

THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



MANLY WARRINGAH
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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Season 2008

May I take this opportunity to welcome you to another season of the real football and hope that you enjoy the participation and friendships that this game can bring, indications from Registrations show that we will increase another 4-5% in player numbers bringing us to over 16,500 players and the second largest Association in Australia.

I just want to take the opportunity to bring you up to date with what's happening in season 2008 and to advise you that your executive and management committee has been working very hard in the off season to bring all the various aspects to fruition.

Identification (ID) One of the new procedures introduced for Season 2008 is the ID of players from the opposing team. At ten minutes prior to the nominated kick off time both teams will meet at the half way line in the centre of the field where both managers will ID each player of the opposing team, once each player has been identified against his registration card and signed off by the respective managers the game will commence, if for some reason one of the teams refuses to be ID then the opposing manager will write STA(subject to adjudication) on the match card and report it you club for further action. Penalties will apply to the team that refuses to be ID by way of loss of points and ultimately be withdrawn from the competition.

Referees- This year we have expanded the introduction of compulsory Referees to include Men's AL/ 2 and Over 35/1 divisions, again I stress if each team does not have two nominated and qualified referees then your team will be withdrawn from the competition by the End of April, this goes for every team from AL/2 down to AL/8 and all over 35's divisions. There is one more Referees course this weekend at DY RSL club which will be the last opportunity for this season and any team not complying at present should get two players or coach/manager to attend to satisfy the requirements of playing in these divisions.

Sundays- Due to the shortages of grounds on Saturday afternoons and the growth in player participation it has been decided that each division from AL/2 down and all Over 35's will play a minimum of two games on a Sunday during the course of the year, you will be given ample notice when the full draw is issued at the End of April of what Sundays each division has been nominated to play, so in a ten team competition with a total of 18 rounds you will play 16 games on a Saturday and 2 on a Sunday.

Men's Premier League- This year will be a truly embracing one for some clubs, the decision of your

committee in conjunction with the clubs and local Council's to reduce each division to no more than 10 teams means that up to three teams will be relegated to meet this new requirement in 2009. I think the games at the bottom of the table will be as interesting as the top of the table clashes.

Small Sided Games (SSG)-There has been much discussion within our committee about how and when to introduce the 4 a side games for U/6 & U/7's and 5 a side for U/8's as starters and eventually embracing non competitive and small sided games in ages up to U/11. We decided to hold off for one year due to the logistics of putting it together and hopefully learn from other smaller Associations the pitfalls that might occur with its introduction. You can be rest assured that we will progressively introduce the FFA driven concept in Season 2009.

Coaching Manuals- Are you a coach of a team from U/10's up and need some fresh ideas about coaching methods and planning your training sessions. The MWFA in conjunction with Phil Moss our Youth Development Officer purchased a top quality Coaching manual which covers not only coaching sessions but also fitness techniques, Each Club has been given a Master Book for their coaches to source ideas and techniques from, please ask your club about it for further information.

Lighting- Your Association made a decision a couple of years back to upgrade the quality of lighting on fields with a view to having some night time games played on a Friday Night to help alleviate the shortages of insufficient fields and the incredible growth in player participation. The fields have been identified and we are in the process of upgrading these now, it is proposed that if they come on stream early enough this year we will transfer some U/16 or U/18's games to a Friday Night.

New Computer System- I ask all players / coaches / managers and parents to be a little tolerant as we introduce our new computer system which includes registrations and upgrading our web site, as with all new systems teething problems will occur and we are addressing the issues that arise as quickly as we can, results from weekend games might not be available as early as the following Monday but will eventually get there.

I do trust you will have an enjoyable season be you a player or parent and enjoy this truly wonderful game.

Yours in Football

Ray Fanning
President MWFA

NSW Premier League

Manly United FC	4
Wollongong	1



"Click" the link to view the MUFC v Wolves game highlights.

MANLY United coach Phil Moss has warned his team more performances like the one dished up in the first half on Sunday will not be good enough if his team hope to maintain their lofty position in the NSW Premier League.

The peninsula club have jumped to second spot after their gritty come-from-behind 4-1 win over Wollongong at John Crehan Park.

The match swung in United's favour just after half time with four goals in a sensational 12 minute burst. While delighted with the second half turnaround, Moss admitted his team must continue to improve or risk undoing their great start to the year.

"On another day, the game could have been out of our reach by half-time after that performance," the Manly boss said.

"I was bitterly disappointed because we were well off the pace in the first half, I had to speak some home truths at the break and the boys responded big time. But you can't do that every week. We need to keep going, keep improving."



Manly United FC goalkeeper Brad Swancott

It was again striker Robbie Cattanach who was the catalyst for United's devastating response. After skipper Richy Williams equalised 28 seconds into the second half, Cattanach's class shone with two brilliant individual goals in a minute before midfielder Ash Ryan put the game beyond doubt on 57 minutes.

"There is a perception among some coaches that Robbie is not strong enough physically to make it in the A-League but I beg to differ," Moss said.

"I will keep pushing him because I think he deserves the chance and that is all he needs - a chance."

Cattanach's brace means he now has seven goals in the opening five matches of the season. Surely his chance is not too far away.

Wakehurst Tigers draw first blood

MANLY ALLAMBIE were handed a tough introduction to life in the Premier League after being outgunned 4-0 by Wakehurst at Cromer Park on Sunday.

Dave Bonney's men conceded two goals in each half but were a touch unlucky after hitting the woodwork twice and also found Wakehurst keeper Cam McManus in sparkling form.

Brad Phillips opened the scoring for the Tigers before Nick Sheather bagged a double either side of the break with the scoring completed with an own goal five minutes from the final whistle.

Bonney said the result was a touch harsh on his team but felt the "touch-up" will give his squad an indication of the level they need to perform at in order to be competitive.

"This is a very tough league and we are going to have our share of bad results, it's a matter of picking up the slack and turning up to play each Saturday," he said, Wakehurst are a genuine top four side and showed their class when it mattered.

"They were more clinical than us in front of goal and across the park so to lose by four goals wasn't entirely surprising.

"Even though we hit the post twice so did they so we have to be honest and accept that we were outplayed."

Adam Townsend was understandably pleased with the performance, pointing to Nick Sheather as the difference between the two sides.

"He was enormous for us, he got two and was unlucky not to have a hat-trick, for our first game I saw some things I was happy with, especially our defence, I felt we were really solid.

"They (Manly Allambie) are a decent team who really come at you and pose a few questions, things didn't go their way but if they can convert their chances I think they will knock over a few of the more fancied teams."

Last years major premiers Beacon Hill came from behind to share the spoils in a 1-1 draw with Manly

Vale and Spencer Prior's first game at the helm with Mosman ended in a 1-0 victory over Narrabeen thanks to a Rory Collins finish.

The Whales victory was all the more impressive given defender Daniel Lodge was sent off in the second half for a rugby league style tackle.

In other games Brookvale beat Dee Why 1-0, CC Strikers overcame Forest Killarney 2-0 and Pittwater thumped BTH Raiders 6-0.

Small Sided Games format logistical hitch

LAST week's piece on the introduction of Small Sided Games (SSG) at association level for sub-juniors (69yrs) has certainly sparked plenty of discussion the exact motivation for raising the issue in the first place.

Most agree that from a football development point of view there is little or no argument. But from a logistical viewpoint, it's much easier said than done.

I wrote last week that logistics should not be an excuse for ignoring the importance of introducing SSG and I stand by that.

But, this week, to balance out the argument, I'm going to expose some of the real logistical hurdles that stand between our current sub-junior format and SSG.

The Manly-Warringah Football Association is the second largest in Australia behind Sutherland so straight away weight of numbers presents a problem. When and where do you play the games?

In 2007, there were 542 teams (4,847 players) in the sub-junior age groups and kick-off times now stretch as far as 1pm on a Saturday due to the limited number of mini-fields in the area.

Full-sized fields as are being used in other associations who have adopted SSG this year (mainly KDSA and country areas) are not an option for the MWFA because juniors (10-16yrs) use them on Saturday mornings.

MWFA president Ray Fanning said there was a provisional plan in place to "phase in SSG" age group by age group to comply with FFA guidelines within 34 years.

"It may be a case of moving the under-6s to a Sunday morning and playing games within a local defined area (Wakehurst, BTH, Forest-Killarney for example) including teams from within your own club," he said.

The good news is that there is a willingness to implement SSG for the good of the development of our stars of tomorrow.

The bad news is there are some serious logistical speed humps to negotiate before we get there.

Phil Moss
MWFA Director of Coaching & Youth Development
Head Coach - Manly United FC

FFA turns focus to coaching

Home-grown coaches are key to the development of young players according to Football Federation Australia (FFA). Announcing new programs for coaches, from grassroots to elite levels, FFA CEO Ben Buckley said that the ultimate objective is to improve the quality and technical proficiency of players, as well as give coaches a development pathway.

"These exciting programs will help anyone interested in football coaching regardless of the level of their coaching," said FFA CEO, Ben Buckley.

"Whether you're a mum or dad helping out your children's local team, or aspire to be a Hyundai A-League or national team coach, our new coach development programs have something to offer."

"Importantly, they also form a clear pathway for those people who are interested in making a career out of coaching."

Key amongst the initiatives announced by Buckley is the inaugural FFA National Coaching Conference to be held at the State Sports Centre, Homebush Bay (Sydney), on 26 & 27 May. Timed to coincide with the worldwide FIFA Congress which gets underway in Sydney later the same week, the conference includes some of the biggest names in world football from a technical perspective.

Keynote speakers at the conference include FIFA Technical Director, Education and Development Jean-Michel Benezet, German Football Federation Chief Coaches Instructor Erich Rutenmüller, former

German National Team Head Coach and World Cup winner Jurgen Klinsmann (via video link), former Dutch Eredivisie Coach Hans Westerhof, and former Socceroos and Czech national team coach Dr Josef Venglos. The conference will be closed by the President of the Asian Football Confederation, Mohammed Bin Hammam.

"We have attracted some of the biggest names in world football to attend this event and the knowledge and experience they will share will be of great benefit to all who will attend," said Buckley.

"The conference is a forum for all coaches, from grass-roots to international level, to share ideas about how to best prepare football players for now and the future."

Buckley said the conference will also feature sessions on sports science, sports medicine and sport psychology.

Also announced is a new Elite Coach Development Program which is a scholarship program aimed at a small select group of younger coaches who aspire to coach at the elite level - whether for an Institute, Women's National League, Hyundai A-League or national team coach position.

The Scholarships will be for a period of up to three years and coaches that may be considered for the program include those from Club, Institute, School, Youth and Private Academies. There will be a small number of scholarships awarded under a broad range of criteria, with a primary consideration being a clear intention to pursue coaching at the highest level. The scholarship holders will be required to hold an FFA Advanced Coaching B License and be progressing towards an A License, and they must also have a significant playing background or relevant off-field qualifications.

"The FFA is committed to ongoing growth in the area of football development as announced in last year's National Football Development Plan, and these scholarships provide another level of implementation in this area," said Buckley.

"The Elite Coach Development Program will potentially provide the springboard for a few targeted Australian coaches, perhaps even former elite players, to ultimately reach the top of the coaching profession."

The National Technical Director, Rob Baan, will lead the program, with assistance from the National Coach Education Manager, Kelly Cross, and the FFA National Teams and Football Development Units. Applications will close on April 15 with the first scholarships to commence in July.

Meanwhile, a number of Australian representatives will form part of the next intake of coaches undertaking the B Certificate coaching course as part of Football Federation Australia's coach education structure. Former Socceroos including Paul Okon, Steve Corica, Ross Aloisi, Carl Veart and Michael Valkanis as well as former Matilda Gill Foster, are set to be amongst some 20 coaches taking part in Canberra during April in the AFC-endorsed course introduced last year as part of the new Coach Education Structure.

The course is part of the Advanced Pathway which is primarily aimed at the professional and semi-professional coach, and also at experienced players who wish to pursue a coaching career. Attendees who pass the B Certificate can progress to the A Certificate and then the Pro Diploma.



MOSSY'S MUMBLINGS

MUMBLINGS is a column based on true events and real people. While we have eyes and ears everywhere please feel free to email your short story – funny, quirky, sad, stupid, hilarious, down right ridiculous or otherwise – to mossy@mwfa.com.au While we try to get every story to print the final decision rests with the editor.

RED CARD: TO a certain individual who visited Cromer Park this week and subjected a group of young players to repeated verbal abuse the likes of which have rarely been heard before.



GOOAAAL: TO all the schools who participated in this week's gigantic MWFA Robbie Slater Schools Cup at Nolans Reserve. More than 3,000 budding football stars strutted their stuff over days of exhilarating fun in perfect conditions.

Congrats to eventual winners St. Mary's Manly (Years 3&4) and Mona Vale PS (5&6).



THE MWFA Robbie Slater Schools Cup ran for the ninth consecutive year this week but was by far and away the biggest and best yet!

Having started way back in the year 2000 as the Northern Spirit Cup with just 150 kids, the demise of the former NSL club forced organisers into a re-think.

The MWFA and former Socceroo Robbie Slater came to the rescue and the Cup has grown into a two-day, 3000-plus participant blockbuster.



Sydney FC star Steve Corica & ex-Socceroo Robbie Slater at this week's massive Schools Cup.

The draw has even been split into a "competitive" and "participation-only" format to cater for all levels of player. All schools must have a minimum of two girls in their squad with one on the field at all times.

A massive thank you to Cathy Deblaere for all her hard work with the draw and organising the schools and also to Keith Pester and Eric Beckett who dressed Nolans immaculately for the occasion.



EACH year something very special stands out at the MWFA Robbie Slater Schools Cup and 2008 was different.

Mona Vale PS downed red-hot favourites St. Augustines College 1-0 in the Years 5 & 6 grand final and the scorer was a young Harley Johnston. Harley is the daughter of former Liverpool legend Craig Johnston and was a standout for "Player of the Grand Final".

But when quizzed about the importance of her grand final-winning goal, she said it was "better than dad's" famous FA Cup Final goal for Liverpool all those years ago! Good for you Harley!

RECENT publicity surrounding FFA's implementation of the Small Sided Games (SSG) concept has certainly set tongues wagging.

It is a hot topic of conversation and the most pleasing thing is that most agree it is a move in the right direction from a player development point of view.

Now to negotiate the logistical speed humps associated with it!

With any luck the first signs of SSG on the Northern Beaches will be appear in 2009.

This is our chance to make a significant improvement to player development at the grassroots level and it has Mumbblings' full support!



TWO games into the local MWFA season – one a cup game and the other the first league game – and still no sighting of former Socceroo Gabriel "Chi Chi" Mendez in a Brookvale shirt!

Rumour has it the paperwork has now gone through and Forest-Killarney will have to deal with his silky skills at Grahams Reserve this weekend.



CC Strikers premier league outfit has a distinct Manly United flavour about it this season.

Head coach Nigel Mahoney was an assistant coach with United's Metropolitan League under-12s last year and his assistant this year at St. Matthews Farm is Manly first grade striker Craig Midgley.

They have also signed midfielder Chris Acott, who coaches Manly United's under-11s this year.



FORMER Avalon premier league coach Michael Symonds is rumoured to have made the move back to where he enjoyed most of his success as a player and coach – Grahams Reserve with Brookvale!

Seems the lure of playing with his former players and team-mates in what is surely one of the strongest over-35 sides in recent years was too great to resist.

Question is will he play or coach?



AROUND 17,000 players hit the fields of Manly-Warringah this weekend for the official opening of the 2008 MWFA season.

Best of luck to all players, coaches, managers, referees and supporters and remember – ENJOYMENT AND FUN IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!!!



DON'T forget to book your spot in the upcoming Manly United School Holiday Camps for MWFA club and Manly United rep players. See below for detailed flyers and book early to avoid disappointment!

CONGRATS to another 35 local coaches on passing their Junior Licence at Cromer Park on Monday night.

The course, which ran over three nights, finished at 11pm on Monday night and all coaches successfully negotiated their assessment topic, including 14-year-old Daniel Hanavan from St. Augustines (who, we

might add was tucked up in bed well before the course finished as it was a "school night"). For such a young coach to do so well in his assessment augurs well for the future!



Brookvale U11 Division 4

Players needed for the Brookvale U11/4's, coaches ready to go but still need a few players. Interested players please contact: James Scott on 0419 427983

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MWFA/MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM

HEAD COACH	PHIL MOSS MUFC HEAD COACH AFC A LICENCE
COACH	RICHY WILLIAMS MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
COACH	CRAIG MIDGELY MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
VENUE	CROMER PARK - HOME OF MANLY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
DATES	APRIL – 14 TH 15 TH 17 TH 18 TH
TIMES	7:30 AM – 9.00 AM
COST	\$100 – INCLUDES FOOTBALL AND PUMP
ELIGIBILITY	MUST BE PLAYING REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE (Boys/Girls aged 11-15)

COURSE TO INCLUDE:

- PROGRESSIVE TECHNICAL AND SKILL BASED FOOTBALL DRILLS
- FUN FOCUSED, SMALL SIDED GAMES WITH DECISION MAKING EMPHASIS
- SPEED, AGILITY AND QUICKNESS (SAQ FOOTBALL)

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS – FRIDAY 11TH APRIL – 5PM

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE EMAIL PHIL MOSS AT
MOSSY@MWFA.COM.AU OR PH: 9982 6228**



MANLY UNITED FC HOLIDAY TRAINING CAMP

HEAD COACH	RICHY WILLIAMS MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
COACH	CRAIG MIDGLEY MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER UEFA B LICENCE
COACH	MICHAEL LLOYD GREEN MUFC 1 ST TEAM PLAYER FFA YOUTH LICENCE
VENUE	CROMER PARK - HOME OF MANLY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
DATES	APRIL - MON 14 TH WEDS 16 TH FRI 18 TH MON 21 ST WEDS 23 RD
TIMES	9:30 AM – 12.00 PM
COST	\$220 – INCLUDES MUFC TRAINING KIT + FOOTBALL + HAT \$200 – FOR SECOND / THIRD CHILD FAMILY DISCOUNT
AGE	5 – 7 YEARS MUFC FIRST KICKS PROGRAM 8 – 10 YEARS MUFC INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM 11 – 14 YEARS MUFC ADVANCED PROGRAM

COURSE TO INCLUDE:

- BALANCE, CO-ORDINATION, CONTROL AND FOOTBALL AWARENESS
- PROGRESSIVE TECHNICAL AND SKILL BASED FOOTBALL DRILLS
- FUN FOCUSED, SMALL SIDED GAMES WITH DECISION MAKING EMPHASIS

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS – FRIDAY APRIL 11TH – 5PM

**FOR APPLICATION PLEASE CONTACT MUFC RECEPTION ON
(02) 9982 6228 DURING OFFICE HOURS OR EMAIL
RECEPTION@MWFA.COM.AU**

MWFA Competition Table as at 4 April, 2008

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