

THE SOCCER POST



MANLY WARRINGAH
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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NSW Premier League

Manly United FC 1
Penrith Nepean 0

Manly United back to winning ways over Penrith-Nepean United

Manly United FC won at home for the first time since April following a hard fought 1-0 win against Penrith-Nepean United at Cromer Park on Sunday afternoon.

A Brad Groves strike on 34' minutes separated the two teams with Abbas Saad's men taking the game to their more illustrious opponents from the outset. Manly should have taken the lead midway through the first-half after Craig Midgley and Robbie Cattanach both hit the crossbar from point-blank range following a teasing ball via Joey Schirripa from the left-flank. Nine minutes later, Groves had the northern beaches faithful on their feet after he rifled home a free kick from 25-yards past Chad Taylor. Erick Anabalon tested Brad Swancott with his own free-kick on 40' minutes with the custodian doing well to keep out Devrim Huseyin's follow-up effort. Dusan Mihajlovic, returning after an extensive injury lay-off, went within a whisker of doubling Manly's lead on the stroke of half-time but headed his half-chance over the crossbar.

Penrith came out in a determined mood after the break and Nathan Ralph went within centimetres of squaring the ledger on 50' minutes. After turning Adam Israel inside out, the winger shot on the turn and slammed his effort over the crossbar. Team-mate Jason Brown followed suit sixty seconds later after seeing his goal-bound strike take a deflection and sail out for a corner.

On the hour mark some enterprising passing from Phil Moss' men almost saw a second goal. Mihajlovic, Cameron Jones, Groves and Schirripa all combined well before Groves ran to the byline and delivered a perfect ball into the path of Michael Williams who snatched at the chance and volleyed over. Schirripa then unlocked the Penrith defence with ten minutes on the clock after playing Midgley into space but the Englishman blazed over after attempting to lob Taylor from the edge of the area.

Former Manly representative Stewart Van Bentum, who caused a few headaches down the left wing after replacing Michael Cromar, went close for Penrith on 83' minutes after his speculative effort was tipped over the crossbar to safety by Swancott. Panny Nikas went within inches of snaring a deserved equaliser seconds later. After beating two defenders, Nikas drilled his shot across Swancott's

body only to see his strike cannon off the left post and back into play. Midgley should have wrapped up the three points in injury-time after cutting inside his defender but produced a woeful strike from six-yards that summed up Manly's afternoon.

Penrith coach Abbas Saad lamented his team's luck but was delighted with their fighting spirit:

"We created enough chances to win the game but weren't clinical enough, at times our final pass let us down and their keeper also produced a number of key saves.

"I thought Panny Nikas and Nathan Ralph were outstanding for us, they held their own, if we can play like that until the end of the season I will be a happy man."

Phil Moss was relieved to see his team's hoodoo end at home, after four losses and a draw in their last five outings:

"The most important thing today was that we got a win at home, Penrith sat back and looked to get us on the counter and I thought they played very well, we are coming out of a rut and I can see us improving, which is a good sign heading into the finals.

"I am still looking for the right mix in terms of our starting team because at the moment not enough players are putting their hand up to be picked week in, week out.

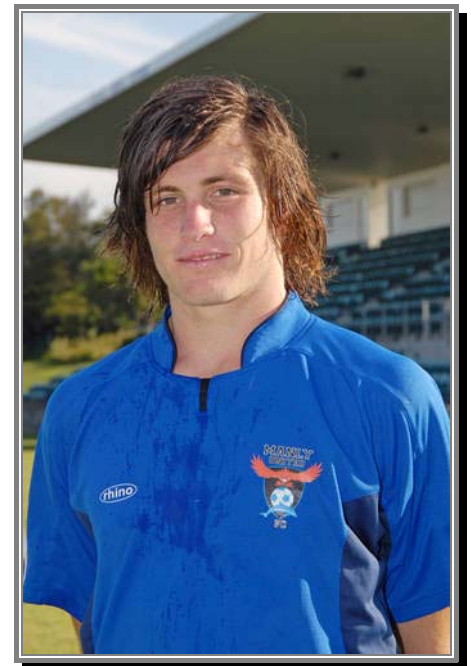
"We need the right balance and chemistry to move forward and with the Sydney FC trial game on Wednesday night I am hoping that will give the boys the shot of intensity they need."

Payne for Manly as young gun bags a brace for Sydney FC

A goal in each half from teenage striker Chris Payne saw Sydney FC stave off Manly United FC 2-0 at Cromer Park on a chilly Wednesday evening. Close to 2000 spectators braved the cold to watch "Bling FC", who were missing the likes of Mark Bridge and Stuart Musialik due to Olyroo duty as well as marquee signing John Aloisi.

Payne, who is still contracted with Manly until the end of the Telechoice Premier League season, opened the scoring midway through the first half after a brilliant shot from the edge of the box.

He doubled his tally a minute after halftime after capitalising on an errant back-pass from defender Andrew Mailer to slot home past Luke Femia



Sydney FC's Manly United young recruit Chris Payne scored a double in the A-League side's 2-0 victory at Cromer Park on Wednesday evening

The 17 year old striker plays for the peninsular club in the state TeleChoice Premier League, but did United no favours, bagging a goal in each half to steer Sydney FC to a two nil win, and impressing coach, John Kosmina along the way.

"Kids got a bit about him, you know taking it from here to the A-League, it's a big step up, but he had a

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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.

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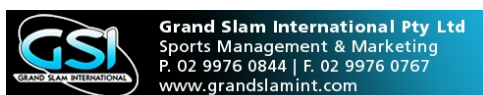
bit of motivation tonight, his home crowd, home ground, against his team-mates and he proved a point, it was good."

After bagging a double in his first full game for Sydney FC, Payne plans to make sure it's a match his Manly team-mates remember.

"I go home with the goal keeper every Thursday after training, so he will be hearing about it," Payne said.

The inaugural A League champions were sluggish at times but did enough in patches to suggest they will be one of the leading contenders this season. Sydney FC's next game is their first in the Pre-Season Cup against the Queensland Roar on Saturday July 19 at Campbelltown Sports Stadium.

Grand Slam International launches new innovative website



Grand Slam International (GSI), is pleased to announce the launch of its new innovative website www.grandslamint.com

This announcement coincides with the launch of [GSI Ambassadors & Speakers](#) division, strengthening the company's already strong sport and entertainment offering. Please find attached a full list of [GSI Ambassadors & Speakers](#).

GSI Ambassadors & Speakers has formed a comprehensive list of athletes, coaches, media celebrities, business and motivational speakers to service a variety of client and event requirements.

Ambassadors and Speaking talent includes: Olympians Ian Thorpe, Alisa Camplin, Jane Saville, Cadel Evans, Debbie Watson, Lisa Forrest, John Konrads and Craig Stevens;

Footballers John Aloisi, Les Murray, Tony Vidmar, and Gary van Egmond and;

Business, coaching and motivational speakers Jeff McMullen, Pat Farmer and Tracey Holmes.

For more information regarding GSI's Ambassadors & Speakers please contact: Karen Oates, Director Client Services karen@grandslamint.com Ph: + 61 2 9976 0844

South Africa and The Netherlands to face Qantas Socceroos

The road to South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup is being mapped out at Football Federation Australia (FFA) with the announcement today of two prestigious international matches in August and September to kick-off the next stage of the World Cup qualifying campaign as well as qualifiers for the 2011 Asian Cup, courtesy of FOXTEL.

The Qantas Socceroos will meet the 2010 World Cup hosts, South Africa, in London on 19 August and the Netherlands in Eindhoven on 6 September.

"It's all part of the road that leads to the door of the 2010 FIFA World Cup," said FFA CEO, Ben Buckley.

"We said we would leave no stone unturned in doing everything we can off the park to help Australia qualify for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, and the same goes for the 2011 Asian Cup, Coach Pim Verbeek sees these two international matches as important opportunities to get the squad together and to work with the players in a match environment."

As hosts of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, South Africa is the only team guaranteed of a berth at the tournament.

"With many of South Africa's first team players also based in England and elsewhere in Europe, meeting them in London is an efficient and valuable opportunity for both of us," Buckley said.

The teams last met in 2005 in Durban with a 1-1 draw, but previously met in London in 2004 with Australia winning 1-0. The Netherlands game will be played four days before Australia's crucial World Cup qualifier against Uzbekistan on 10 September.

"It's important that we go into the Uzbekistan game with as much preparation as possible, and playing a team which is ranked 5th in the world and made the quarter finals of Euro 2008 will give us just what we need at that time," Buckley said.

It is also a warm-up match for the Dutch team which is set to meet Macedonia in a World Cup qualifier on 10 September, and will be the first game with new coach Bert van Marwijk in charge. Australia has only met the Netherlands once before – in a warm-up match prior to the 2006 FIFA World Cup resulting in a 1-1 draw in a highly competitive workout for both teams. Australia v South Africa will take place on Tuesday 19 August at Loftus Road, the home ground of Queens Park Rangers, with the kick-off time to be confirmed. Netherlands v Australia will take place at Philips Stadium, Eindhoven, on Saturday 6 September with kick-off time of 8.45pm local. These two games bring the Qantas Socceroos' confirmed match schedule over the next 12 months to 12 matches including two Asian Cup qualifiers.

"It's a busy schedule," Buckley said. "But it's also precisely why we wanted to be part of the Asian Football Confederation, we have regular, high quality competitive matches with real meaning and real context that fans want to see."

Buckley said that more competitive matches for the Qantas Socceroos will lead to improved standards and greater growth and development in the game in Australia. As with all matches in the Qantas Socceroos' road to the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the South African and Netherlands matches will both be shown live and exclusive on FOX Sports.

Kewell defends Turkish move

Harry Kewell has defended his decision to join Turkish club Galatasaray after the move drew criticism from fans of his former club Leeds United. The Australian joined the Istanbul-based team on a two-year deal as a free agent after his contract at Liverpool expired. But his choice has sparked controversy among supporters of Leeds, the club he left in 2003 for Anfield, where he spent five injury-troubled seasons.

Two Leeds fans - Christopher Loftus and Kevin Speight - were stabbed to death by Turkish football hooligans on the eve of the 2000 UEFA Cup semi-final first leg against Galatasaray. Kewell played in that match which went ahead despite the tragedy - the 2-0 defeat immaterial to Leeds and their fans who still remember the murders of Loftus and Speight with deep sadness. Leeds United Supporters' Club chairman Ray Fell said Kewell's move was disappointing while fans also criticised the move on the BBC's internet football forum. But Kewell, who arrived in Istanbul on Friday night (Saturday morning AEST) to put pen to paper, defended his decision.

"It was a tragic thing, what happened, but we can't live in the past," Kewell told Sky Sports News. "We've got to look to the future and that's what I'm concentrating on. I gave a good nine years to Leeds and left on good terms, there shouldn't be any bad feeling."

Fell said while it was Kewell's career and his choice to make, he expected many Leeds fans to 'express their regrets'.

"It's disappointing, to put it mildly," Fell told the Guardian, time has passed but there are people in Leeds close to the two lads we lost who will find it harder to move on."

Galatasaray are also involved in one of world sport's most bitter rivalries with fellow Istanbul side Fenerbahce. Violent clashes and street fights are usual at derbies between the two. Banners proclaiming 'Welcome To Hell' add to the intimidating atmosphere at Galatasaray's Al Sami Yen Stadium. Kewell's move is surprising after he had been liked with Italian club Roma and English Premier League outfits Portsmouth and Fulham since starring in the Socceroos' recent World Cup qualifiers. But Kewell, who was welcomed by throngs of supporters on arrival in Istanbul, said he was excited to have joined a club with a passionate fan base.

"I know that the fans are passionate about sport and I love that," he said. "I can't wait to get more of it."

Kewell was not named as one of the three over-age players in Australia's 18-man squad for the Olympics after telling Olyroos coach Graham Arnold he would be unable to commit fully because of negotiations with the Turkish club. He is one of several Australians to ply their trade in Turkey. Socceroos Josip Skoko, Mile Sterjovski and Nick Carle have all had stints in Turkey, goalkeeper Michael Petkovic has spent the past four years there, while young striker Bruce Djite has just signed for Ankara-based Genclerbirligi. Turkey's national team made the Euro 2008 semi-finals last month, highlighting the strength of their league.

Expressions of interest

Manly Football has four legal identities that require their financial records audited each year to Australian Standards. We are now calling for expressions of interest for companies and individuals to complete the audits for the 2007/2008 financial year. The end of financial year for all four bodies is 30 September. Expressions of interest should be sent in writing to the General Manager at Jeremy@mwfa.com.au Queries can also be answered by calling Jeremy Toivonen on 9982 6228 during business hours

EOI close on 1 August 2008

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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: WE have had some crackers but this one may just take the cake! With 10 minutes to go in last week's tense AL1 clash between Mosman and Brookvale at Middle Head Oval the match ball clears the fence behind the goal and is deemed lost.

With the scores locked at 0-0 a Mosman player goes to grab the spare match ball from the technical area to get on with the game but is beaten to it – by a spectator, who jumped the rope, grabbed the ball and ran away with it. Mumblings spies reliably inform us the culprit was very closely linked with the Brookvale team.

Seriously!!!



GOOAAAL: MANLY Vale and Narrabeen are fighting for their respective MWFA premier league lives this season to avoid the drop back to AL1s.

But it didn't stop both sides going out of their way to ensure the wellbeing of two players involved in an accidental head clash during their meeting a couple of weeks ago. Vale followed up with an email to the Beanies during the week to ensure their player was OK and the gesture was reciprocated. Thankfully both players are well though Vale's Keith Swan came out of second best with nine stitches in his forehead and a broken nose to boot!

At least sportsmanship is alive and well despite the pressure of fighting relegation. Mumblings wishes "Swannie" a swift recovery and speedy return to his modeling career!



SUPER Sunday at Cromer Park is looming as the most important day of Manly United's season in so many different ways. First and foremost the first grade side goes into battle with fellow Top Five outfit Sydney Olympic to consolidate second spot on the NSW Premier League ladder heading into a break from competition next weekend before the last two rounds thereafter. Olympic sit just one point behind Manly United.

Then there is the club's Grade 20 side in a top of the table clash just beforehand. Manly sit in top spot over Sydney Olympic on goal difference. Both results are so important for the club individually but also from a Club Championship perspective with Olympic in second spot behind none other than Manly United.

It shapes as a pivotal day for the peninsula club as far as 2008 is concerned and follows hot on the heels of last weekend's "Perfect Weekend" of 30 points from 30 in the Club Championship (1st grade down to under-15s) after a clean sweep against Penrith Nepean United.



IT was an interesting night at Cromer Park for two of Manly United's finest on Wednesday night as Joey Schirripa and Chris Payne swapped their usually playing jerseys for that of a Sydney FC variety to play against their own club. Schirripa is trialing for a contract with the A-League glamour club while Payne has signed a two-year deal as one of the club's first grade under-20 players and will head to his new club following the completion of the NSWPL

campaign. Payne though made light work of the experience with both goals for Sydney FC in what was an entertaining match in front of a fantastic Cromer Park crowd on a very wintery evening.



THE MWFA and MUFC school holidays training programs have been a raging success with more than 150 youngsters attending the four day camp at Cromer Park. The sight of 150 young stars of the future decked out in Manly United training kit on picture perfect days at peninsula football headquarters was a sight for sore eyes this past week.

The feedback from parents was incredibly positive with regards two main points – the training kit and quality of coaching. Hats off to MUFC first grade stars Richy Williams and Craig Midgley, their coaching staff and Darrell Navaro from kit suppliers Team Rhino on a great job.



RED Card (see above) refereed to the Mosman-Brookvale AL1 clash last weekend and the tense nature of the scoreless draw. And there was good reason for the word "tense" in manner senses. As it stands this Saturday's Seaforth v Mosman clash at Seaforth Oval could shape 2009 for so many sides.

To cut a long story short, if Mosman win the league only two premier league sides will face relegation – if Seaforth win the league it will be three (based on the criteria that only sides from AL1 can go up if they don't already have a premier league team in the top division. Mumblings reckons those in the lower levels of the premier league table will be cheering – somewhat rarely perhaps – for Mosman during the remaining rounds.



A **GROUP** consensus amongst parents from the Manly Allambie United U11 girls side led to an email arriving at Mumblings desk this week regarding the performance of a young referee before, during and after last week's clash against CC Strikers. But before we hear that collective sigh of "here we go again" this is nothing but positive feedback. A young referee in his first year of officiating won over everyone concerned with his welcome approach to his job. Among his actions that earned praise were:

Approaching the teams to confirm KO time before the game, retrieving a few stray balls during the warm up, going through a few of the rules before kick off, making himself very clear that he wasn't interested in referees on the sideline & giving CC Strikers some extra time at half time because they had an injury and no subs. Was also very open in discussions with coaches and was well received by all parents.

"If you could pass on a commendation to this youngster that would be great," team spokesman Andrew Chryssavgis said on behalf of all concerned.

"If that's the new breed being taught the ropes then that augurs well for the future of our game." Enough said!



THE ever popular and much-discussed REFEREE'S CORNER is back for another week. Here are last week's Q&A.

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

A. Five B. Six or C. Seven.

Answer: 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.

Answer: A. Where the ball was when play was stopped.

And now for this week's questions.

Q. How far from the corner of the field of play, is the **optional** mark that can be made at right angles to the goal/touch line, to ensure that opponents are standing the correct distance away when a corner kick is being taken?

A. 9.15m (10yds) B. 10.06m (11yds) or C. 11m (12yds).

Q. A player taking a penalty kick taps the ball slightly forwards. A colleague, who was outside of the penalty area, rushes into the penalty area and scores a goal. How does the referee restart the game?

A. Kick-Off. B. Indirect Free Kick or C. Penalty Kick



DON'T forget to get along to North Sydney Oval on Saturday for the Olyroos v New Zealand clash at 2pm, following the Matildas v New Zealand Women's Olympic Team match at Noon. It is the farwell appearance on home soil for Grama Arnold and his squad as they head to Beijing in search of Olympic Gold! Tickets are available at North Sydney Oval on game day or through Ticketek.



WE'VE heard all about the Curl Curl "YOUTH" O35 ladies this season but there is another set of players making waves in the increasingly popular Ladies O35 ranks this year as well. The Beacon Hill ladies have recorded what can only be described as a "victory" despite losing 1-0 to the mighty HSU. The reason for the "victory"?..... They lost 12-0 in the first round and were unlucky to concede the only goal last weekend, despite the fact they had no subs. A fantastic improvement since round one and it was the Seasiders' lowest score of the season. Congrats to all concerned.



GOING back to the Curl Curl Ladies O35 team, they ditched training on Wednesday night to support Manly United in their clash with Sydney FC at Cromer Park. With a top of the table clash against HSU this weekend looming, it was a gesture greatly appreciated by the MUFC boys!

