

THE Roar



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALMAIN DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB

Balmain & District Football Club P.O. Box 1020 Rozelle NSW 2039
www.balmainfootball.com.au

EDITION 3 - SPRING 2008

GRAND FINAL BALMAIN MAGIC U10-2

Grand Final day on Saturday August 9 was the culmination of what has been a great season for the Balmain U10-2 team. Having made it through the regular season undefeated (and with no draws either!) and scoring and defending goals with great efficiency, the team was put under some genuine pressure during the finals.

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PRESIDENTS REVIEW

JOHN 'THOMMO' THOMSON



This is my last year as President after 5 years in the chair. I have enjoyed the time immensely and feel that the club is in a stronger position now than it was 5 years ago. Credit for this goes to all those that have contributed to the running of the club over that period.

The main achievements over that time have been:

- The employment of Michael Hamilton as our paid administrator taking a load off the volunteers.
- The reconfiguring of Callan Park to 2 full size fields and 2 under 8/9 fields meaning there is a much better atmosphere at our main field.
- The successful transition of all our female teams to the CDSFA competition.
- The automating of our registration process making the whole process much easier.
- A more professional approach to attaining sponsors leading to an increased number of sponsors.
- The introduction of the Senior Prizegiving and the annual Trivia night.

The main challenges for the future are:

- Securing our tenure and an increased number of fields at Callan Park.
- The transition of the minis to small sided games.
- Organising effective Ground Officials at all grounds.
- Managing the limitations on the number of teams we can field.

This year has been very successful for us highlights are:

- Retaining the Womens Division 1 title.
- Our 10/2 boys going undefeated for the season.

- The girls having 9/14 teams into the semi finals resulting in 2 premierships
- Having 5 minor premiers
- Winning 7 premierships.
- Winning the O45 Metropolitan Cup (OK we were the only entrants but us old guys are still claiming the trophy).

Off the field:

- We had Sydney FC team members attend Cohen Park to the delight of many 6 and 7 year olds.
- Manchester United trainers coached a group of 30 Under 10s which was tremendous.
- The skills training sessions for girls produced good results and were well supported.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable year and I look forward to continuing my involvement with the club as a player and coach and I will remain involved in the administration of the club in some form.

Finally a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all those that have contributed to the running of the club over the last 5 years. No one knows more than I the amount of work a few people put in to run the club as successfully as we do.

Regards

John Thommo Thomson, BDFC Club President



GRAND FINAL

BALMAIN MAGIC U10-2

...continued from cover

In their semi final they were somewhat fortunate in winning 1-0 against a very determined Earlwood side but we knew that over the season we deserved to be in the final so we were happy to take the win. Two weeks later though, and against the same side, the Magic returned to the dominance they they'd displayed during the season but without any luck in getting the ball to hit the back of the net.

So, it was down to penalties. To the great relief of their coaches, parents and other supporters, the team managed four successful penalties to Earlwood's three. We were the Champions! Particular thanks to all the kids who took a penalty and thanks to their team mates who supported them so joyously... and loudly! And a really big thankyou to our goalkeeper for the shootout, Ash, who was magnificent.

I can't resist offering one tip on penalties. Some people say when taking a penalty choose a side, focus on the spot, concentrate on a clean strike and don't change your mind. All valid, but for under 10s the key thing is to bring blind folds, valium, and handkerchiefs for the poor suffering parents on the sidelines.

As one of the coaches of the team, I have to thank the kids and say that they have responded really well throughout the season to our aims of making them the most skilful, intelligent and calm footballers they could be. They've always trained and played the game with great enthusiasm and in the right spirit and have drawn many an admiring comment from opposing coaches, friends and passers-by for the quality of their football. We never played purely to win, but winning was the reward they got for their intelligence and their efforts. Finally, big thanks to co-coaches Paul Clenaghan and Paul Cuscuna who also doubled up as our super-efficient manager... and all the parents. Go Magic!

Dario Bicego





SEASON REVIEW

2008

Congratulations and thanks to all of the Balmain Players, Coaches, Managers, Parents and Supporters that helped make 2008 such a successful year.

This year the Balmain & District Football Club registered 95 teams from ages Under 6 through to Over 35's. For the record of the 57 Balmain teams playing in competitive age groups:

- 29 made the top four
- Five teams finished Minor Premiers
- Nine teams made the Grand Final
- Seven teams won the Grand Final

Important dates coming up

Saturday 20 September – Senior Prize Giving (SPG)

The SPG night is once again being organised by representatives of the Womens teams so it should be another great night. Numbers are limited to 250 so get in early to avoid disappointment. RSVP to Georgia on 0410 619 907.

Sunday 21 September – Junior Prize Giving (JPG)

The JPG will be held at Callan Park commencing at 10am on Sunday 21 September. It concludes at approximately

11.30am and players and parents are invited to stay for a barbecue afterwards.

Wednesday 5 November – Club Annual General Meeting

Club members are encouraged to attend the Club's AGM held at the Balmain Leagues Club (upstairs meeting rooms). The meeting commences at 7.30 and all Club positions are voted for at this meeting.

The Club hopes to see you all back again in 2009.

Cheers

Michael Hamilton, Comp Secretary



MINOR PREMIERS

- Boys Under 10 Division 2
- Girls Under 11 Division 2B
- Over 35 Division 3B
- All Age Division 6B
- Womens Division 3A

FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

15% discount off total bill to club members for dinner on Wednesday & Thursday nights
rosebud

GRAND FINALISTS

WINNERS

- Boys Under 10 Division 2
- Girls Under 11 Division 2B
- Girls Under 13 Division 2
- Womens Division 1A
- Womens Division 3A
- All Age Division 6A
- Over 35 Division 3B

RUNNERS UP

- Over 35 Division 6
- All Age Division 8





THE UNSTOPPABLE BULLETS

BALMAIN BULLETS - U/13 SECOND DIVISION TEAM



Some seasons are rich in unrealized potential. Such was The Bullets season with two final-round cliffhangers as tantalizing proof. Individual talent doesn't distill into team chemistry but 'The Beautiful Game' demands teamwork above all. When it was there, we could but stand and admire. But too often the boys and the coach knew 'the plan' to keep the ball grounded with one-touch passing had gone wandering.

In a season interrupted too often by training cancellations, injury to key players and disputes, the team rarely operated as the unit it can be. But politics and lost tactics are simply fuel for excuses. After a performance-based selection in February, a talented line-up took to the field with some uncertainty. The boys often showed what they can become. Their passing bamboozled the opposition against boys much bigger and often more aggressive. The Bullets can be as unstoppable as their name implies. They proved it by going well beyond expectations with two heart-stopping final-death rounds that led to penalty outcomes.

They won the first and lost the second by a single goal. Coach Teshome put emphasis on the game plan but the passing was never fully cohesive and individual players too often tried to save the day.

Nick and Charlie took up the attack with the niftiest footwork; Liam was versatile in defence and attack, Tom ploughed through the field with nuggety determination; Max and Cal were vital on the wing, Joe's kick had power and accuracy; Sam was essential in midfield and badly missed when injury took him away; Chris and Adam fought bravely in midfield. Our backline got speed and courage from Ryan, Joel and Harry TO'B with Harry White proving his place. Rhys displayed superb dedication as a goal-stopper and Cian was missed when he opted out of the final round.

Teshome was a stoic. He's guided these boys, working their skill and energy and demanding the highest standard. Paul evoked their performance on field and Tommy gave inspiration that was often epic. The boys are of an age that wedges them between the competitive and co-operative demands of the game. Life and school can challenge developing lives. Some parents weren't happy with the line-up and time spent on field. At the core of the game is a constant need for balance between fairness to individuals and winning as a team.

This season it was elusive with uncertainty with some sourness at the sidelines. Shane brought his management skills to the occasion and the boys played on. Flashes of brilliance through the season combined with those last two games to set up the promise for 2009.



END OF YEAR REPORT 2008

RED LION ROVERS (U7/2)

The energy contained in a 6 year old kid is phenomenal. Harnessing this energy into a useful form is the great challenge of coaching. The explosive combinations of good friends, the weekend, sugar fixes (after parties) and competitive soccer must be contained and channelled into passing, tackling, throw-ins, goals, goal keeping - you name it.

A few times this year we had some potentially disastrous energy breaches. Red faces, tears, hysterical giggling at farty noises and even the odd scrap. But despite the occasional frustrating moment, with humour and discipline we kept it together, ensuring the promotion into the second division didn't end in disaster (and ridicule of the coaching staff). 14 games, eight wins, five losses and one draw isn't a bad record.

Statistics aside the characters and talents of everyone of this great little team really started to shine through. It was a joy to watch them develop: in Angus, a fiery determination and self belief; in Ben, cool canon ball shots and blistering runs; in Bert, giant throw-ins and fearless defending; in Chris, brilliant goal keeping and selfless passing; in Clancy, magnetic feet and a cheeky bravery; in Massimo, a calm, controlled dependable presence; in Monty, fearlessness and strength; in Otis, dazzling dribbling and a irrepressible sense of fun; in Tim, selfless skilful team play; and in Will, a great sense of humour and a canny knack of being in the right place at the right time.

It was a brilliant, rewarding, funny, slightly rainy second season of football. Roll on next year.

Thanks to all the parents and grandparents (who after all made the players, did their laundry and taxed the team around the Inner West).

Also a special thanks to: Robyn Dowling & Anne Collins – directors of coaching staff (and match report proof readers); David Pritchard – locum referee and Red Lion Rovers archivist; David Stewart & Paul Connor – substitutions; Grant Beer – Photography, and Jeanie Gehue – cake.

Gareth and Garry (coaches)





THE BENGAL KIDS

BENGALS BRING CURTAIN DOWN ON SEASON 3

After three years together the Balmain Bengals are (regrettably) saying goodbye to another season of fun, challenges and success. The team – Alexander, Charlotte, Hugh, Finnegan, Luke, Cooper, Jack Arve, Jack Roddy, Fred, Ben and Nicky – coached by Mark Waugh, has enjoyed another fantastic season in 2008. Over 20 weeks from Callan to Croydon to Parry Park the team has competed, enjoyed, won, lost, drawn and all the time given their all, from their pre-game huddle – “GOOOOO BENGALS” – to the final whistle.



Now, after two great years as coach, Mark is hanging up the tracksuit. So, knowing how much the players love being “Bengals”, we thought we’d ask them to tell Mark what they liked and learned the most, and how their skills have improved in the last couple of years.

When asked “what is the best thing about being a Bengal?” the players are nearly all in agreement! Being on a great team, helping each other and having their teammates and friends along for the ride is how nearly every Bengal answers. Ben’s reply, “doing passing and things to make the team play their best” describes it well. For new players like Luke and Jack Roddy the season has just been a great new experience. That’s not to say they don’t like winning, as Hugh and Finn point out!

We then asked the players what they like best about football. Some of the players also think the best thing about football in general is playing in a team, and Finn and Jack Arve added that this includes a great coach in Mark! Fred loves being a goalie, Nicky likes to get fit, while Charlotte likes when the team is scoring goals!

The players, as Jack Arve and Nicky say, have all “learned lots of new ball skills” over the last two years, and were more than able to hold their own in division 2, against

some very good teams in the district. For Cooper, his skills “have improved with kicking goals, Yeh!”, while Alex just loves football and keeps improving the more he practices and plays. Some players like Ben, Hugh and Fred have seen their tackling and attacking skills improve – as Fred says – “I think tackling; yeah, I’ve got better at tackling!”. “Even against very good players!” chips in Ben. Charlotte’s big improvement is that “I did better in goalie this time”.

All in all that’s eleven very happy and improved Bengals, each one eager for season 2009 to roll around. And their message is simple – being a Bengal and being in a football team is about playing and getting better with your friends. Its about trying your best in every position and improving lots of skills. And when they practice these all the time, the goals usually come on Saturday.

So, after two great years as the Bengals football coach, thanks Mark for all your dedication and passion, for helping the Bengals be a formidable team who play for each other and always in the spirit of the game. And roll on 2009 and whatever that has in store!

Mums and Dads of U8 Div 2 Balmain Bengals



UNDER 9 GIRLS “THE JAGUARS”

SEASON 2008

The Jaguars played 15 games for 9 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses. 35 goals for and 12 against.

It was the girls second season together. Most had not played before last year. In the first year the girls were getting used to the new boots, working out soccer rules, and needing a reminder each half about the direction of play.

This year, Coach Mark has focused on holding position and passing. The girls now understand and use the technique of “moving up the side and passing in”. With increased confidence the girls played a faster game of soccer and the goal scoring often resulted from some well placed passes. Out of many outstanding performances and improved play by the whole team, the standout was the goal scoring of Mim

Pritchard, even when she was in defence! She got 23 and only failed to score in 2 games.

Again, all parents gave great support which helped the team. Special thanks to: Laura (Miriam’s mum) for managing the team; Zoran (Isabelle’s dad) for refereeing and helping at training; the dads who threw balls to the girls at training; the goal setuperers; the car poolers and Jeannie for the coach’s coffee. A particular mention must go to the colour coded team schedule developed by Coach Mark (Tori’s dad) that not only solved the Jaguars field positions for each game but also appeared to map intergalactic space travel. A few parents pretended to understand it, most were just in awe. It really worked.

The girls are ready for, and looking forward to, the full pitch games and competition in 2009.

THE JAGUARS

JASMINE - A great defender. She also started attacks from deep in our own half.

MADELEINE - Ball skills improved significantly that were applied well in games.

COQUOHALLA - A great team player and really owned the right wing.

TORI - Shut down countless attacks with decisive defence. Great all round skills.

LARA - Never stopped trying. Scored goals, stopped goals and ran all day.

MELODY - Consolidated her play this year with her strong application to the ball.

EMMA - Jamaica’s gain is our loss. Got some key goals and we will miss her and her left foot.

MIRIAM - A real sharp shooter and very skilful with the ball.

ISABELLE - Loved the sneaky shots at goal, and was an important force in the “danger zone”.

CLAUDIA - Preferred goal keeping but really improved her field play, wicked kick!

CLEMENTINE - A great team player, tenacious, and was so fast she could outrun the ball!

ERIN - Terrific left foot, very speedy to the ball and always keen to have a go.

ZELDA - Very perceptive and some tricky goals.





OVER 35'S SEASON REPORT

WITH KEN HASTIE



2008 proved to be a record breaking season for the O/35 squad. New marks were set in the number of teams (6), players (106), finalists (3) and Grand Finalists (2). We also experienced our best ever result with both the minor premierships and grand final victory in Division 3.

The squad continues to meld a passion for the game and a competitive edge with the great enjoyment that arises from playing with great mates.

On the park we fielded two 1st Division teams and both performed admirably. The 1B's were in 4th spot for much of the season before a chronic injury list took its toll whilst the 1A's did it the other way around with early season injuries killing off their finals aspirations before a late season flurry saw them rise up the ranks.



We finished 6th and 7th in 10 team league and will surely push further up the ladder next season.

Our 3A's were competitive but found the going tough when the rescheduled matches saw them playing on Saturdays and Sundays for several weeks. They lost a few too many games by the odd goal and with luck could have been finalists.

The 4's starting with a rush and led the league for much of the season before injuries and unavailability took its toll. Clinging to 4th place saw them into finals but sadly their run finished there.

The 6's were a revelation. They didn't look likely in the early rounds but once they found their feet (and a goalscorer of note) they just kept rising. They managed to finish 3rd and then won a terrific semi final on penalties.

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Unfortunately the GF was one step too far this time around but these guys (whose average age is probably into the 50s) will be back for another crack next year.

And finally, the Champs. Our 3B's led the league all season and, despite a couple of setbacks, always looked a quality team. They grabbed the minor premierships by some distance and then sneaked into the GF in a penalty shoot out. The GF was a great game to watch. It finished 2 – 2 at full time. The Balmain lads held their nerve in extra time and snatched the winner to avoid another nail biting shoot out. A great effort from these lads under the management of Simon Chown and captaincy of Mark Mulgrew.

Another great season for the 'elder statesmen' of the club and we can assure you that there is much more to come.

DRUMMOYNE DENTAL CARE

SPRING PROMOTION FOR 1ST VISIT

Family and friends of Balmain & District football club

Adult preventative package normal price \$280 promotion \$190 includes check-up, clean, 2 dental x-rays and fluoride treatment

If covered by a dental health fund children under 12yrs will be entitled to a NO Gap Comprehensive Dental Check-up, clean and fluoride.

If you are not in a dental health fund:

- Children 4-8yrs normal price \$80 promotion \$65.00
- Children 8-12yrs normal price \$120 promotion \$95.00

Medicare Teen Plan Bulk billed for check-up, clean, 2 dental x-rays and fluoride.

To claim this promotion you must mention this advertisement at time of making appointment.

This offer is valid til 30th November 2008

Any queries please contact Jaana or Carly



JUNIOR TRAINING SQUAD

SEASON 2008

2008 has been another great year for the Junior Training Squad with on average 70 to 80 kids turning up each weekend.

It has been a pleasure to help run this programme again. The parents have been extremely enthusiastic and always ready to help out when needed.

We will be looking to improve on our training practices in 2009 by utilizing the small sided framework and moving from four sides on two ovals to eight teams on four half ovals. This will allow more time on the ball for all the kids.

We have scheduled a bbq for Sunday the 14th of September and I look forward to seeing all the kids have a sausage on a roll and receive their trophies.

I'd like to thank Fiona (Sammi's Mum) for providing the following feedback to include in this edition of ROAR.

"What a fantastic job Philip, Shane, Joanne, Simon and Michael are doing with the Junior Training Squad. My daughter Sammi started recently and is having an absolute ball. She is so excited she pesters me from when she wakes at 6am and even opted to miss a birthday party last week so she could go to football."

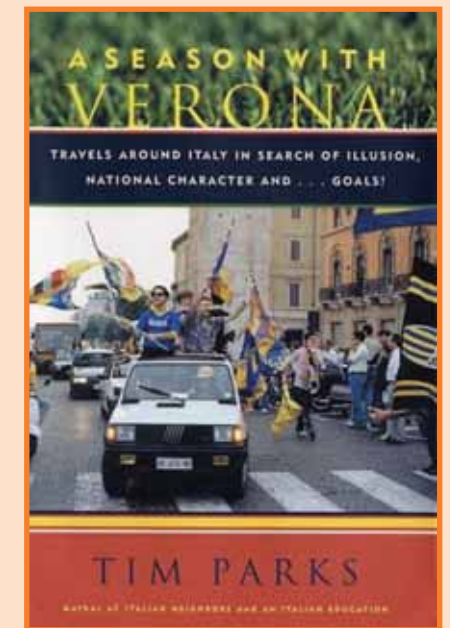
To see 70-80 odd kids and their parents turn up each Sunday morning rain hail or shine is testament to the fact that these guys are doing something right! Teaching the kids from a young age the importance of the warm up and warm down doing the various drills to establish their skills and keeping their patience when they all run around like a swarm of bees in the final game.

All I can say is thanks, thanks for your time and effort, thanks for your patience and most of all thanks for tiring her out so I can have lazy Sunday arvos!"

Fiona (Sammi's Mum)



FOOTBALL BOOK REVIEW



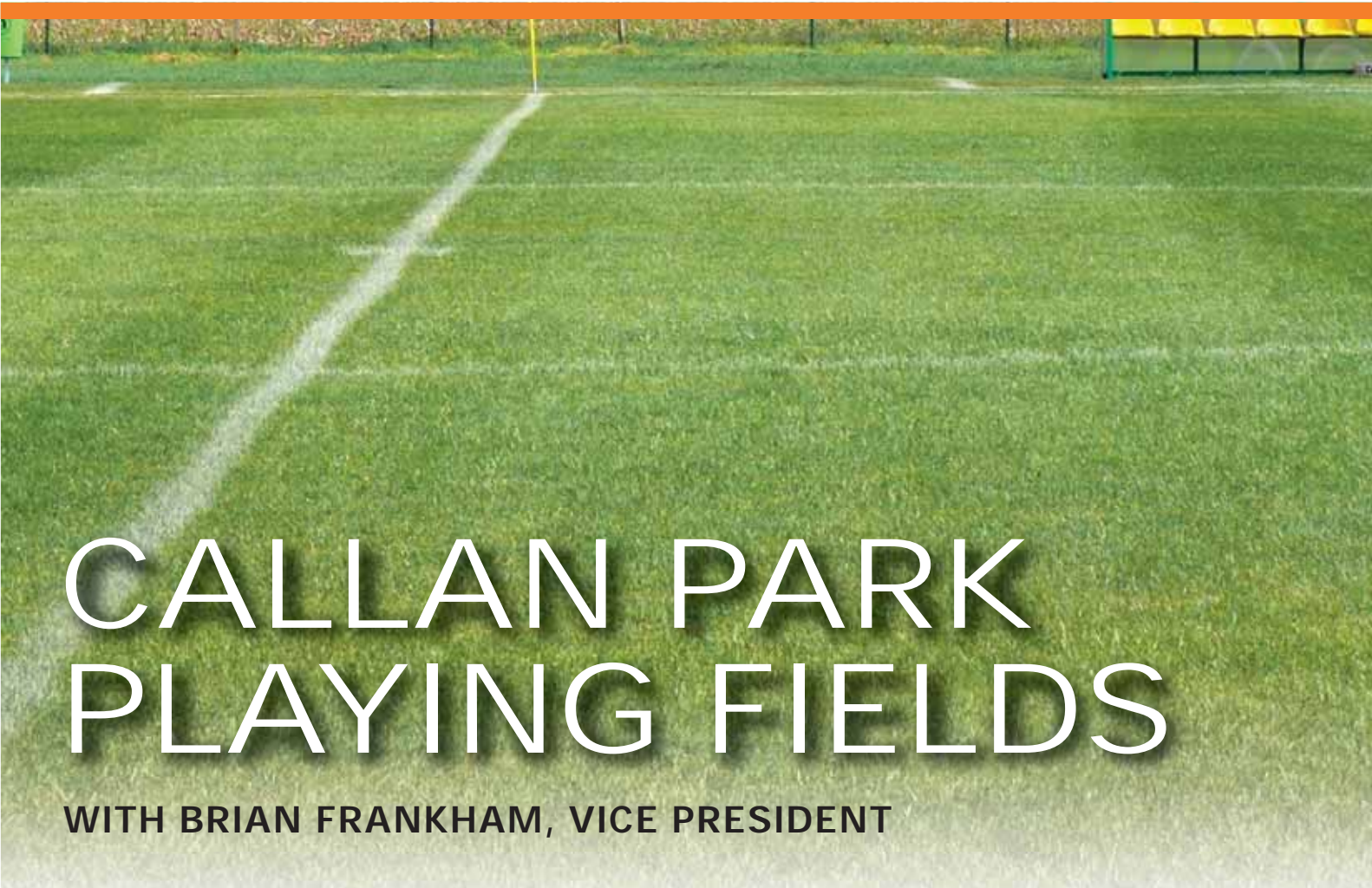
A Season with Verona

Tim Parks

For all you romantics who thought Italy was a place only of sophistication and culture this book will set the record straight. Tim Parks takes you on a journey through the real Italy, through the eyes of a football tragic. It is a journey full of humour; violence; that particular brand of jingoism unique to football (ie hate everyone else); accusations of cat eating and of the extreme despair of travelling day and night to watch your team lose.

For over 20 years Tim has lived in Italy working as a sports journalist and supporting Hellas Verona. He finally decides not only to go to the home games but also travel to the away matches. This exposes him to a whole new world of football supporting and a range of characters reminiscent of Trainspotting. This is a book that is hilarious, shocking, revealing (of the Italian character and obsession with football) and at the end quite heartwarming. When I had finished I almost supported Hellas Verona and decided to Google them to see if they had stayed up in Series A. - how sad.

Gareth Collins



CALLAN PARK PLAYING FIELDS

WITH BRIAN FRANKHAM, VICE PRESIDENT

The Balmain District Football Club was established nearly 40 years ago. Over this period we have grown to a membership of nearly 1,600 players and officials in 97 teams and a supporter base of around 3,000 when you take into account the parents of junior players.

The sport is growing so rapidly in the Balmain area that we have become the biggest club in the Canterbury competition. Sadly over the last couple of years we have had to limit new players in the U6's because we don't have enough playing fields currently available to us as 'home grounds'.

The oval in Callan Park is our only full sized home ground. It is used every Saturday and Sunday in the season from April through to September and then we pass it over to the Balmain Cricket Club for summer.

During the history of the Club there has been a harmonious relationship with the Hospital administration.

When news reached the Club that the Hospital was finally decamping and that a 'non binding' memorandum of understanding' had been reached with Sydney University for care and control of the grounds we swung into action to ensure our home ground was protected. We also saw opportunities to expand the number of grounds available to community based sports clubs if we could convince those making decisions of the dire need for new grounds in the inner city.

Basically the position we wanted as an outcome was:

- Leichhardt Council to gain care and control of all existing and proposed playing fields, and other areas, along the waterfront zone of Callan Park
- The current playing fields used by the Balmain District Football Club and the Balmain & Inner Sydney Tigers Cricket Club as home grounds be retained
- The buildings along the southern boundary of these fields should be made available as amenities/change rooms associated with these fields



- A playing field to be developed on the site that was previously occupied by the Veterans
- The field on Glover Road to be restored and returned to use by community based sporting clubs
- We believe that all these fields should be multi purpose in nature and community based sporting clubs should have priority access to them.
- Whilst we would prefer that the Balmain Road fields be vested in the care and control of the Leichhardt Council, if this is not possible we would like Council to support us in gaining access to these if there is any spare capacity.

The President, John Thomson and I, together with our counter parts in the Balmain Cricket Club started on our round of lobbying in mid – 2007. Since then we have:

- Attended many meetings of the planning group set up to develop the new land use plan for the site.
- Organised for Club members to sign individual letters in support of our position to the assessor in the Department of Planning
- Met with the Leichhardt Council Playing Fields coordinator

- Met with Leichhardt Council at open community forum meetings on the issue
- Organized a letter on behalf of ALL the community based sporting clubs in the area setting out our position
- Met with the Mayor, Caroline Allen to put our view
- Met with our Local Member, Verity Firth on a number of occasions
- Met with Frank Sartor, the Minister responsible for the development of the land use plan
- Organised a 'Candidates Forum' where all candidates for the forthcoming Council election were invited to express their position in relation to our position.
- Organised for the written response of candidates to be 'spammed' to all club members in the week leading up to the election.
- Distributed the responses to the executive of all the clubs for information of their members

It should be pointed out that we basically received support for our position from each of the stakeholders we either wrote to or had meetings with.

Lets hope it translates into more playing fields/amenities for our community down the track.



John Thomson, Brian Frankham (and Isabella) at Callan Park handing over letters to the Local Member, Verity Firth signed by Club members in support of increased playing fields.

PHILOSOPHY CORNER

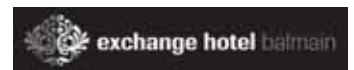
with Robbie O

1. "Power is only too happy to make football bear a diabolical responsibility for stupefying the masses"
Jean Baudrillard - french post structuralist who famously claimed the the first Gulf war did not take place and that Disney World iss more real than the rest of America.

2. "Well, I can play in the centre, on the right and occasionally on the left side"
David Beckham - English intellectual - when asked if he thought that he was a volatile player.

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In kind Sponsors are



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