

# THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



**MANLY WARRINGAH**  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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## TelaChoice The People's Choice

### NSW Premier League

Manly United FC	0
APIA Leichhardt	1

### Tigers keep finals hopes alive after victory over Manly

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers kept alive their hopes of finishing in the Top-Five following a 1-0 defeat of second-placed Manly United.

Played at a frantic pace, under the watchful eyes of A-League coaches John Kosmina, Aurelio Vidmar and Steve O'Connor at Lambert Park neither side managed to gain the upper-hand with very few clear-cut chances of note. In the end a very tactical battle was settled with an exquisite Robert Younis free-kick in the 72' minute from the edge of the area, following an uncharacteristic mistake by Manly United goalkeeper Bradley Swancott.

John Romeo fielded the home side with a revelation to their normal formation – Robert Younis would play the role of the lone-striker with regular partner Franco Parisi starting the match wide on the left-side of midfield. Manly United's Phil Moss had Robert Cattanach and Craig Midgely carrying the weight of expectation up-front, meanwhile the in-form Joey Schrippa on the left played his part for Manly. It was Manly United that created the first chance of note, Schrippa – not surprisingly – was involved. A fine interchange of passes from the visitors saw Phil Moss' side unleash a venomous drive towards goal – Matthew Nash in the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt goal produced a spectacular save diving to his right and diverting the ball out for a corner.

A.P.I.A.'s Paul Kohler had been given the reigns in midfield, and his early touches were neat and precise, providing Robert Younis with some space on the right-flank in the 10' minute. Younis cut inside onto his left foot and struck a swerving effort towards goal – though Swancott was not called upon as the ball finished well wide of the mark. Younis was again in the thick of the action moments later when he picked up the ball inside of his own half before three Manly United defenders were required to thwart his threat.

Despite the confidence displayed by Manly in the centre of the park, it was A.P.I.A. again who managed to push forward and create some concern for the visitor's defence on 18' minutes. Again it was Younis involved and once more it arrived via a Tigers' counter-attack. The skillful striker managed to create a yard of space on the left-flank, and after beating his marker unleashed a powerful cross-turn-

shot that Swancott claimed at the first attempt. Stephen Kayes, who has been tipped to be a future A-League player, did his chances in-front of the A-League coaches present no harm at all with his skillful piece of work on the right-flank in the 26' minute. Kayes beat two defenders with the utmost of ease before laying a square-ball to Jamie McMaster – the newest of Tigers' recruits failed to convert the chance with a poor effort thwarted by the defence.



*Manly United's big striker Dusan Mihajlovic*

Iain King played a pin-point free-kick from the right onto the head of Younis, the Tigers number 9 did well to maneuver himself to head goal-wards – the effort, though, finished wide. Franco Parisi, playing in his new role - became more involved as the half progressed. On 31' minutes Parisi displayed his confidence on the ball as he released McMaster through on goal - his final pass though was a touch too long. Younis had arguably the best goal scoring opportunity only moments later as he was sent through one-on-one following McMaster's header. From an acute angle, Younis hit goal-wards, though Swancott stood-up to the challenge and parried the ball for a corner.

Despite the Tigers' penetrating the Manly United penalty-area with more frequency, the visiting side was by no means out-played. In fact, the visitors were slightly ahead on points in midfield with a strong showing from the likes of Michael Williams. Despite this confidence in the middle of the park, Manly failed to penetrate the Tigers' defence, and the half closed with one final chance for the home-side. Robert Younis hit a venomous free-kick from the right – in-swing – that was too central and easily dealt with, by Swancott. Tigers' captain Michael Galluzzo did not return to the field for the second-half – the central defender was replaced by David D'Apuzzo due to a hamstring injury.

Phil Moss too made a change of his own with Roberto Hamad replaced after a 'nervy' first-half saw the defender involved in two scuffles – one resulting in a yellow card.

On 53' minutes, and almost out of nothing, a cross from Andrew Mailer on the right picked out Caetano Lima on the edge of the area – the Manly substitute unleashed a cleanly hit volley that finished just wide of Nash's goal. With the match looking more and more like it would end goal-less, the Tigers' got the break they required.

In somewhat bizarre circumstances, Bradley Swancott was adjudged to have left his penalty-area with the ball in his hands – the referee alerted of the incident courtesy of his linesman on the far side. The resulting free-kick from a central position on the edge of the penalty-area provided Robert Younis with a great chance to break the dead-lock – the Tigers' striker took the chance with both hands, hitting an exquisite left-footed free-kick into the top left-hand corner.

Phil Moss' introduction of Chris Payne added extra spark to the visitor's play, though the Tigers went close again in the 35' minute. A corner from the right was almost met by Mark Byrnes who made a late run into the penalty-area, only for a slight deflection by a Manly defender to change the trajectory of the ball.

## Abigroup

**Constructing Australia's Future**

Abigroup Contractors, Australia's second largest construction company, are currently contracted to design and construct the new 'Village at Balgowlah' retail and residential development for Stocklands.

Abigroup are committed to being actively involved with the local community and are proud sponsors of the Manly United Football Club.

Chris Payne's trickery on the right allowed for the Manly substitute to create a yard of space. Payne's effort from an acute angle finished on the wrong side of the post. Joey Schrippa had Manly's final chance of the afternoon to salvage a point. A cross from the right was flicked on by the Tigers' Matthew Nash who had come off his line – the ball fell to Schrippa who volleyed powerfully over the cross-bar. Following the encounter, A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers' coach John Romeo was happy to collect the three-points:

"I am very happy with the result today, as we have played good football and collected a very important result that keeps us in the running for the Top-Five.

"If you look at the two teams, there were 10-points difference between us and Manly going into this match. Though as everyone would have seen there was not too much difference between the two sides in the end – it really was a tactical battle and for this reason there weren't so many clear-cut chances. "I am happy with how the weekend has gone for us and we'll look to finish strongly."

Manly United boss Phil Moss was less pleased with the outcome, the loss almost certainly ending their chances of chasing down League leader Sutherland Sharks:

"I am disappointed with the result, obviously. The results haven't been great recently, though we have fought hard and the match today was very close.

"To lose the match with a free-kick awarded in the manner that it was is extremely frustrating.

"There obviously isn't anything we can do, though we will have to re-group for a final push towards the Finals-series – though any hopes of catching Sutherland before the finals-series are certainly over."

## New kids on block Manly Allambie give comp a shake

PREMIER League new boys Manly Allambie surged into the top four following two impressive wins over the weekend.

The competition bolters brushed aside Dee Why on Saturday with Daniel Rodgers providing all four goals. Rodgers has found the back of the net an incredible 13 times in his last four outings against the Swans over the past two seasons. Allambie then backed-up to upset second-placed Pittwater 1-0 on Sunday in a re-scheduled round at Cromer Park.

Allambie coach David Bonney was delighted with how his team fared but hinted the best is yet to come.

"At the start of the season we felt the top six wasn't out of our reach," he said. "The boys are happy with how they are going but they aren't the type to pat themselves on the back.

"Most of the teams in the competition play good football and I can honestly say in most of our games this year we have been out-played in patches but have managed to nick points here and there."

Allambie rode their luck against Pittwater after scoring on 15 minutes following an impressive finish from Jack Niven. Pittwater lost captain Stefano Teghini for the season 10 minutes later after he broke his leg in a tackle and despite a host of chances before full-time, were unable to find an equaliser.

League leaders Brookvale opened up a 10 point lead on the chasing pack following two comfortable wins over BTH Raiders (3-0) and Narrabeen (2-0). CC Strikers recovered from a loss to Wakehurst (1-0) to beat Raiders 1-0.

The Tigers collected four points over the two days following their win over the Strikers and 1-1 draw with Mosman. At the other end of the table, Narrabeen and Manly Vale moved away from the drop zone after both recorded single victories on Saturday and Sunday respectively. BTH Raiders are staring relegation in the face after two more defeats.

## Verbeek satisfied with draw

Qantas Socceroos coach Pim Verbeek is satisfied with the draw his team has received for the final stage of Asian qualifiers for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Australia will play Japan, Bahrain,

Uzbekistan and Qatar in Group A of the fourth stage, avoiding the likes of Korea Republic, Iran and Saudi Arabia, who all participated at the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany. Verbeek however was still cautious and warned that it will still not be easy to qualify in the top two, with Japan and Uzbekistan in particular, to provide stiff opposition.

"It's a very interesting situation; an interesting group," he said via telephone link up. "We worked really hard to get through to this stage and the players know what to do and they will be ready.

"It could have been better and could have been worse; all the teams have their own qualities, so it's still a fairly open group."

While still digesting the outcome of the draw, Verbeek couldn't put a figure on the number of points he believed would be needed to qualify automatically, but has no doubts it will come right down to the last two games at home in a little under a year's time.

"I think the final decisions (on who goes through) will be made in the final two games against Bahrain and Japan at home," he said.

A lot of interest though centred on Australia's first match of the mini-tournament against Uzbekistan on September 10 in most likely Tashkent. With a bye first up, Verbeek has the luxury of getting the team in camp for a significant period before the match, although where that camp will be is still anyone's guess.

"It's always good to have 10 days to prepare. I understand we have never played them before, but I have been there with South Korea, so I know what it's like.

"We have to work out flying schedules for our overseas and local players and I would ideally like to play a friendly match beforehand (September 6).

"They are very Russian-orientated; have a few players with top clubs in Russia and are physically strong, skilful players. They did very well at the Asian Cup last year and were very good when we went there with Korea."

He admitted the two away matches on the non-FIFA World Cup dates would be difficult, but accepted that's part of qualifying and has a strong belief in his players to overcome those obstacles as they arise. For further details on the list of games, [click here](#).

## Green and gold Olyroos will be pride of the nation

WHEN full-time sounded in a friendly international match in Darwin on Sunday night it brought to a close the opportunity for 25 young footballers to win a spot for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The game was between the Australian Olyroos and their Chilean under-23 counterparts and ended 1-1. It was the second of two games in three days played in Darwin as part of the final selection camp under Olyroos coach Graham Arnold.

For "Arnie" it was the beginning of the end of a qualification and selection campaign dating back more than two-and-a-half years. It's almost time for the "main event" - the hustle and bustle of training and games is now a thing of the past and the squad must now be finalised. He will then take the final squad into camp in North Sydney from July 9-13 for a farewell game against New Zealand at North Sydney Oval on July 12 before heading over to China.

The first camp was at the AIS in late 2005 and the problem then was fielding a "match fit" side capable of winning one qualification game towards Beijing,

let alone successfully negotiating a whole campaign. Now the problem is fitting more than 25 quality players into 18 spots - two of which will go to goalkeepers and three of which can go to over-age players if Arnie deems it necessary.

That being the case, make that 13 spots. I can tell you that the Newport-based former Socceroo will have some late, sleepless nights this week before announcing the team on Friday. Arnie is so passionate about the Australian shirt and the respect between the playing group and coaching staff is extremely high after what they have been through together.

When the first Olympic squad got together there was a combined match time within the group of less than 10 minutes - that is to say that from all the players gathered at the AIS way back in late 2005, they had collectively amassed less than 10 minutes of actual game time with their A-League clubs. It was a crisis. Now, every player in line for selection is starring for their club teams and some are even playing at big clubs in big leagues overseas.

But the beauty of this group of players is that reputation counts for little - a bench player in the A-League is as big a chance of making the squad as someone playing regularly overseas. It comes down to what players best fit the team mould and who has put up their hand at the right time. There are those who put their hands up during the tough qualification path and there are those who have put their hand up since - when the pressure for spots at the "main event" is at its fiercest. The fact I have been privileged enough to have had the chance to work with this group of players has been a massive honour.

To watch a group of players go from boys to men, from bright-eyed kids looking to land an A-League contract to stars of the national competition and potential Olympians has been immense. When I look back at the last two years I've been extremely fortunate to have been able to work with two groups of exceptionally talented players at Manly United and the Olyroos who have matured at their respective levels and formed two very capable outfits. One is about to head to the Olympic Games and the other is sitting second in the NSW Premier League with the finals just around the corner.

Both have every chance of achieving their respective goals in the coming months and ironically their campaigns will climax at the same time - August 2008. It's exciting times for both the Olyroos and Manly United not just because they are heading to an Olympic Games and the NSWPL finals series but because they will go there with every chance of success at their feet. But first things first - the naming of the 2008 Australian Olympic Games football team will be a massive moment in the lives of the young footballers who have put themselves in line for selection.

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





# 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](mailto:mossy@mwfa.com.au) While we try to get every story to print the final decision rests with the editor.

**RED CARD:** LAMBERT Park, the home of the Apia Leichhardt Tigers in the NSW Premier League, is full of history and tradition but someone needs to tell those in power at the club that the game has moved forward in the past 50 years. Sadly, Lambert Park has not!



**GOOAAAL:** HATS off to the Beacon Hill and Curl Curl men's over-35/3 sides for raising more than \$6,000 during their annual Day of Difference Foundation clash.

The third annual match-up ended in a hard-fought scoreless draw last weekend with last year's victors Beacon Hill retaining the silverware. But the focus was on how much money could be raised with an auction, sausage sizzle and other fundraising initiatives producing thousands of dollars.

Congrats to all involved!



THE glamour of the A-League is heading to Cromer Park with Wednesday night's clash between Manly United and Sydney FC set to attract a bumper crowd at peninsula football headquarters.

Coach John Kosmina will bring a star-studded line-up with him for what will be Sydney's last hit-out before heading into the A-League's pre-season cup on July 19. It will be the first time "Kossie" has returned to Cromer Park since leading the club to the 1995 NSW Super League league-and-grand-final double.

Manly United will use the clash as a warm-up for the crucial NSWPL battle with fellow Top Five side Sydney Olympic at Cromer Park on July 13. Gates open at 6pm on Wednesday night (July 9).

Admission is \$5 (adults) and free for supporters aged 16 years and under.

The canteen and BBQ will be operating and the clubhouse open.



INTERESTING sidenote to Manly-Allambie's 4-1 MWFA premier league victory over Dee Why last weekend.

"Mallambies" Daniel Rodgers scored all four goals to take his tally against the Swans to 13 goals in 4 games at both premier league and amateur league level over the past two seasons. He is one of five Rodgers kids who play for Manly-Allambie while his mum (Ladies O35/2) and dad (Ladies O35/2 coach) are also heavily involved with on-field and off-field – both are serving committee members – matters.



REFEREE'S CORNER has everyone talking on a weekly basis and it's fair to say that most have differing opinions on what is right and wrong.

The fact of the matter is that the Laws of the Game and – more importantly – a referee's opinion is all that counts at the end of the day.

Here is last week's Q&As.

**Q.** What action should the Referee take, if the ball hits the halfway flag post, and rebounds back towards the centre circle?

**A.** Award a throw-in **B.** Allow play to continue or **C.** Award a dropped ball

**Answer:** A. A throw-in. The post should be 1 metre from the touch line.

**Q.** After the ball is in play and during the taking of a corner kick, the corner kick-taker deliberately handles the ball inside his own penalty area before it has been touched by another player; the restart for the opposing team is?

**A.** A penalty **B.** A Direct free-kick or **C.** An indirect free-kick

**Answer:** A. A penalty

**Q.** In his frustration, a player who misses an open goal uses offensive language. The Referee should?

**A.** Ask the player to behave **B.** Ignore the language or **C.** Show the player a red card.

**Answer:** C. Show the player a red card  
(Editor's note: Common sense must prevail though!)

Now for this week's brain-teasers:

**Q.** A match should not continue, if the number of players are fewer than?

**A.** Five **B.** Six or **C.** Seven

**Q.** A dropped ball takes place?

**A.** Where the ball was located when play was stopped  
**B.** Where the incident occurred or;  
**C.** Where the Referee was located when play was stopped

Good luck with your discussions and remember to tune in next week for the answers.



THERE are reports of an O35/6 team that tried to "sneak" a few players from a much higher division on to the field as subs during a recent game.

All apparently with the full knowledge of the home referee who also plays for that same "higher division" side that had played in the previous game. The opposition was awake to the plot and ensured it didn't last long!



THOSE loveable rogues who run around for the Curl Curl Ladies O35 team that features so regularly in Mumbblings have added a few "names" to their list of celebrities who have posed in their famed "YOUTH JACKET".

First they had former test cricketer Darren Lehmann during a recent visit to God's Country and now Sea Eagles coach Des Hasler has spent time in the "straight jacket".

Harbord Hilton manager Sean King also had a spell in it for the camera after shouting the girls a round of drinks after a recent victory.

Wonder who is next?



SPARE a thought for the Australian Deaf team who left for a tournament in Greece recently. Based in Patra, the team is training in 40C-plus temperatures.

They will play a curtain-raiser to the Manly United v Macarthur Rams NSWPL clash at Cromer Park on August 3 – presumably in cooler conditions!



THE CC Strikers premier league reserve grade side have been struck by injuries in recent weeks and, it seems, will go to any lengths to fill their squad. Coach Peter Ward has even coaxed club stalwart Dave "Moxhead" Mason out of his O35s comfort zone to take on Narrabeen at St. Matthews Farm this Saturday.

Desperate times, desperate measures eh!



THE Manly United school holidays coaching program had to close bookings this week with more than 100 youngsters attending the popular sessions next week. Run by first grade stars Richy Williams and Craig Midgley, the camps have grown in popularity immensely in recent times. Every player gets kitted out in a Manly United training kit and receives a new ball and pump.

Williams and Midgley have completed Part A of their AFC/FFA A-Licence and provide top quality coaching along with their coaching staff for the youngsters.



THE MWFA O35/1 men's comp took an interesting turn last Sunday when CC Strikers notched a victory over the much-fancied Brookvale A side, which boasts many of the Blues former premier league side that dominated during the '90s. The win lifted the Strikers to top of the table on 33pts, three ahead of the Blues, and was the latter's first loss of the season.

The Brookvale side, which boasts the likes of Simon Euers, Stu Cleary, Mike Simmons and Wayne Pierce, has amassed 61 goals for and 11 against in 11 games (one loss) compared with the Strikers 46 goals scored and 9 against.

It shapes as an intriguing end to the season.



**THE HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE COMES**  
**TO CROMER PARK**



**Manly United FC**  
**v**

**SYDNEY FC**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

At Cromer Park Stadium

**Kick Off 7.00PM**

Admission to the match will be \$5.00 for adults

Under 16's wearing Manly United club colours on the night will be admitted free of charge.



## **MWFA/MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM**

### **JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

<b>HEAD COACH</b>	<b>PHIL MOSS</b> MUFC HEAD COACH AFC A LICENCE
<b>STAFF COACH</b>	<b>RICHY WILLIAMS</b> MUFC 1 <sup>ST</sup> TEAM CAPTAIN UEFA B LICENCE
<b>STAFF COACH</b>	<b>CRAIG MIDGLEY</b> MUFC 1 <sup>ST</sup> TEAM STRIKER UEFA B LICENCE
<b>VENUE</b>	CROMER PARK - HOME OF MANLY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
<b>DATES</b>	July – 7 <sup>TH</sup> 8 <sup>TH</sup> 10 <sup>TH</sup> 11 <sup>TH</sup> - 2008
<b>TIMES</b>	7:30AM – 9AM
<b>COST</b>	\$100 – INCLUDES FOOTBALL AND PUMP <b>Payment to be made on first morning (July 7)</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	MUST BE PLAYING REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE (boys/girls aged 10-15yrs)

#### **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 4<sup>th</sup> JULY – 5PM**

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