



TROPHY PRESENTATION 2014



Celebrating 20 years



Friday 5th September 2014

Welcome Spiders Supporters

The Ringwood Spiders All-Abilities Sports Club committee welcomes you to our 2014 Trophy Presentation. We hope you have an enjoyable evening as you join us in celebrating yet another wonderful year: A premiership year!

Tonight is your opportunity to congratulate all participants across our football, junior development and netball programs and for us to thank everyone who has supported the club throughout the year.

From parents and carers, supporters, sponsors, councilors, local members of parliament, the Yarra Valley Old Boys, Netball Victoria and the Eastern Football League Umpires Association; you have all played a hand in the overall success of the Spiders.



Tonight is also an opportunity to celebrate a place in the club's history, as it's 20 years since we also went through a football season undefeated and won our first flag. Our second came in 2009 and we now have three. Once again the year has passed extremely quickly, and this night is always upon us before we know it. This program describes many of the year's highlights, but a couple of others worthy of mention include our Reds participation in a curtain raiser game to the EJ Whitten Legends game at Etihad Stadium, and several players participated in the FIDA North v South and National competitions. Great experiences.

Of course, none of these activities occur without people behind the scenes, and as we grow, so does the work-load. We would therefore like you to consider joining the committee for 2015. The AGM will once again be held in December, but if you would like to become involved before then, please speak to one of us.

Thanks for your support.

Ringwood Spiders Committee

Ringwood Spiders All-abilities Sports Club's Vision:

'To provide and promote active participation in community sport and social activities for people with a disability',

Ringwood Spiders All-abilities Sports Club Mission Statement:

'To provide people with a disability an opportunity to interact, participate and build social skills and leadership within the community'

Year in Review: Chairman's Report

On behalf of everyone at the Spiders, I would like to thank you for supporting the club again this year. Over recent months, I have reflected on the club, its position within the community and the outcomes we have created for people with disability. It is incredible to reflect and see the change and growth from the Ringwood Blues football club to the Ringwood Spiders All-abilities Sports Club over the past decade.

2014 has again seen the club build upon strong foundations from the past to continue to maintain first class opportunities for people with a disability in our local community. These achievements have not been possible without the support and dedication of the Spiders committee and our many sponsors, supporters, volunteers and families.

2014 started with some changes to our coaching structure for the football program with Michael Baldwin and John Kingma stepping up to lead the Blacks and Reds respectively. This also saw our football teams play in different divisions, which impacted on our resources.

It has also been a great to see our Junior Development Squad's continued growth with the support of program coach Cathy McDonald, who we thank sincerely.

The Spiders Netball program has also cemented itself as a core program. Kelly Ross assumed the main coaching role in 2014 with the support of Jess Edwards, and under their guidance the players have continued to grow and develop their skills. We thank them both.

Participation numbers across the entire club continue to grow and we can only assume the programs the club offers are serving a real gap in the local community. Again this year the support of volunteers around the club has been incredible; thank you.

With all the programs that are delivered each year the behind the scenes work load increases. That fact the club runs so smoothly and is able to continue to grow is due to the great committee the Spiders have and I would like to thank Michael and Leanne Baldwin, Sue and Gavin Ross, John and Michelle Kingma, Paul House, Frank Sullivan, Natalie Wheeler and Tom Raisbeck. Without their hard work we would not be able to deliver and achieve what we do.



Clinton Fullgrabe

2014 Highlights...

Off-Season & Pre-season

Once again, the completion of the football season is not the end of Spiders activities. Last year we kicked off with the Studio Glo fun run that included a sports memorabilia auction. It was a great day and many thanks to Jarrod and the team at Studio Glo as the proceeds raised came to us and enabled the purchase of our new polo shirts. Other activities included indoor rock climbing, our Lilydale to Warburton bike ride and a fantastic cricket day and barbeque.

Of course it wouldn't be football season without our Jumper Presentation evening and this year more than 115 people joined us at Jubilee park to celebrate the excitement and enthusiasm of being part of the Spiders; it was a great night.



Spiders Blacks - Undefeated

20 years ago, in 1994, the Ringwood Blues (as we were known back then) went through the FIDA football season undefeated; a wonderful achievement that has not since been repeated - until now that is!

The Ringwood Spiders Blacks completed the 2014 FIDA home & away football season undefeated. It hasn't been easy, as there have been some very competitive games, but the boys seem to have found a way through; a sign of maturity perhaps?

In 1994, the Blues went on to win the flag; our first, the second came in 2009, and just like 94, this year we have won our third - more on that in the following pages.

So why the success? We feel we have the right mix of players this year. Many of our younger players of several years have developed their skills, matured and gained confidence. On top of this, we gained a few new recruits at the start of the year that



quickly fitted in and complemented the established playing list. Credit also to new coach for 2014 Michael Baldwin and the Yarra Valley Old Boys who have been taking Wednesday night training sessions. Either way, it is a team effort and a well deserved result for everyone's hard work.

Football - Reds

Our Reds, while not quite achieving the success of the Blacks, have still had their successes this year. Finishing the season a very creditable fifth on the ladder - one spot off playing finals - they had their share of wins and losses. Several games went down to the wire and if a few things had gone our way, it could have been different. Spiders stalwart Adam Law, who in his 22nd season dearly wanted another flag; not to be, but he has committed to another year which must be a record. Congratulations to John Kingma in his first year as coach for a job well done.



Juniors to Seniors

The aim of our Junior Development Squad has been simple: Provide opportunities for those too young to play FIDA footy and provide a pathway for young people into our football teams. For



the first time, two such juniors: David McKeddie and Hamish Barnard made the transition and played with our Reds this year. They had both been champing at the bit to play for the Spiders, and their efforts this year have been outstanding. We congratulate them and look forward to their continued development.



Netball

Having won the 2013/14 spring competition, our Netball competition had a few hurdles to overcome this year, but we are now sure the path is set for future growth. Training each Monday moved to Vermont South Special School which has been a great success, and we thank the VSSS staff for their support. We also secured court time at Knox Regional Netball Centre for our Saturday competition with the Whitehorse Warriors. We also thank Mountain District Netball and Knox City Council for their support in helping us establish this competition. >>



...Highlights

Later in the year we will be participating in the Netball Victoria State All-abilities titles to be held at the State Netball and Hockey centre. This is a great opportunity for everyone to experience netball at a higher level and mix with other all-abilities and main-stream teams from around the State. We also hope to arrange a couple of games with Drouin who have a small competition running and, like us, are looking for ways to keep their participants interested.

We are actively pursuing new players and additional teams to join the competition which has been a slow process, but we are committed to keep chipping away.

Maroondah Youth Awards

For several years now we have conducted a leadership group program that aims to empower and teach our players to become leaders and better citizens within the community. Last year the program was expanded to include two of our netball players. Their efforts were recognised earlier in the year at the Maroondah Youth awards

where they were presented certificates at a function held at the Karralyka theatre. We are proud of the group and it is great to see them recognised.



Junior Development Squad

This initiative began several years ago to introduce children to footy that are too young to play in the FIDA competition and don't want, or are unable, to participate in a main-stream Auskick program.

As mentioned, David and Hamish are the first juniors to progress to a Spiders senior team, which

is something we are very proud of; and it looks as though they won't be the last with several likely looking types joining the junior squad this year!



Once again under the wonderful guidance of Cathy McDonald, it has been great having a few of the parents and brothers and sisters getting involved with the games, which the kids seem to really enjoy and is great fun for all involved. >>

Several of our Leadership group members have also come along and assisted Cathy in the drills and activities. We once again played a Grid game with Vermont South Special School Auskick children before a Spiders home game, which is always a fun event and one of the most crazy games of footy you'll ever see.



Yarra Valley Old Boys - Community at its Best

Last year we were invited to join in at a training session with the Yarra Valley Old Boys football club which was a memorable evening.

The relationship was bolstered this year when their leadership group undertook the role of training coaches for the Spiders, conducting each Wednesday training session.

This has been a great success, not only for our players, but the Yarra Valley boys also.

Recently we were once again guests of the club at another joint training session, where our players joined in a full session at YVOB's new home ground in East Doncaster and participated in all the drills. The encouragement and camaraderie shown to our players was inspiring and the banter was great fun.

Another highlight was the following dinner, where a trivia game saw prizes of Ross Faulkner leather footballs given to two of our players and a synthetic footy given to each other Spiders player.

A Yarra Valley Old Boys 50th anniversary jumper was also presented to Raymond Scott for his training efforts, which was all the more special as



he was just returning from a broken ankle and had missed much of the season.

It was one of those nights that make you feel pretty good about the world. The welcome and good-will towards all our players - regardless of ability - was just wonderful to see, and reflects the fantastic culture that is Yarra Valley Old Boys and we sincerely thank them for their support and look forward to a continuing relationship next year.

...Highlights

EFL Umpires

It would be remiss of us not to sincerely thank the EFL Umpires Association, once again, for their continuing support.

Most people take umpiring for granted, but the reality is that games cannot proceed without them and the umpires give their time to support us.

We are proud of the fact that our home games are the most professionally conducted in the league and this is due to the work Trevor Finch and the team of umpires provide. Games are even more special when we have boundary and goal umpires as well – something that very rarely happens elsewhere within FIDA. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the EFL umpires Association and the EFL well into the future. Thank you all.



Ringwood Redbacks Curtain Raiser - Showcasing FIDA Football

A recent highlight was participating in a Ringwood Redbacks EFL curtain Raiser game. As co-tenants of Jubilee Park, the new administration of the Redbacks are very keen to develop closer ties with the Spiders. For the second year we hosted a luncheon to further promote our message about inclusion for all-abilities in sport and recreation.



It was a great success with many EFL and Redbacks supporters, local MPs and Councillors in attendance. Following the luncheon, a combined Spiders Blacks and Reds side took to the field to play a combined Mazenod team in the 25 minute game prior to the Redbacks game. Mazenod are another FIDA team that has a similar philosophy to ours and with whom we have played some great games over the years.

The large crowd enjoyed the game as much as the players, and we hope that by participating in initiatives such as this we can continue to promote our competition and break down a few barriers.

Many thanks to everyone at the Redbacks and Mazenod for your ongoing support.

Spiders Blacks - 2014 FIDA Premiers...

The Spiders Blacks have become the 2014 FIDA Division 2 premiers as they defeated a very gallant Mazenod by 45 points in last week's Grand Final. The win tops off a fantastic year for the Spiders Blacks as they have gone through undefeated.

This is the Spiders third premiership; the first was 20 years ago in 1994 and our second came in 2009, which was also over Mazenod - but they got one back in 2012. Captained by Jordan Wynne, who has had another great year, the team got off to a good start aided by a strong breeze.



half time, but kick away to a respectable 42 point lead. In the third, a few umpiring decisions didn't seem to be going our way which led to frustrations by a couple of our players spilling over - two resultant yellow



The question then was going to be if we could hold Mazenod in the second quarter. Hold we did; the team probably played their best quarter of the year to not only restrict Mazenod to 2 points at



cards saw them benched for 10 minutes. Luckily no damage was done, but the wind was very strong and Mazenod had it in the last quarter, so the three quarter time break was put to good use to calm tempers and refocus.

...Premiers



As expected, Mazenod did come out strongly in the last, but unfortunately for them, were wasteful in front of goal - our pressure perhaps? A couple of late goals added respectability to their score-line, but as it turned out it was too little - too late.

Spiders win by 45; a job well done.

Congratulations to James Hampton for his best-on-ground performance winning the umpires' award. James' effort in the ruck this year has been superb. We have not seen one opposition player able to leap higher and his efforts to give us first use of



As previously mentioned, this has been coach Michael Baldwin's first year at the wheel, and congratulations to Michael for a job well done.



the ball have gone a long way to ensuring our success. But it's a team effort, and there were highlights all over the ground from every player. The entire team has been fantastic and all should feel proud of a great season.



Thanks also to team runners and water carriers Lachie Kingma, Jeremy Zandt and Dani Phillips; great job guys.

...Premiers



Our thanks to Logan Whitaker and the FIDA committee for another great year. It is not an easy task running a competition such as FIDA, but Logan has this year moved the competition forward in many ways and we look forward to it developing even further next year.

SCOREBOARD

Ringwood:	3.6 - 24	6.8 - 44	7.12 - 54	8.13 - 61
Mazenod:	0.1 - 1	0.2 - 2	0.2 - 2	2.4 - 16

1994 - 2014 History Repeats...

This year our Blacks went through the season undefeated, it happened once before in 1994; Frank Sullivan, who started it all shares his memories:

Long before we were known as The Spiders, Frank started what was the Ringwood Blues football club. Why Ringwood Blues? “Because we played in Carlton football jumpers”, said Frank – but more on that later.

While the principal activity of the club is to give people an opportunity to play football (and now netball, etc.), the Spiders is much more than that. There are many wonderful stories, from the way the club began, the three football premierships and recently our Netball premiership, to the opportunities the club provides its participants.

The Blues / Spiders has had an impact on, and been a part of many peoples’ lives over the years, but the best place to start is the beginning, so join us as we share our past.

In the Beginning

Late in 1991, Scott Chapman, second in charge at the Ringwood Council as it was known then, was approached by Peter Ryan from the Football Integration Development Association (FIDA) who were looking to add a team from Ringwood into their fledgling competition.

Scott had heard about Frank who was the General Manager of the Ringwood senior football club and asked him if he would be interested to run and coach the team.

Frank, who had recently retired from Australian Airlines where he had worked for 36 years, had been around football most of his life, and was heavily involved in umpiring. Scott must have been a clever operator, as he sent Lisa, a representative from Council, down to have a chat with Frank and fill him in on the details.

Frank recalls that she was, “a splitting image of Audrey Hepburn and was one of those women you just couldn’t say no to...”

So hence The Ringwood Blues were born in 1992. Frank thinks there were about eight teams in the competition at the time, including one from Mitcham.

“So early in the year we began recruiting and placed articles in the local newspaper to see what sort of interest there was”, said Frank.

“We had a good response and were able to put a team together. We won a few games in the first year and then battled on in 1993.”

...History Repeats

1994 - Our First Flag

The year Frank remembers most though was 1994.

“We improved throughout ‘93 in B division – there were two divisions at that time – and went through the 1994 season undefeated. The boys were terrific!

“The Grand final was held at Elsternwick Park and we played Maribyrnong, who wore Footscray (Western Bulldogs) colours. The game was close all day.

“The scoreboard at Elsternwick was quite large (most grounds we played on didn’t even have a scoreboard) and it also displayed a large clock. With 2 minutes to go in the last quarter we were one point up with the ball in Maribyrnong’s forward line.”

Frank was allowed to coach on the ground in Division B.

“I was standing on the wing when Andrew Kolovavic (one of our players) took off from centre half back with his elbow raised screaming that he had seen someone do something to one of his team mates and was after retribution.

“Of course with so little time left, I knew we couldn’t afford to give away a free kick and was screaming; ‘No Andy, No’!

“Luckily he didn’t make any contact with the player as the ball was in the goal square by this stage; if he had made contact he would have certainly given away a goal and probably the premiership.

“Somehow though, there was a pack and Jeremy (Jezza) Zandt was able to get the ball and run it out from our back-line, kicking it to Robert Maize on the half forward. With the last kick of the day, Robert put it through for a goal, giving us the win by 7 points and the 1994 premiership. It was a fantastic result. Everyone was so excited.”

The Mayor of Ringwood, Leo McDonald put on a reception for the team at the Karralyka centre, which again was a great experience for everyone involved.

But that was not the only highlight of 1994. An Age journalist named Larry Schwartz approached FIDA to do an article on people with a disability playing football. Frank recalls that Larry spent time with the team at training interviewing the players and he also joined them to watch a game. The result was a great article published in The Age.

“In those days, disability wasn’t accepted in the community as well as it is today and it was a big thing for everyone involved”. After the article was published, Frank received

a call from Stephen Gough, who was the CEO of Carlton football club at the time. Frank's initial response was that someone was pulling his leg. "Stephen said he had read the article about the (Ringwood) Blues. Of course we were playing in Carlton jumpers and he thought it was fantastic. So he invited the team down to Carlton to meet the players and have a bite to eat", recalls Frank vividly.



"At that time, Steven Kernighan was captain and there were other players such a David Rhys-Jones, Greg Williams, Justin Madden, etc.; great players.

"Lisa (from Council) came with us and we all watched training, our players talked to their heroes and had a great time."

State Game

Also that year, FIDA formed a State representative side that travelled to Adelaide to play South Australia. "Victoria versing South Australia, there wasn't anything bigger. Damien (Kouta) Kilner was selected from The Blues to join the Victorian side and they played at Football Park during one of the last big AFL interstate games. There were about 40,000 people and we were to play at half time."

A highlight Frank distinctly remembers was that they were in the room adjacent to Victorian side and they could look over and see the Victorian players. Of course when Victorians think of interstate football, particularly at that time, there was one person who would immediately come to mind; Ted Whitten.

"Ted came into our rooms and asked who we were and what we were going to do," said Frank. He then turned and said to the players; "G'day fellas, I'm EJ!".

Frank recalled the look on our players faces as if to say; 'who the hell is this bloke?' But EJ continued; "Look fellas you've got the big V on, so you've to get out there and stick it up those crow-eaters!"

It was a great experience for everyone involved and great memory for Frank. For the record, Stephen Kernighan kicked 7 goals for South Australian AFL side as Captain, the FIDA team lost by a couple of points and so did the senior team, but it didn't matter...

Our Sponsors

LJ Hooker Real Estate - Major Sponsor

LJ Hooker has more than 80 years experience in the real estate market and is one of the largest real estate agency



franchise systems in Australasia, with 700 franchises across Australia and New Zealand, and a growing platform in Asia. If you are in the market for a new home we encourage you to speak with the LJ Hooker team as they are the experts in real estate and offer a number of competitive services; and don't forget to tell them your part of the Spiders.

APS Printer Services - Junior Development Squad Sponsor

Doug and Kathi from APS are long-time supporters of all we do and continue as sponsors of our Junior Development Squad, which could not continue without their support.

APS printer services provide support to individuals and companies small and large with laser printer sales, service and repairs. Hopefully they can assist you; give them a call on 1300 138 066.



Bendigo Bank, East Ringwood & Heathmont - Club Sponsor

Bendigo Bank - East Ringwood and Heathmont's ongoing support with the community bus has been invaluable, as it allows the team to travel to away games as a group, which is important in team development. The East Ringwood and



Heathmont branches have returned over 1.6 million dollars to the community, which is what community banking is all about. If you're looking to open an account or take out a loan or mortgage, speak to the Bendigo staff - and let them know you're with the Spiders, as that will help us as well.

Maroondah City Council - Principal Supporter

Of course we would not be here without the support of everyone at Maroondah Council who have been with us since our inception in 1992. Council's professionalism and support for our programs is greatly appreciated. We thank the Mayor and Councillors for their support.



For further information about the Ringwood Spiders All-Abilities Sports Club:
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