

RINGWOOD SPIDERS

ALL-ABILITIES SPORTS CLUB

DEVELOPING LIVES



**END OF YEAR CELEBRATION
& TROPHY PRESENTATION**

August 2023

Welcome All, Welcome Back!

When we start planning for the new year, it feels as though it is going to be a long time before our lives return to normal at the end of the season; with a cold dark winter in between.

But in what seems the blink of an eye, here we are; another season over and celebrating all that has gone before us.

It is a good time to reflect on the COVID years. Haven't we quickly forgotten those! Two years of very little footy and socialising, let alone the work impacts.

It is a reminder that we all should be celebrating just being able to get out and about, and enjoy each other's company.

And that is what tonight is all about; celebrating the great club we are part of. Celebrating the teamwork, the friendships, the achievements, the funny moments, and celebrating just being together.

We give thanks to everyone who helps make our club great; the committee members and volunteers, the coaches

and game day helpers, our sponsors and community partners, the EFL umpires who so generously give up their time to support us, and of course the players. Thank you.

As with any organisation, it takes a lot of people to keep the club running, and they give up a lot of their time. But it is great to have so many people involved and is extremely rewarding to be a part of, that's why we keep coming back!

Also, a special mention and huge thank-you to Carolyn, Ian and Paul who have put in many hours literally slaving over a hot stove to provide an average of 38 dinners each Wednesday evening. It is a lot of work, and the quality has remained high. Thanks team.

It has also been great to welcome new coach Andy Payne, who has connected extremely well with the players.

Thanks also to Jeremy Zandt for his continued support to Andy. Jeremy was a foundation player and has been with the

Spiders (and Blues as we were originally known) for 30 years.

So please enjoy this evening, have a laugh and take a moment to appreciate being part of this wonderful group.



Year in Review; President's Report



2023 was another positive season for the Spiders and it was a pleasure to see how all the Spider players continue to develop both on and off the field. On behalf of the committee, congratulations to all players and the coaching team for their dedication and efforts throughout the 2023 season.

We had some juniors and a number of fresh players join the senior team and put in a significant effort for their first season. As always, our experienced senior players provided support and encouragement to all players, and this is what our club is all about.

This season we were delighted to introduce our new Spiders head coach Andy Payne to the team. Andy has a strong football history and background, playing for the Ringwood Redbacks. Andy has already developed an effective relationship with each player and his support team, focusing on developing the skills of each team member.

Our community approach, team spirit and family focus are the benchmark of who we are. Providing more than just football, we provide a team environment of getting together and having fun.

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'

Our Wednesday night dinners have again proved an enormous success with an average of thirty-eight meals being prepared for all the players and guests.

The 'executive catering team' produced some amazing meals; from the footy favourite Pie night to pasta dishes, roast chicken, parmas just to mention a few. And oh yes, not to forget two pizza nights; a player favourite!

Thank you also to Ian & Teena for putting on another movie night. A great turnout to watch The Flash at Boronia cinemas and eat plenty of popcorn.

During the off season we will again have some additional events to stay in touch, so stay tuned, to be advised.

And talking about food and having fun, our 'Family and Friends' day this year was a catered event and a tremendous success with approximately 120 people attending.

An enjoyable day of football with the juniors putting on a game followed by the senior game - a 1 point nail-biter.



The 'Family and Friends' day was simply to say thank you to everyone who supported us during the 2023 season.

With the opening of The Edge cricket training centre, complimented by the pavilion, we are privileged to call one of the leading sports precincts within the metropolitan region our home.

Within The Edge is also a netball practice court. This will allow our sister netball club to train at The Edge on Wednesday's and then join the Spiders for dinner.

The Spiders, along with the Redbacks and Cricket club can now boast of having a fully renovated ground, new lights, a new pavilion, and cricket training centre, with an emphasis on female friendly and a safe environment.

While The Edge was opened on the 4th of July, finishing-touches to the surrounds and parking areas are expected to be completed by September. Although work will be ongoing for several more years as more funding becomes available.





As a club within FIDA, we are one of the most well-respected teams; something of which we are proud.

We continue to play competitive sport and most importantly, we play 'In The Spirit of the Game.' But it is also about achieving something else; Respect and Bonding within the team, Friendships and having Fun.

FIDA is continuing to look forward, and at the beginning of the 2023 season appointed two new full-time employees to manage and run the FIDA competition; Mary Pozzobon as CEO and Jen Phefley as General Manager – Football Operations. Both with football and management experience behind them.

What started off as a simple footy clinic, FIDA has evolved into a fully-fledged league of its own. Starting in 1991 where athletes with an intellectual impairment could participate in playing football on equal terms.

Today, FIDA has thirty clubs within the metro and country region with approximately 820 registered players.

Both Mary and Jen, along with the full support of the FIDA Board, have put together FIDA's strategic plan for 2024-2026. The future for FIDA is looking positive.

Junior development is the heart of any club, and our Junior Squad has once again thrived with Gavin Ross and Liam Hackett continuing the program and helping to develop our next generation of Spiders now that Cathy MacDonald has retired. Seeing the juniors practicing their skills and having fun, along with their parents all participating in the training and enjoying a real 'Spider' moment of community spirit and having fun, is great to see.

It has been great to also observe some of our older juniors joining in on our Wednesday night training and dinner... continuing to build our club.

The Spiders appreciate and value our long-standing relationship with the EFLUA umpires. Their support and mentoring have allowed the Spiders to not only play to our best, but to understand what it takes to manage the flow of the game.

We have been treated and exposed to the best umpires, including current AFL umpires umpiring our home games.



No other FIDA club can boast having a full team of umpires including three in the centre, two goal and boundary. A special thank you to Trevor Finch and the EFLUA umpiring team.

A special thank you to our valuable Sponsors and Community Partners.

Their support allows us to wear our colours, travel to the games, enjoy our barbecues & Wednesday night dinners and helps subsidise other programmes and activities and more.

Sponsors: Thanks to Simultech Australia, Printer Services and LJ Hooker.

Community Partners: Thanks to Bendigo Bank - East Ringwood & Croydon, Maroondah City Council, Michael Sukkar - Federal MP for Deakin and Bunnings Ringwood.

Putting all the games, functions and events together does not just happen.

The running of the club and the behind-the-scenes efforts in putting it all together every week is due to the teamwork of a great committee and volunteers.

I would like to thank the committee: Gavin Ross, Sue Ross, Michael Baldwin, Ian Firth, Carolyn Sparkes, Terry Wynne, Sheridan and Will Hackett, Kevin Hare and Roger Barr for their hard work and valuable support.

On behalf of the committee, players, and Spiders fans, thank you to the coaching team for putting the team together and strategies for game-day. Head Coach Andy Payne, Assistant to the Coach Jeremy Zandt, Assistant Brent Dower, Team support Michael Baldwin, Bryan Smith, Liam Hackett and Will Hackett.

Special thank you to the kitchen crew Ian Firth, Carolyn Sparkes, Kevin Hare, Will Hackett for the great meals.

Special thank you also to Leanne Baldwin, Pauline Ryan, Natalie Wheeler and Diana Gibson for their hard work and support in the canteen on game day.

Finally, do not forget to support our end of year and pre-season events... keeping fit, having fun, and staying in touch.

On behalf of our committee, thank you for your support to the Spiders, your involvement is the key to our success.

Paul House, President

Football Review; Coach's Report



What an amazing year we had for the development of the football club. While we just missed out on the finals, and it was very close, we still had a very successful year on and off the field.

This year we set up some team rules for us to follow at training and during our games. These include:

- Respect the umpires
- Respect the opposition
- Encourage your team mates
- The umpire is always right

They were introduced to ensure we always played, trained and socialised in the right spirit. While winning is great fun, and we all enjoy it, it's very important that we play in a respectful manner that shows what type of people we are. And by following these team rules we all showed week after week how much we respect ourselves.

And self-respect is what the foundations of this amazing football club is built on.

Over the course of the year we were lucky enough to pick up some new players. Some joined us for training while others played, and played very well.

We'd like to say big thank you to Muan Kim (Junior), Anthony, and James (Grech) who played their first year. To Jake and Josh who joined us for training for the first time coming up from Juniors, and also welcome back Michael Parker to the playing list.

We also had a couple of retirements at the start of the season with Michael Ross and Adam Amato both hanging up their boots... for now.

Throughout the year we had great numbers attend training and come along to our magnificent Wednesday night dinners.

At training we begun learning a different way to play and how we move the ball around the ground on game day.

We learnt how to play positive, attacking football, with a focus on encouragement and direct football. We made great progress in this style of play and it gives us a great foundation to work from next year.

When we play positive, attacking football, and support each other to do it, we can be a great team. No game summed this up more than our amazing win in Ballarat at the start of the year.

In 2022 we played Ballarat three times and each time they beat us convincingly. This year we played with a different structure, focused on winning the football, and moving it forward. We didn't let umpires or the opposition disrupt our play and we saw the benefit of it.

In 2024 if we can bring this focus, continue to develop our attacking game play, and encourage each other we will be a very competitive team.



We should be very proud of what we achieved in 2023 and we should all be looking forward to 2024. I know I can't wait for pre-season training to begin.

As a playing group we have a lot of people we need to thank. Of course we have Jeremy, who is our Assistant to the Coach and game day hype man. I don't think I know anyone who can get as excited at quarter and three quarter time as Jezza!

We also have Brent to thank who came down and helped out at training and on game day. I don't think any of us will forget the night Brent took over training and came up with a crazy game of balancing that took forever to finish. Brent is now banned from taking training...

A big thank you to Lemo (Liam), Bryan, Will and Michael too for their game day help.

Will helped manage any game day injuries, while we kept Lemo, our runner (or should I say jogger), busy every game.

Bryan may just be the fastest water runner on two legs; we should probably get him to take Lemo on a pre-season of running to show him how its done.

Thank you also to Sue in her role as team manager; not an easy one keeping control of a bunch of people like our players.

We are all very lucky to play for such a well run club. From the Committee who keep everything running smoothly, to the army

of volunteers who are there at training and on game day to make sure the players have everything they need, and more. I am already looking forward to 2024.

For me personally, I have gotten far more from this club than what I have given. I take it as a real privilege to be a small part of this club and I hope you've all enjoyed me being part of your football journey.

Andy Payne, Football Coach

2023 Support Crew



Sheriden & Will



Brent & Kevin



Jeremy



Bryan



Terry



Sue



Andy



Liam (Lemo)



Mike (& Friend)

Junior Development Squad



After 10 years of coaching our Junior Development Squad, Cathy McDonald hung up her well worn whistle and the end of last year.

Gavin jumped in the deep-end to keep the Juniors going, and gratefully Liam Hackett also volunteered to help out and worked on getting his coaching accreditation.

While it can be nerve-racking and bedlam, it is good fun. Each clinic we focus on a particular skill and then finish with the now mandatory kids vs parents game. Unfortunately for the parents, they were unable to snag a win; but they try, and there's always next time!

Thanks to the continuing generous support of Doug and Kathi Barnard at Printer Services, we were able to provide each Junior with a Spiders polo shirt.

This gives the kids a sense of belonging and being part of the club, which is very important to us all.

The age range of the juniors is 5 to 14 and it is particularly pleasing to see some more of our juniors start the transition to the senior team. This year, following in the footsteps of Alex, Lochlan and Oscar have been Josh Barr and Jake Emery, as well as Lachlan James who also joined in a few Wednesday training sessions.



This is what the juniors is all about – providing a pathway that wasn't previously available for children with disabilities, and we are proud to be offering this in a safe and fun environment.

Thanks also to all the parents for joining in and making the Juniors great fun, which is what it should be all about!

Gavin Ross, Juniors Coordinator



Transition; A Parent's View

Over the years, many of our juniors have transitioned to the senior team, and this year two more began the journey. Here is Josh Barr's dad Roger's view.

Josh joined the Ringwood Spiders juniors in 2020, attending the Sunday morning clinics and a couple of social activities in the off-season.

Josh turned 14 last year and we felt he needed a bit more. So began a year transitioning to the Ringwood Spiders seniors team. This year Josh has been training on Wednesday nights with the Spiders seniors.

The seniors players have been welcoming to Josh, greeting him each time he meets them. This has given Josh the opportunity to meet all the seniors players and train with them, extending his football skills and learning how to be part of the team.

After training he has also enjoyed having a hot meal with the players and joining in the games and social activities.

Josh has looked forward to training each week as it became a special part of his week. He has also attended many of the Spiders football matches this year, cheering the Spiders on. During the quarter time breaks he's also had the opportunity to listen to the coach speak to the players about ways to improve their game.

He is well and truly excited to be part of this team next year!

Roger Barr.

Our Thanks; EFL Umpires



Umpires; we wouldn't have a game without them.

On several occasions this year we have witnessed the importance of good umpiring. Get an inexperienced or just poor umpire and a game can quickly turn sour. Get experienced and quality umpiring and the flow-on can be great games played in the right spirit.

And that is what we witnessed at each of our home games as we were once again blessed to have the support of EFL Umpires Association.



Since 2006, our home games have been the benchmark within the league and it is due to the support of the EFLUA umpires.

They donate their time and deliver the highest level of professionalism when umpiring Spiders games.

While every person that takes to the field to umpire a game is to be commended, the difference in skill that we have witnessed has been vast. But this year it went up a notch or two.

On Sunday 16th July we were privileged to have current AFL field umpire Cameron Dore umpire our last home game.

It marked a special occasion for Cam too, as he got to run the game with his father, AFL 300 game field umpire legend Gavin Dore for the first time.

We would like to thank 'umpireafl' for allowing Cam to officiate this game and we hope this can become an annual event.

Thank you to all the umpires who have volunteered their time to officiate our games this season.

Special mention to Adam Kenny, who not only officiated every home game, but did so with great honesty, humour and goodwill to both teams. Adam is testament to the benefits quality umpiring brings.

Once again this year the Spiders joined with the umpires at a training session in Croydon and stayed on for a barbecue afterward.

It is a great initiative and one our players look forward to each year. It has given our guys a great understanding and appreciation of what it takes to be an umpire.

Our sincere thanks to Trevor Finch and all the field, boundary and goal umpires that have supported us, not only this year, but for the last 18 (give or take a few due to COVID...).



Maroondah Edge

The next phase of the Jubilee park redevelopment reached another milestone this year with the opening of Maroondah Edge indoor cricket centre. The five lane Council run facility will be used by local cricket clubs and cricket Victoria for high performance training. We also benefit due to the netball half-court that Eastern All-abilities netball players will be able to use on Wednesday evenings from April to the end of June next year. This will allow them to then come and join in the Wednesday dinners, providing further social opportunities. By the time we get back to Jubilee Park next season, we hope the car parking and surrounds will be completed. Further work will continue in stages over the next few years as part of the Jubilee precinct redevelopment.

Sponsors and Community Partners; Making it Possible

Our Sponsors and Community Partners continue to provide the support and funding needed to keep the club running. Without them, we can't do what we do. Please support them whenever you can.

Simultech Australia



Simultech Australia

Ian Firth has become an integral part of the Spiders; as sponsor through his company Simultech, an active committee member, barbecue cook and kitchen chef feeding the team each week at our dinners! On behalf of all our players, a big thank you Ian and Teena from Simultech for their support.

Printer Services



printerservices

Doug and Kathi from Printer Services have been supporters of the Spiders for more than ten years, and we truly thank them.

Printer Services is able to assist individuals and companies small and large with laser printer sales, service and repairs.

Do you run a business? Are you after a laser printer for your home office? If so Printer Services is ideally positioned to be able to offer the best service, support and advice. Give them a call on 1300 138 066.

LJ Hooker Home Loans



LJ Hooker has been a sponsor since 2013 and we sincerely thank them for their wonderful support.

If you are in the market for home loan finance, 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.

Bendigo Bank, East Ringwood



The ongoing support provided by use of the Bendigo Bank community bus has been invaluable, as it allows the team to travel to away games as a group. That is important for team and friendship development.

The Bank also provides community grants, of which we have been recipients for several years now. This is what being a Community Bank means; profits are returned to the community.

The team at East Ringwood and Croydon Central are there to assist with all your financial needs, and let them know you're with the Spiders!

Michael Sukkar MP

As our local Federal Member for Parliament, Michael has been a Spiders supporter for many years and has continued his support again for another year, which we offer sincere thanks.



Maroondah City Council



Of course we would not be here without the support of everyone at Maroondah City Council who have been with us since our inception in 1992.

Paul and Gavin have worked with the teams at Council to see the clubrooms and Maroondah Edge come to fruition.

We look forward to the continuing greater Jubilee precinct redevelopment over the next few years. This will include further car park works, accessibility and lighting. Council's professionalism and support is greatly appreciated.

We are the recipient of a Council community grant which helps us offset the cost of our impressive home-ground facility. Many other community groups also receive these grants and they are the backbone of some fantastic activities and programs available within Maroondah.

We thank the Mayor, Councillors and the wonderful staff for their support.

Bunnings Ringwood



We have gradually built a rapport with Bunnings Ringwood who has provided funds for the club.

We have participated in several sausage sizzles and are on Bunnings emergency list should someone cancel. This is of great help to Bunnings to know that we may be able to help on short notice.

They also help out with raffle prizes which also help us raise funds.

Netball Update



Eastern All-abilities netball continues to develop and thrive. The regular mixed Saturday afternoon competition and Tuesday evening training is going very well at the Maroondah Nets in Heathmont.

This year we were able to get a few players down to Jubilee Park on a couple of Wednesdays to try out the new half-court at The Edge indoor training centre.

Unfortunately the lurgy was doing the rounds so not as many were able to make it as hoped, but it sets up what should be an exciting time next year when we make it a permanent fixture between April and the end of June.

This has come about due to our involvement with the development of The Edge, and the great support we have received from Maroondah Council, who are very keen to support the development of all-abilities sport in the region.

The netballers will then be able to join in our Wednesday dinners, further expanding the social development and activities for EAAN and the Spiders.

Earlier in the year we participated in the All-abilities Association Championships, where we played under Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA), as that is the association we are affiliated under at Maroondah Nets. The team put in a great effort to take out third.

Later in the year we will compete in the Netball Victoria State Titles, which will also be another great opportunity.

On behalf of the Eastern All-abilities netball committee, I would just like to say a big thank you too all our players.

For further information, speak to Sue Ross, email eaanetball@gmail.com or drop in at Maroondah Nets.

Sue Ross, Netball Coordinator

Players of 2023



Our players are central to all we do. Here we take a look at each of them in action and find out a little bit of what it means for them to be part of the Spiders, and discover their highlight of the year.

Jordan Zeniou:

Jordan commenced in 2013 and loves having fun and playing footy.

He is often found at the bottom of the pack and once he wraps an opponent up, they rarely get away. He may even have tried to tackle a point post this year...

Away from football, Jordan recently returned from the Gold Coast where he visited Movie World, Sea World and Wet & Wild.



Jordan Wynne:

Jordan commenced in 2009 and is a life member. Jordan is one of our engine room players and provides the drive between the back and forward lines.

"It's a great club and I love the team spirit", he says of the Spiders.

The highlight of Jordan's year was getting his licence and buying a new car. The only trouble has been keeping his dad out of it...





Mark Wilson:

While only being with the Spiders for two years, Mark played for many years with Bulleen-Templestowe until they folded. After a break, he has returned to footy and enjoys making new friends and the team spirit.

His highlight is simple; running out on to the ground with the team.

Lochlan Whyte:

A former Junior squad member, Lochlan has had an immediate impact since transitioning to the senior team in 2022. He enjoys making new friends and just playing footy and has been instrumental in the ruck contest.

A highlight of the year was kicking three goals against Ballarat, a team we hadn't won against until this year.



James Wheeler:

James has been with us since 2012, and although he had a break for a couple of years, he loves playing footy and having fun. He plays in the forward pocket and loves nothing more than getting the ball and kicking a goal, which was his highlight of the year. James also likes having his family at a game.



Alex Spurr:

Alex joined the Spiders in 2020 and likes the inclusiveness of the club and that he has been able to develop at your own pace.

Alex's highlight of the year was the win over Ballarat.

Jordan Smith:

Jordan is another engine room player providing drive out of the centre, a target in the forward line or providing hardness in packs and over the ball.

After commencing in 2014, Jordan had a break for a few years with a mainstream club.

We're glad he's back with us.



Oscar Payne:

Oscar made an immediate impact on the team in his first season last year, providing run and agility.

Another former Junior, Oscar loves playing with friends and the community spirit of the team.

His highlight has been kicking two goals in a game this year.



Michael Parker:

Michael joined in 2019 and after a year off has returned this year. Michael loves the great team environment and the social activities the club provides.

His highlight was returning to the club and playing footy along with joining in the dinners and social activities.

Roy McCarthy:

Roy is a Spiders life member and has been part of the club since 2009, a premiership year.

He loves the combative nature of football, but now also enjoys helping the team and mentoring the younger players.

His highlight would be to play in the finals and get another premiership, but unfortunately we just missed out.



Josh Marsalek:

Another player that had some time off, Josh initially joined in 2011 and returned last year.

He loves the family environment of the club and the fact that everyone gets along.

A highlight of the year has been Andy being the coach who Josh says, "has been a great help to me".



Terry Markoulakis:

Terry joined the Spiders in 2022 and has grown in confidence every game.

His speed and attack on the contest are at times quite scary!

Terry loves the teamwork and spirit of the team, and having fun.

His highlights are simple; winning games and celebrating with his team mates.

Alexander Lazare:

Alex is another player to come through the Juniors and joined the senior team in 2021.

He is still finding his way in the game, and loves playing with his team mates and having fun.

Winning games has been his highlight, and although he is a regular at Wednesday dinners, he particularly enjoyed Pie Night!



David Kingma:

Every team has a jokester, and we have David... He loves the team, having fun with his mates and playing in full back where his booming kick drives the ball back into play. Mateship is another of David's attributes.

While disappointed not to make finals, David is looking forward to getting ready for cricket season.



Marc King:

Marc commenced playing in 2019 and loves being part of the team. The highlight for Marc is just being able to play and train with his team mates. He loves the social activities and being with friends.

A highlight will be seeing his beloved St Kilda make the finals, and even win a flag.

Mang Muan Kim (Junior):

This has been Junior's first year, and his confidence has grown every game. Where he was unsure and timid at the start, he now takes on the contest with great speed. It has been a pleasure to witness. He has found the team friendly and good to play with. His highlight off the field was joining inter-school sport.



Jackson House:

Jackson loves being part of the Spiders and learning from the other players. Being part of the team and playing games are important, as is joining in the social activities and having fun.

Jackson has been with the club since 2013 and his highlight is getting a kick, especially when he kicks it high!



Jaren Hare:

Jaren is the longest serving player in the team, having commenced in 2001. He started before many of his team mates were born!

He likes the attitude of the team and respect we show to others.

He also loves celebrating a goal as this photo shows when he booted one home against St Albans, which was his highlight of the year.

Josh Hackett:

Josh certainly punches above his weight and just loves being part of the Spiders family and part of the team.

He joined the club in 2017 and has constantly improved and grown in confidence.

A special moment for Josh was when Roy passed him the ball and he kicked a goal.



James Grech:

James came to us this year and has previously played Reclink footy with Roy.

He just loves playing footy and has had fun being with the club.

James has enjoyed improving his fitness this year and making new mates.



Brenton Goodwin:

Brenton commenced in 2014 and while he missed a couple of years, loves playing with the Spiders.

He has constantly improved and enjoys being in amongst the action in any position on the ground.

Brenton enjoys the friendship and being with his mates and celebrating a win.

Jack Gibson:

Jack is testament to all-abilities football providing opportunities to those that otherwise would miss out.

Although he has his challenges, his heart is a big and passionate about football as anyone.

He loves kicking (and celebrating) a goal and being part of the team.



Andrew Firth:

Andy provides the run and speed between 50 metre line, as well as helping out in the ruck.

Having been with the Spiders since 2013, he loves playing footy. He said he is already looking forward to next season.

Another highlight of his year was coming fourth in his tenpin bowling league.



Shannon Finnerty:

Shannon is our reigning paper plane champion, having flown his creation the length of the club room several times.

He commenced in 2014 and keeping fit, having fun with his team mates and getting a kick are all important things he loves about being in the Spiders.

Tim Chaplin:

Tim started playing in 2011 and has had time out during that time.

Culture, community spirit and friends are important to Tim, and a highlight was winning the game against Mazenod in which he captained.

Tim also participates in Special Olympics and has won medals at the National titles.



Anthony Barlow:

This is Anthony's first year and he has certainly grown in confidence throughout the year.

He has enjoyed making new friends and found everyone nice and kind.

He also mentioned he achieved getting his chores done at home, which shows his good character.



Tom Baldwin:

Tom commenced in 2008 and is a Spiders life member.

During that time he has been a stalwart of the forward line, and an accurate kick for goal. Recently he has moved into the mid-field, and even the odd turn down back.

Tom loves taking marks, kicking goals and the friends he has made at the club.

A Tongue-in-cheek Look at Communication...

For umpires, communication is one of the keys to running a successful game. In addition to their trusty whistles and voice prompts, hand gestures feature prominently, as you can see. The thing is though, we have noticed this hand gesturing has spread throughout the club... Maybe the umpires influence has rubbed off?



...or perhaps it's something Andy introduced?



...Tom embraced it



...or could it have come from above?



...perhaps the Force is with us?



...pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, bakers man?



...maybe it's a charades game?



...looks like the opposition worked it out



...even Lena from My Plan Manager got it!



Alright, enough silliness. It was just when sorting through photos, these jumped out and deserved some comments. Hope you had a giggle...

Milestone; A Club Legend

How time flies...

It is only when looking back at records that one realises certain milestones may have come and gone. And that is the case with Jeremy Zandt.



See, this year marks 31 years that Jeremy has been with the Spiders and the Ringwood Blues, as we were originally named. That is longer than most of our current players of been alive!

Jeremy is a foundation player, starting in 1993 when the club began. He continued playing until the end of 2011 when he hung his boots up.

During that time he played in the 1994 premierships team that went through the entire season undefeated, and then 2009 for his second premierships, this time as captain. He also represented FIDA in the City (vs Country) representative team.

Jeremy spent most of his time in the back line, but there was the odd occasion he would get a turn forward.

One such time was in a game at Wonthaggi where he was moved to the forward line and had six shots on goal for a total of 6 points... That was the end of his foray forward.

But retirement didn't mean leaving the club, as he took on the role of assistant to the coach and can be seen in the coach's box on game day helping Andy now, and Michael previously.

In 2005 Jeremy was awarded the first life member of the club.

One thing Jeremy does have is passion for the team, which can get away from him at times, but always in good spirit. He is always the first to organise the players for the team song after a win, and then planning what happens next and who we need to beat to get to the finals.

We thank Jeremy for his devotion to the club and his teammates, his good humour and his passion. And our apologies for missing his 30th year last year.

