

# THE SOCCER POST

A publication of the Manly Warringah Football Association



**MANLY WARRINGAH**  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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## NSW Premier League

### Young talent set to refresh senior ranks at United

REFRESHED after a much-needed week off from NSW Premier League duties, Manly United returns to action this weekend chasing a top-three finish in both grades. First grade will be out to end the regular season in-form and build some momentum heading into the post season and with the likes of Andrew Mailer, Roberto Hamad, Ashley Ryan and Shaun Bowden all back fit and available for this week's clash with Sydney United, competition for spots will be the hottest since the early part of the season.

But while first grade will always be the priority at the elite level the under-20s title tilt in 2008 has also provided everyone at the club with an immense amount of pride. Coach Steve Berry, a crowd favorite during his playing days, has done an enormous job with his squad with several pushing hard for first grade contracts in 2009. And the fact his squad is littered with local juniors is the icing on the cake.

Captain Andrew Hayward and defender Scotty Wright (both CC Strikers), Alex Hunt (Curl Curl), striker Jared West (Manly-Allambie) and midfielders Mitch Macedo (Pittwater) and Chris Van Leur (Forest-Killarney) have all come through the youth system of both the MWFA and Manly United to be where they are today - a major part of the second best under-20 outfit in Australia.

With two rounds of the NSWPL remaining - against Sydney United (away) and Macarthur (home) - and three points separating us and first-placed Sydney Olympic, the sky is the limit for this talented crop of youngsters.

Hayward, Wright, Macedo and Van Leur have also attracted interest from both Sydney FC and the Central Coast Mariners in recent weeks as they look to put together their inaugural youth league squads for the 2008/09 Hyundai A-League season. Van Leur impressed Sydney FC coach John Kosmina and assistant Steve O'Connor so much so he won a spot on the first grade bench for Saturday night's pre-season cup clash with Queensland Roar - a match that Manly United team-mate Chris Payne scored in.

Add to our local products the likes of Payne (Central Coast) and midfielder Nick Swart (KDSA) who both had a few years in our youth league set-up before entering senior football and you have eight players from a squad of 14 who have come through the system at Manly United.

How many of them push through into first grade only time will tell but it's the most promising batch of local products to come through en masse for some time. The doomsayers will always point to a lack of local juniors in first grade at Manly United but the fact is - and always has been under my watch anyway - if they are good enough and dedicated enough they will be welcomed with open arms.

With both senior teams holding top four spots and the under-16s top of their table, the club sits second on the coveted Club Championship. The non-Club Championship under-13s are fourth and the 12s now hold outright top spot in the Metropolitan League. Meanwhile, the women's first grade side is third and the reserve grade outfit top of the league to have us sitting fourth on the NSW Women's Premier League Club Championship.

Regardless of what happens on the field over the next six weeks (finals included), the future is looking brighter than ever at Manly United.

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

### Anniversary Win for Super Strikers

In this the 30th year of the Strikers Cup, the host team have made history by winning the Strikers Cup - CC Strikers Under 9s beating Queens Park 2-0 in the final of the competition. The win marked the first outright for the Collaroy Cromer Strikers (formed when the Cromer Strikers and Collaroy Plateau clubs combined in the early 1990s), the former Cromer Strikers having won the event in 1982, while CC Strikers shared the trophy with Castle Hill United in 2004.

The win capped a day of big crowds, fine footballing weather, great organisation from the Strikers committee, competitive sporting achievement from the 28 teams participating and, best of all, spectacular football from the young players. Among Manly Warringah teams, Strikers were the only local club to make the knock-out stage.

However, the year saw a marked improvement in the performance of local teams. Seaforth were in the running for a quarter-final berth after winning their first two games, only to go down 0-1 in their final group game against eventual semi-finalists the Gunners (from Macarthur). Forest Killarney also performed well in a competitive group that also featured the fancied Winston Hills and Canterbury teams. Unbeaten on the day, Forest Killarney recorded goalless draws with both of the out-of-area teams, results that led to them narrowly missing out on qualification to the knock-out stage and also

contributed to the Canterbury side bowing out of the competition on goal difference. Other than Strikers; Harbord Seaside, Wakehurst and Seaforth each recorded wins over out-of-area teams, the Seaside with a 2-0 win over Kissing Point and Wakehurst and Seaforth with wins over Moorebank.

Early group games suggested favourites for the day, with 2007 winners Smithfield RSL, Fairfield Hotspurs and Gunners each winning their three group games and the always-competitive Castle Hill United qualifying from their group with two wins and a draw. Paired up in the Quarter Finals, Gunners beat Fairfield 1-0 while Smithfield RSL progressed on a countback of corners after a 1-1 draw with Castle Hill.



*Collaroy Cromer Strikers Under 9's*

After a 0-0 draw in their first game with West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook, Queens Park got their scoring boots on with 3 and 4 nil wins in their group games against Avalon and Beacon Hill, and 3-nil wins in both their quarter and semi finals, against Winston Hills and Gunners respectively, to face the host team in the final. With a high level of expectation surrounding what was reckoned to be CC Strikers strongest team in years, a confident CC Strikers team started their competition with a 4-0 win over Curl Curl, followed by a 3-1 win over Glenhaven - a good outcome in a game that was closer than the score suggests, CC Strikers defending a succession of corners and chances from their opponents late in the game. Going in to a must-win final group game against a strong Budgewoi team (winners of both their group games and unbeaten in their Central Coast competition this season), CC Strikers progressed to the quarter-finals with an excellently worked headed goal from a free kick.

In the quarter final against West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook, CC Strikers certainly needed their luck as they were on the defensive in the first half - with

their centre back making a spectacular goalline clearance and the keeper pulling off a fine diving save at his near post to deny the opposition. In the second half, facing elimination on the 'corner countback' rule, a finely struck volley from one of the CC Strikers' forwards won the game for the home team.

In their semi final with Smithfield RSL, CC Strikers dominated the game, but couldn't turn their possession and territorial advantage into goals. However, CC Strikers progressed to the final as a result of a 'countback' to each team's quarter-final results.

Encouraged by Manly United FC coach Phil Moss, a former Strikers Cup participant, prior to the final, a confident Strikers team emerged on to the field at Cromer 1 ready to make history. Forced on the defensive by Queens Park in the early stages of the game, Strikers strong defence and creative midfield began to work openings in the opponents defence.

With vocal support from a substantial crowd in the venue's Lucas Neill stand, Strikers went on to win by two goals. At the close of the game, Steve Corica was on hand to present the Player of the Final award, the runners-up medals to the Queens Park team and the Strikers Cup trophy and winners medals to the jubilant Strikers team. Each of the team can now look back on a spectacular footballing achievement with their winners medals an item they can treasure forever.

Congratulations to the team:

Sam Benton, Lachie Burt, Diego Cuadros-Garrett, Jayden Lagana, Will Martin, Ryan Martinuzzo, Jesper Nicholson, Jacob Seeto, Gianni Stensness, Brody Strachan, Harry Van Der Sag, Rhys Vorillas, Isaiiah Vumbaca, Tal Weiner and reserve Tyler Bowles; Coach Neil Davies; Assistant Coach Andy Snell and Manager Lucy Lagana.

## Vale kicks its way clear of relegation

A FIRED UP Manly Vale moved five points clear of the relegation zone following a resounding victory against a shell-shocked Pittwater RSL FC at David Thomas on Saturday. After losing in injury time to Wakehurst last week, Vale coach Cass Greco stressed the importance of picking up three points at home to provide some breathing space for the maroon and whites from the likes of Forest Killarney and Narrabeen. Robin Woods grabbed a double either side of half-time with Nathan Wall and substitute David Greco also adding their names to the scoresheet in the rout.

"Not many tipped us to cause Pittwater problems but I felt all week we could beat them," Greco snr said, we have been threatening this kind of performance for a few weeks, we have a tough draw to round out the season so hopefully this result will give the boys some self belief, the intention now is to go on a run and pick up at least two more wins.

"I think that will ensure our safety but with every team fighting for their lives or a semi-final spot, each game is vital."

Injured Pitts striker Stefano Teghini offered no excuses for his team's lacklustre showing.

"Credit to Manly Vale, they came out and wanted it more," he said. It was disappointing, we had no urgency and it to be honest could have lost by more if they had converted some easy chances.

"It's a small pitch and we didn't adapt to it at all, we'll just put this result behind us and focus on finishing second."

In other games, Brookvale secured the major premiership after a 3-0 win against Mosman, mid-season recruit Chris Lima scored a first half header in Beacon Hill's 1-0 triumph over Wakehurst, BTH Raiders won their second match on the trot after defeating Dee Why 3-1, CC Strikers moved into third thanks to a 3-1 win over Manly Allambie and Forest Killarney came from 2-0 down to claim a point against Narrabeen at Melwood Oval.

## Touch of class courtesy of that Brookvale girl

BROOKVALE'S dominance on the football pitch is not just limited to the exploits of Vince Santarosa's men after the women's Premier League team downed Dunbar Rovers FC in the State Cup final at Valentine Sports Park on Sunday.

After conceding within the first two minutes, the Blues peppered the Rovers goal and were rewarded after 25 minutes when skipper Hayley Weston equalised following great lead-up play from Jess Booker down the left flank. Brookvale took the lead just after the hour mark and it was that girl Weston who provided a touch of class.

The English native rifled home a free kick from the edge of the area into the top right corner following a foul on striker Jemma Euers. The State Cup is the latest piece of silverware for the Blues, who now just need a victory on grand final day in order to have won every trophy on offer since forming in 2005. Jubilant coach Colin Euers felt Sunday's victory was well deserved.

"Dunbar were a decent side but I felt we dominated large portions of the match," he said, the early goal woke the girls up and I was always confident we would win after Hayley pegged one back for us.

"At half-time I told them to be patient and if we went one up to keep controlling the tempo. When Hayley got her second we moved her back into midfield and along with Tracey Albon was outstanding.

"They came at us in waves in the last 20 minutes and provided me with a few scares.

"Thankfully the girls did enough to hold on."

The Blues will now focus on securing a third successive major premiership title when they tackle long-time rivals Manly Vale this weekend.

"We have quite a few girls unavailable for a host of reasons, so it's going to be difficult," Euers added.

"I have faith in the girls though, we have plenty of talent, it's just a matter of working together and playing our normal game."

## 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](mailto: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

## Trial dates for Futsal

Trials for the representative futsal (indoor soccer) sides will be held over the next few weeks at:

Curl Curl Community Hall.  
Abbott Rd, Curl Curl

Sat 2nd August:  
U13 Girls (9.15 to 10.30 am)  
U16 Girls and open women (10.30 to 12.00 noon)

Sun 10 August & Sunday 17 August  
U12 Boys (12.00 to 1.15 pm)  
U14 Boys (1.15 to 2.30 pm)  
U16 Boys (2.30 to 3.45 pm)  
Youth Men (3.45 to 4.45 pm)  
Open Men (4.45 to 6.00 pm)

Please arrive 15 minutes early to complete nomination form.

Enquiries: Boys/Men - Janie Parsons 0414 993 273.  
Girls/Women - Cathie Sweeny 0410 106 428.

## Transfer sagas continue

Another week bites the dust and, as always, off the pitch action was plentiful. Lucas Neill made headlines in the world of Football again this week...

The likely departure of West Ham's Skipperoo dominated headlines for a few short days back in April, but rumours were quickly crushed after his agent revealed that Mr Neill wasn't going anywhere.

Well this week talk has returned and it's understood that the club is prepared to let him go, provided the return on investment is satisfactory. It's no secret our Lucas is one of Upton Park's highest-paid men. A price too high for Turkey's Galatasaray to pay after negotiations fell through two weeks ago, but one that may be just right for Manchester City. Watch this space!

... and despite some promising new signings and a promising new manager, it seems Manchester City are turning to... wait for it... FENG SHUI in a bid to help them become more successful on the pitch!

Yes, little magic crystals have been buried under the Eastlands turf, the reception area, under the offices and all around. The club shop has been filled with lucky fortune trees, three-legged monkeys and Buddha's - according to the UK's Daily Mirror.

Could this all just be City's way of dealing with Ronaldinho's departure to Milan over Manchester?

## Field Sign Sponsors

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

**RED CARD:** SOME spectators at a local game recently unleashed a verbal lashing on a player who accidentally hit them with a ball as they sat on the sideline. The stray ball came firing out of a fair challenge between two opposing players. Wake up and smell the coffee - if you want to sit right on the sideline you run the risk of taking a hit!



**GOOAAAL:** THE Seaforth Ladies division 7 side rarely has 11 players start or finish a game this season yet they still turn up every week and "have a go". Usually on the wrong end of a significant score line, the ladies are always encouraging each other. Such was their plight they caught the attention of long-time Wakehurst official-turned-referee Ross Churchland recently when he officiated one of their games. "I take my hat off to them and have so much respect for their Coach that he deserves a medal," 'Roscoe' told Mumbblings. "Those beautiful ladies are what this game is all about. Also they are all stunners!" Cheeky words indeed Roscoe and congrats to the mighty Seaforth Ladies div 7 outfit.



THE 2008 Under-9 Strikers Cup final is not a game young Harry van der Saag will forget in a hurry. The pint-sized striker popped up to score one and set up the other in the Strikers' 2-0 win over Queens Park which handed his side outright victory of the cup for only the third time in 30 years. One of those wins was a joint victory after the finalists couldn't be split.

But it wasn't just the "Harry Show" with every player in a Strikers shirt playing their part to produce a team effort that simply blew a very talented Queens Park off the park! Coaches Neil Davies and Andy Snell were delighted with the boys performance and the fact they played to their potential – and above in some cases – when it mattered most. The victorious Strikers Cup team was: Sam Benton, Lachie Burt, Diego Cuadros-Garrett, Jayden Lagana, Will Martin, Ryan Martinuzzo, Jesper Nicholson, Jacob Seeto, Gianni Stensness, Brody Strachan, Harry Van Der Sag, Rhys Vorillas, Isaiah Vumbaca, Tal Weiner and reserve Tyler Bowles; Coach Neil Davies; Assistant Coach Andy Snell and Manager Lucy Lagana. Mumbblings here's the parents' after-party was well worth the bleary eyes on Monday morning too!



SYDNEY FC star Steve Corica is such a vital role model for Australian football and the Hyundai A-League in particular. The ex-Socceroo was on hand at last weekend's Strikers Cup to hand out the silverware and pick the man-of-the-match in the final. He also managed to sign upwards of 100 autographs – not a hard job but one that requires patience and a permanent smile – and talk with parents, coaches and players alike. He then backed that up by taking Manly United's under-16 side through their paces in driving rain at training on Wednesday night. Nothing is too much to ask of "Bimbi" and the MWFA and Manly United are blessed to have him living in God's Country.

Keep up the great work big fella!



OUR piece on the abysmal state of Abbott Rd #5 has certainly opened a can of worms with Curl Curl O35/4 toiler Stephen Finlay writing in this week in total agreement.

"We have to play and train there," he said In my 30+ years of playing in Manly Warringah (from under 6 to PL and now O35) this is the most dangerous field I have ever played on - not to mention the fact that the state of the field destroys all attempts at playing any type of passing game. "I will not be surprised if the council is sued by someone who does serious damage to themselves."



FURTHER to the recent piece about the Metropolitan North U11s triumphant State Titles campaign during the recent school holidays, the historians have been frantically checking their logs for the last time a Metro North team won a state title at that level. So far they have come up empty handed. The side is selected from Manly, Gladesville and Kuring-gai Associations and, under the expert tutelage of coach Chris Williams, emerged from Nowra with the silverware after seven wins from eight games and 27 goals for and only three against. Promising young striker James Cain won the tournament's Golden Boot Award with 10 goals. The Manly contingent in the side was: MARK McMANUS, AIDAN GRAY, SEB SZAMBOWSKI, JAMES CAIN & MATT WILLIAMSON.

A mighty effort by a group of very promising young footballers.



THE latest instalment of the well-chronicled Day of Difference Cup between Curl Curl and Beacon Hill O35/3s hit the pitch last weekend and ended in yet another draw – 1-1 – the third in four meetings. The result saw the cup remain with holders Beacon Hill. Once again some serious money was raised for the cause with Macquarie Bank matching the takings dollar-for-dollar – the proceeds going towards buying much-needed equipment in our children's hospitals. Congrats to all involved!



REFEREE'S corner continues to test the games' best thinkers on a weekly basis and here is the latest installment. Last week's Q&A were:

Q. A player deliberately passes the ball to his goalkeeper who dives and catches the ball inside his penalty area, thus preventing an oncoming opponent from scoring an obvious goal. What action should the Referee take?

- A. Send-off the goalkeeper for preventing an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
  - B. Award an Indirect Free Kick and let the goalkeeper remain
  - C. Award a Penalty Kick:
- Answer: B

Q. Shin guards must?

- A. Be of an approved safety design
  - B. Be made of shock proof materials
  - C. Provide a reasonable degree of protection:
- Answer: C

And now for this week's brain teasers:

Q. The team that kicks off at the start of the second half, is?

- A. The team that wins the coin toss
- B. Decided by the toss of a coin before the second half starts
- C. The team that loses the coin toss

Q. During the taking of a penalty kick, a team mate of the player taking the kick enters into the penalty area before the ball is kicked. The ball rebounds off the crossbar and is touched by the team mate. What action should the Referee take?

- A. Award an indirect free kick to the defending team
- B. Allow play to continue
- C. Award a retake of the penalty kick

Q. During the taking of a throw-in, the thrower projects the ball directly into his own goal. The result is?

- A. A corner kick
- B. A goal
- C. A goal kick

The best of British Luck to you all.



REFEREE Chris Baker got right into the spirit of last weekend's relegation battle clash between Forest-Killarney and Narrabeen at Melwood Oval – giving as good as he got in the verbal stakes! It was joy for the players to hear and see a referee getting into the game as much as they were and he did a fantastic job controlling it! At one stage he even muttered: "Great technique" while on the run as a player delivered a superb lofted pass to a team-mate. He also put a few players firmly in their place without having to dish out copious amounts of yellow cards like some officials we know. Sometimes, just sometimes, there are examples of referees being human after all..



KIDS love school holidays but hate the fact that sub-junior football takes a break. So, two teams from the CC Strikers set out to do something about it last weekend. The U7 Beauchamps approached the Thompsons about a "scratch match" at St. Matthews Farm last Saturday morning and the latter jumped at the chance. With the Beauchamps beating the Thompsons in the grand final of last year's Strikers 6-a-side at Cromer Park and both teams going through this season so far undefeated the scene was set for a hum-dinger! And so it proved to be.

A fantastic game of sub-junior football – hard, fair, even, great defending and some brilliant goals to boot. With both teams agreeing to trial a 20-minute-per-half format (instead of the usual 15 mins), the kids were well and truly knackered by full-time but were sporting smiles the width of the Harbour Bridge afterwards. The parents too were in awe of the quality of the game and the experience it gave their youngsters. For the record, the Thompsons got one back on the Beauchamps with a narrow 3-2 victory. Till next they meet!





## **MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM** **TERM 3 – 2008**

**INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)**

### **MWFA CLUB PLAYERS**

**Boys and girls - aged 6-13yrs (NEW YOUNGER AGE GROUPS)**

**NOTE:** Open to all players aged 6-9yrs and 10-13yrs playing MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)

Dates: **Monday July 28 – Monday September 15**  
Times: **4.15pm – 5.30pm**  
Venue: **Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why**  
Cost: **\$160/player for 8 weekly sessions + \*\$20 for training kit + ball)**

**(\*optional for players with MUFC training kit from previous camps)**

Payment: **\$160 or \$180 due on July 28 at 1<sup>st</sup> session**  
**Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) only**

COACHES: **Sharon Egger – MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach**  
**Susan Wheatley – MUFC 1<sup>st</sup> grade player**  
**Staff coaches**

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## **SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING**

**With Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC GK COACH)**

Dates: **WEDNESDAY July 30 – Wednesday September 17**  
Times: **6pm–7.30pm**  
Venue: **Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why**  
**(Synthetic-grassed cage)**  
Cost: **\$35/player per session**  
Bookings: **BRUNO on 0421 131 051 or email [bjgeronimo@gmail.com](mailto:bjgeronimo@gmail.com)**

**Open to all goalkeepers aged 9-18yrs playing representative youth league or MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)**



## **MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM** **TERM 3 – 2008**

**INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)**

**REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS**  
**Boys and girls - aged 10-15yrs**

**Dates:** **TUESDAY July 29 – Tuesday September 16**  
**Times:** **4.15pm – 5.30pm**  
**Venue:** **Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why**  
**Cost:** **\$160 for eight sessions (\$20/player per session)**  
**Cash or cheque (payable to MWFA) only**  
**Payment plans available**

**Coaches:** **Phil Moss (MUFC Head Coach)**  
**Sharon Egger (MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach)**

**Program:** **Technique, 1v1, 2v2, specific game-related positional play**

**Bookings:** **Essential email [mossy@mwfa.com.au](mailto:mossy@mwfa.com.au)**

**Wet Weather:** **Call 9982-6228 after Noon on day of program**

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## **SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING**

**With Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC). Every WEDNESDAY night (6pm–7.30pm) from July 30 – September 17 in the synthetic-grassed cage at Cromer Park. Cost \$35/session. Bookings call BRUNO on **0421 131 051** or email [bigeronimo@gmail.com](mailto:bigeronimo@gmail.com)**

**Open to all goalkeepers aged 10-18yrs playing representative youth league or MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)**