



TIGER TALK

EPPING EASTWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB INC. ISSUE 11, AUGUST 2012

President's letter

Greetings and welcome to the start of Grand Finals week. Good luck to all of our teams who are taking to the field today (18th) and I hope you will get behind our boys and girls. There is an excellent preview of today's games written by Chris Salmon that should inspire us all to participate.

Well, the canteen shutter came down last Saturday, signaling the end of Season 2012. A huge thank you to the many people who assisted behind the counter and on the BBQ throughout the season. Like all clubs we can't function without your support. Thank you to our leader, Ian Smith, who has put so much into our success. The same applies to the dressing and undressing of the grounds during the season under the direction of Mark and Andrew McLaren.

Everyone's efforts are appreciated. Why do we do it? Simply, we do it for the children. Many hands make light work and you don't survive 60 years unless you get commitment and friendship. That's what we are about and you, our readers, are part of it - indeed a vital part. To those who gave so much, thank you. To those who for whatever reason couldn't, we look forward to

seeing you back next season to help shoulder the wheel. That's what makes Epping Eastwood your club - strong - happy - successful.

Our next major event is our Club Picnic and Presentation Day on Sunday September 16th at Boronia Park. All are welcome. The format will be the same as previous years starting at 10:30am with morning tea. We will have a jumping castle/slide. Presentations will be from 11:45am followed by lunch. It is a great family day and everyone is welcome and it is all free!

Well that's it for this week. Enjoy the Finals. Believe it or not, work has started on Boronia in the last few days to get it ready for Season 2013. Yes it never stops.

Don't forget your team manager will be collecting shirts in readiness to return them to stock. Make sure you give them all the help they need.

That's it till next we meet,
Go You Tiger's Go!
Ian Kendal

PS if anyone is interested in an extension table with chairs all in good condition please contact 0468 718 056

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GRAND FINALS 2012 Chris Salmon

The big day has arrived at last. After a season that threatened to be washed out and then blown away we made it through with a full round robin at the end for the first time in years. And after all that, it's time for Grand Finals. (cheer now!) This year we have eight teams making it to their Grand Final with seven of them this Saturday 18th August.

It all kicks off early with two games starting at 8:30.

Up at View Street our Under 13/3s are taking on the might of Holy Cross. After going through the regular season undefeated, Holy Cross hit a snag in the semi-final last week with our Tigers pipping them 1-0. Let's hope our good form carries into the rematch. Coach Aiden Boyce has done a great job this year heading his team of sometimes unruly, sometimes brilliant charges to a big finish.

Meanwhile, down by the canal at Morrison Bay No.2, our Under 12/4 team meets the always fearsome Kenthurst.

A lot of the players in this team are new to the Tigers this year, but their coach, long-time Tiger Maurice Doria, has made sure they all know what it means to play in the yellow & black. Both teams did well in the semis and managed to knock out premiers All Saints and now they'll both be looking for that Championship medal. The "bushpigs" are a long way from home but that won't stop their renowned crowd of noisy red and white supporters filling the sidelines to urge them on. Get down there Tigers fans and show them how to really cheer.

If you hit the snooze button one too many times but still want to catch a kickoff, 9:15 sees our Under 15/3s face up against Thornleigh Thunder at LH Ward. This match leads off a busy day for the Tigers down at Meadowbank. Irrepressible coach Peter Chapman led this all-conquering team through the regular season undefeated but hit a slight glitch in the semis. A head injury to star striker Kai Glennie left his Mum wondering just how to wash that much blood off a yellow jersey and the coach hoping that

one game lost wasn't the end of the season for everyone. Fortunately, young men heal quickly and modern washing powder can perform miracles. The team pulled it back together to win the last semi-final. It's sure to be an exciting match against the only team to beat us this year. After a frantic morning everyone can take a breather and an early lunch. The action starts again at 12:30 when two more of our teams charge out onto the park. Our youngest team on grand final day is our Under 9/5 team, coached by two young men from the U16/2 squad, Cyrus Daruwalla and David Guzowski. It's great to see these young guys putting back into the Club. Your correspondent ran into this team last Saturday just after their last semi-final, surrounded by enthusiastic parents. The news that a tight nil-all draw was enough to get them in the grand final was greeted with great excitement, cheering, jumping around, rolling in the grass and squealing. The kids were pretty excited too. Meadowbank 6, on the eastern side of the park, is the venue for our future stars to perform.

At the same time, over by the netball courts, the consistent AA/10 team, led by Michael Phin will be looking to show Glenhaven that we're Premiers for a reason. Meadowbank 10 is flat and hard, so it's going to be fast and furious and as usual some terrific football will be on display.

If all that frantic action has left you breathless, saunter down to Meadowbank 8 for a different kind of match. Definitely a bit slower, but almost as certainly more physical, our Over 35/5 team will be looking to break Glenhaven's unbeaten streak. Narrow losses in the last two brutal encounters have given our boys a sniff of victory and we're pretty sure every other team in the division would like to see Glenhaven stumble. Coach Splash (Steve Madden) is celebrating three consecutive grand final appearances with this team as they've bounced up the divisions from 9 to 7 and now 5. It's a big ask with an injury cloud over several key players, but the "old guys" are

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as determined as ever.

The final Tigers appearance of the day sees us back with some of our youngest. Down the road at Putney, on Morrison Bay No.1, our Under 10/4 team kicks off at 3:30pm. In spite of the late afternoon kick-off, coach Smacko (Josh Honig) assures us they won't need his patented super-Powerade formula to fire up (that's just for the coach). Once again it's the Red and White powerhouse of Kenthurst that stands between our Tigers and the championship medal. Undefeated this season, Kenthurst have blitzed the competition so far, with a single draw the only blemish in an otherwise perfect season. Can our Tigers steal the championship out from under their noses? A screaming sea of yellow and black on the sideline might make all the difference.

As you collapse into the couch, drained from all the excitement (and hopefully victories) you can dream ahead to Sunday 26th August when our Over 35/1 team round out the First Division Grand Final weekend at Christie Park, kicking off at 4:45pm. Peter Whiteside has become legendary at Epping-Eastwood for his coaching genius.

What tricks will he pull out of the kit bag this year to surprise the gentlemen from West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook? Once the lights come on at Christie, these guys all think they're 20 again and the football is a joy to watch.

But most important of all, Tigers Fans, all of our players need your support. Get down to the grounds, share in the excitement of the day, scream for your team and get into the Tigers spirit.

Wait... what? Where are those games again?

Saturday 18 August

Under 13/3 EEW v HCC 8.30am View St 1

Under 12/4 EEW v KEN 8.30am Morrison 2

Under 15/3 EEW v THL 9.15am LH Ward

Under 9/5 EEW v WRR 12.30pm Meadowbank 6

All Age 10 EEW v GLH 12.30pm Meadowbank 10

Over 35/5 EEW v GLHb 2.30pm Meadowbank 8

Under 10/4 EEW v KEN 3.30pm Morrison 1

Sunday 26th August 2012

Over 35/1 EEW v WPH 4.45pm Christie Park

Jumping Castles for Minis

Giant Slide for Juniors

SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Picnic Presentation Day

BORONIA PARK

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR ALL

Ice blocks, drinks, lollies, tea & coffee provided.

A family day at Boronia and all families are invited

MATCH REPORTS

28.7.2012, GLADESVILLE RAVENS VS EPPING EASTWOOD TIGERS.

The day started well for the Tigers with Reserve grade scoring an emphatic 9-0 victory over an under strength Ravens outfit. New boys Alex Au & Narian Chetty caught the eye as did more senior lads Matt Corringham & Michael Richards an excellent starter for the feast to come.

Premiers started well & were a match for the high flying Ravens who were exhibiting a professional attitude by questioning every refereeing decision. There was little pressure on either goal when an excellent cross from Timothy King was converted by Gareth Wright on 22 mins. The rest of the half was a hard fought battle with few chances created but many bruises gathered by both sides. Two yellow cards were collected by the Tigers but strangely none for the Ravens. 45 mins 0-1

The second half was played in the same hard fought way & the Tigers relatively younger players were matching their more experienced opponents in every aspect of the game. Tigers goal was coming under ever increasing pressure as the Ravens fought for the equaliser but the Tigers defence was resolute with Michael James outstanding. After 90 mins Tigers had deserved their victory but another dubious free kick for the Ravens was deflected into the net & the points were shared.

A disappointing result but all the Tigers players showed courage & discipline in the face of some refereeing which was a little controversial.

Squads. Reserve Grade -: Michael Norton, James McGoogan, Reece McLaren, Matthew Corringham, Liam Watson, Narian Chetty, Ben Charles, Mitch Fowler, Josh Honig, Monty Richards, Thomas McLaren.

Bench -: Michael Richards, Alex Au, Michael Luzar

1st Grade -: Daniel Buttrey, Simon Beer, Nick Corringham, Michael James, Alex Borbely, Tim King, Gareth Wright, Mark McLaren, Aaron Chilton, Brad Louis, Kane Swan.

Bench-: Craig Young, Tim Wakeling.

29.7.2012, EASTWOOD ST ANDREWS VS EPPING EASTWOOD TIGERS

Played in dry cold conditions both sides were playing good football but few chances were created by either side on a hard pitch with little grass. Tigers defence with Simon Beer

catching the eye giving keeper Michael Norton an easy afternoon. On 40 mins. Gareth Wright took a heavy knock & was substituted by Tim Wakeling.

45 mins 0-0

The second half saw the Tigers well on top in fact the play was contained in the opponents half for the first 20 mins but Tigers were unable to press home their advantage & slowly St Andrews got back into the game. Both sides continued to play good football with few clear cut chances for either side. As the final whistle approached it seemed that Tigers would have to settle for another draw when on 88 mins indecision in Tigers defence presented St Andrews with a gift goal. A tragic end for the Tigers who had out played their more fancied opponents for most of the game. Not the end of the world but it felt like it at 5pm on Sunday.

Final Score 1-0

MOM Michael James

28-29 JULY 2012, RAVENS I EPPING EASTWOOD I

Minus three first-team regulars, courtesy of red and yellow cards from the previous week, the Tigers produced an outstanding performance against a side which regularly features in finals football and one we have had trouble with in recent years. The Tigers led, with a first-half Gareth Wright goal, but were denied the three points by a refereeing error in the last few minutes. A free-kick, which should have been in the Tigers' favour, was inexplicably awarded the other way and Ravens scored a very fortunate equaliser.

ST ANDREWS I EPPING EASTWOOD 0

If that last strike at Peel Park was hard to stomach, it was nothing to the frustration felt at Eastwood Oval 24 hours later. With Geoff Turner and Adam Peatey returning to the team, the Tigers dominated long periods against another top-four side. But, as someone later remarked, we keep finding ways of losing games, and this time we can't blame the officials. A last-minute defensive blunder gifted the points to St Andrews, but we had enough of the ball earlier in play to have put the game out of sight. Both weekend games highlighted the Tigers' biggest weakness... the lack of a genuine goalscorer.

RESSIES: RAVENS 0 EPPING EASTWOOD 9

After conceding six at home the previous week, the Tigers rebounded in the best possible way against nine-man opponents. A two-goal first-half was followed by a seven-goal second-half blitz with Josh Honig completing his hat-trick and further strikes from Mitch Fowler (2), Monty Richards (2), Tommy McClaren and Narian Chetty.

ST ANDREWS 2 EPPING EASTWOOD 0

The nine-goal feast was quickly digested. And while finals football is still a chance the Tigers, as always, prefer to do it the hard way. Although flattered by a two-goal winning margin, St Andrews always looked more likely to score on the break. The Tigers had a lot of possession, but rarely created a clear cut opening. When they did it was apparent the goalscoring malaise isn't confined to first grade...

4.8.12, UNDER 7 YELLOW B

Saturday marked the third time this season that the two Under 7 Yellow tigers teams met this year. The A team were fired up in their bright orange "Awesomeness" vests and this gave yellow B plenty of defensive work early on. Des's drills paid off for the team as we saw plenty of great defending in front of the goal. Jay and David both made good saves right in front of the goal, as did Alex who stopped the ball with a perfect trap at one point before clearing it away. Xavier put his body on the line a couple of times to stop the ball getting through. Running with the ball was also good and both Ashton and Jay were unlucky to miss some strong long range shots at goal. Philip was tireless in chasing the ball down and was involved in good teamwork with James to get on the attack. Philip also scored what may have been the goal of the season by

splitting the defence to get a shot away from the corner and into the net on a narrow angle.

A great game that left the team completely exhausted by the end with lots of effort and looking forward to finishing our season in style next week-end.

Philippa

EEW 12/4S PATH TO THE GRAND FINAL

Despondent was the mood of the team after the first match against Kenthurst. Despite a 1-0 lead into the half time break, Kenthurst managed to get 2 long ball goals against us in the 2nd which despite many more opportunities to us in both halves left the "bushpigs" celebrating their strong arm tactics & us licking our wounds. However coach Maurice counselled the team and gave them belief they were still in with a chance despite a 2-1 loss.

4th place Redbacks was the next match & the team knew they not only had to win, but also had to score goals to have a chance at making the grand final. 3-0 was the result, but was it enough and would we be able to beat the table leaders again in the last match???

All Saints were the foes in the final match & worthy opponents they were. We managed to snatch a goal after a deflected shot put their goalie out of position which Tom pounced on with an opportunistic tap in. 1-0 at half time & the best defensive effort of the season saw us secure a win & sadly All Saints out of the finals.

For a new team this has been a great formation year & it has been great to watch the team bond & develop into a tightly knit unit.

Go 12/4's!!!

Stephen



SHE WOULD HAVE GOT LESS FOR MURDER

An impressive collection of EEW FC players and their WAGS attended the marriage of EEW super coach Garry Aghajani, to his life-love Anna Keavney. You are a brave woman Anna, so welcome not only to the Epping Eastwood family, but also to the exclusive ranks of "The Best Women in the World", which is how we like

to think of "The Women of Epping Eastwood". The photo shows the happy couple on their way back up the aisle of All Saints Hunters Hill on Friday 27 July, at the conclusion of their wedding ceremony.

Everyone at EEW wishes Anna and Garry a happy and rewarding life together... she is indeed a very brave woman!!!

John Law