**SOUTHERN STORM GO DOWN GAMELY IN SFL COLTS GRAND FINAL**

It was SFL Grand Final day at North Hobart last Saturday, with the twilight Colt’s Grand Final between Lindisfarne and the Southern Storm the last final to be played.

In front of a good crowd who had stayed on to watch the SFL players of the future, the Storm started brightly and soon had the first goal of the Grand Final through Lukas Ford, who was playing well along with George O’Neill who was running and tackling hard and gaining numerous possessions. The Lindisfarne Two Blues then scored the next two goals to rest back the lead, before the Storm’s tall forward, Jordan Lane took a strong overhead mark and goaled to even the score half way through the quarter. Three behinds late in the term gave Lindisfarne the narrowest of leads, 15 – 14 at quarter time.

The second quarter continued in a similar vein, but the Storm were continually under pressure and their short kicking game was often letting them down, resulting in turnovers which Lindisfarne took full advantage of. Ruckman Will Polley, who had been a key player for the Storm in the previous final matches and had the early ascendancy in the ruck contests, suffered a serious mouth injury early in the second quarter, losing several teeth despite wearing a mouthguard, and he was to take no further part in the game. Lindisfarne kicked the only two goals for the quarter and at half-time had extended their lead to 14 points, but the Storm were still well in the contest.

After the long break, the Storm attacked early and Lukas Ford’s second goal narrowed the margin to eight points and it was game on. However, this only seemed to spur on the Two Blues, who kicked four goals in the next five minutes, to now lead by almost six goals. A late goal to Lindisfarne was quickly matched by a Storm goal off the boot of Luke Ashlin, who was defending well and then working hard up forward. It really had been the ‘premiership quarter’ for Lindisfarne, who now led by 33 points with a quarter to play.

With Coach ‘Fred’ Webster encouraging his Storm lads to play the game right out, the game turned slightly as the Storm began to win the contested ball and peppered the bottom goals with the next seven scoring shots, but could only register two majors, through Noah Clifford and Jordan Lane. At the half-way mark of the final quarter the Storm had narrowed the margin to 16 points and were back in the contest. However, it was not to be, as Lindisfarne soon settled, kicking the last three goals of the game to run out victors and 2018 SFL Colt Premiers by 34 points.

The Storm were understandably disappointed with the result, but to their credit had battled manfully all day but were just not able to counteract their bigger Lindisfarne opponents who kept the pressure on all game. Better players for the Storm were Luke Ashlin, Ethan Lovell, George O’Neill, Jake Munnings, Lukas Ford and Brayden Dowling. Lukas Ford and Jordan Lane each finished with two goals while Luke Ashlin and Noah Clifford were the other Storm goal scorers.

**Upcoming events**

With the football part now over for season 2018, the Club will hold its Best & Fairest Counts at the Clubrooms this coming Saturday (15th Sept) commencing at 2pm, with a BBQ provided.

Also the Club’s Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation will be held at the Carmel Hall on Saturday 20th October. For further details see our Club Facebook page or website.

**Thank you**

Finally, a huge thank you to our most generous sponsors, volunteers, members, coaches, players and supporters who have again actively supported the Cygnet Football Club this season. Without your support and encouragement our great Club would not be able to exist, so thank you to everyone involved.