been to play as a team and for each other.

A big thank you so far to our wonderful volunteers: head coach Bobby Moroney; assistant coaches Shelby O'Neil, Steve McCaskill and Jo Foster; manager Kylie McKay (and Summer our lollie specialist); runners Chloe Pellow and Alex Thompson; from Scotty Reid for donating his time (and doughnuts) when free; to Emma Simpson who is constantly running around behind the scenes to get us up and running come game day, and finally a big shout out to our faithful timekeeper Gunny. Without our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to play.

Bobby started off with a saying; To achieve something you've never achieved before - You have to be willing to do things that you have never done before. The second half of the 2020 season better watch out because the Pies are willing and coming in HOT!

RISING STARS

Mitch Fitzpatrick

Our Rising Stars team was struggling at the beginning of the season, but we are now gaining some traction and improving every week. We began slowly against Marist but started to build with wins against Gungahlin and Tuggeranong. Although we did have a loss against Queanbeyan following this I reckon we are meshing as a team and building some confidence as a group.

We have a very young side this year because most of our older players have moved on to Seniors. Over the past few weeks we have been training on the synthetic field at KSS and a few of the senior players such as Max Monaghan, Thomas Simpson, Mackinley Miller and John Rees have come back down to help us out with training.

I'm excited to lead this young group into the final month of the season and hopefully string some wins together and make a push for finals and beyond. Go PIES!

CAPTAIN'S SEASON UPDATES

THIRD GRADE MEN

Sam Telfar

As Third Grade gears up for round seven this week, we find ourselves in a situation that fits the 2020 narrative having only played three games, producing the one win. The condensed season means we will need to take our remaining opportunities to make a push for a finals spot.

In the 3/4's we have a very young and new squad with the average age being under 25, so with every game we are learning how to work as a better football team and this may be the only difference between us and the more experienced top teams. Growth is only expected to come with more games played as a group and with a strong core leadership group this is very possible.

Stan has had the boys training hard on the track and has been recruiting well off it. The team has building this year under his close watch and with his wise sayings nothing can go wrong.

The teams recent success stems from the backline and this year has been no different with the ever reliable Connor White (B&F '19) keeping opposing full forwards accountable and Andreas 'Undies' Stricker (Most Improved '19) not giving an inch and being creative from the back-half. The engine room of the team has started every game undersized and are starting to play well together in a crucial part of the ground with a mention to Tom Rankin playing as the shortest ruckman in the competition and more than holding his own. Hamish Warden has been the main pillar up forward, kicking a game best eight goals in round three which he hasn't mentioned once, with Blake Collins playing a great supporting role.

This young group is worth watching out for this year and along with all pies teams this year, success is on the cards for the end of the year!

FOURTH GRADE MEN

Rory Markham

The 2020 season marks the return of the two grade community competition for the Magpies (a fixture not seen since 2015). The season (as with all things Covid) commenced with the 2x stop start pre-season and the welcoming of some strange rugby league recruits. We also had the return of some long lost juniors. With the exception of six players- the core 4th grade side is constituted by up to 14 first gamers to the Club- a sign that a 2019 premiership flag brings 2020 recruits and hopefully a strong player base over the coming years. It was an impressive site to see strong numbers (between 15-21) during preseason with the average age of the playing group nearing 22 years of age - with the true outliers of Assistant Coach Drew and Rory Markham (the Sponsor) both presenting their pensioner card credentials for inclusion in the leadership team. The Main Coach Brendan Best Gut continued to go over and above all expectations by coaching both the 3s and 4 sides and offering strong leadership for both the field and club culture. The Coach- or dad as he became known- may even don some footy boots in the tail end of the season - such is his commitment and passion to be there for the team and each player. Whilst not clear from the results so far in each match (losing the first four games by margins of 12 -45 points) the playing group has remained very competitive and has taken the challenge up to some on the more traditional fourth grade heavy weights like Cooma and ANU- winning individual quarters and narrowing scoring lines to within a kick at critical times in the match.

We are confident that with each challenging game the playing group is developing the ability to play under pressure and win one on one contests around the ground. With such a young side, our ability to produce 4 quarter efforts will be the key focus of the remaining games - along with an emphasis on staying positive and enjoying the football. The hidden gems for the 4th side to date have been the discovery/development of Jacob Bink, Kurtis Robinson, William McIntyre and Johannes Conlan.. These players have potential to develop through the club and play at much higher grades. However for now we hope that these discoveries can help us win the next three games and cement the fourth grade fixture for years to come. Finally, we cannot close this season's analysis without honouring the John Farnham come back kings- or yesterday heroes- in Paul Raadts and Troy McKay, two giants of the game that have lifted the spirit of the team through their determination to park stubbornly in the goal square (after completing four days of remedial stretching by way of warm up). The young and old show the history and future of our little team that could. The Sponsor now closes his address by promising to buy (on the last game celebrations) 1 Canadian club schooner for every kg lost by the new strong club man Mr Mathew Owen this season. I think the bar table will have at least 24 schooners by then - a huge achievement to you Matty!!! Keep up the great work.

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

Grade	Date	Time	Opponent	Ground
1st Grade M	29th Aug	1:35pm	Ainslie	Ainslie Oval
1st Grade W	29th Aug	4:30pm	Ainslie	Ainslie Oval
2nd Grade M	29th Aug	11:25am	Ainslie	Ainslie Oval
2nd Grade W	29th Aug	10:00am	Ainslie	Holt 102
Rising Stars	29th Aug	9:15am	Ainslie	Ainslie Oval
3rd Grade M	29th Aug	2:30pm	Ainslie	Holt 102
4th Grade M	29th Aug	12:10pm	Ainslie	Holt 102

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

SPONSORS

