**Big ‘’Haul’’ for Bazza and ‘’The Port’’**

Three words can only sum up last Saturday at Cygnet Oval – **What a Massive Day!** In front of a massive crowd the “Barry Hall Day” was an outstanding success for the Cygnet Football Club. Barry Hall was best on ground with a 7 goal haul proving he still has not lost his wonderful talent and being extremely gratuitous with his time spent the entire day and night posing for photographs, talking to supporters and at the end of the day had a quiet drink with our members late into the night. The Cygnet Football Club would like to thank all the helpers before, during and after the event who all pitched in and lent a hand. There are way too many to name but the day would not have been a success without their input. We also thank the Lindisfarne Football Club for embracing the day, and Coach Daniel Willing’s promotion of it via media. In a hard fought match that thrilled all in attendance, a hard earned win by the Two Blues in the Seniors!

 **Seniors (report thanks to Wally Synnott)**

The game started with high intensity and plenty of pressure from both teams. Early in the first quarter it was the back six of the Port under attack as the big forwards from Lindisfarne, in particular Cassidy were up and about. Nathan Duggan stood tall down back repelling many attacks.

It was not long before Barry Hall made his mark on the game taking a couple of strong marks and helping himself to a couple of goals thanks to some great ball delivery. The Port got their running game going with the help of Luke Paton, Toby Cowen, Braden Livingston and Mitch Direen.

The centre clearances were even for the quarter and both mid fields were in for an epic battle. The Two Blues dominated the inside 50’s – but luckily for the Port were unable to maximise that on the scoreboard. Goals in this quarter went to Barry Hall (2) and Luke Paton, but the Two Blues held an 8 point lead at the first break.

The second quarter started with Lindisfarne moving the ball well. They began to dominate all over the ground. The Two Blues dominated the centre clearances as well as the inside 50’s. Luckily for the Port they were wayward in front of goal, kicking 2 goals and 10 behinds for the quarter. The last half of the quarter belonged to the Port as they finally got going.

For this 10minute period the Port moved the ball well and produced a brand of game that was more than capable of matching it with the Two Blues. The Port managed 6 goals for the quarter to give them a 9 point lead going into half time. It was the young brigade of Josh Coad, Luke Ashlin and Nathan Duggan who were leading the way for the Port.

A move to the midfield for key forward and contested animal, Ben Halton paid immediate dividends. Barry Hall was on fire up forward kicking 4 goals, with crumbing goals to Jake Dance and Luke Ashlin however again the Lindisfarne side held a 9 point buffer at the long break in a great contest and anyone’s game.

After the break it was The Two Blues who came out firing in the third quarter. They looked polished and composed and their experience shone through. For the first half of the quarter the Two Blues dominated the centre clearances, the inside 50’s and the scoreboard. Toward the end of the quarter, the Port were able to manage crumbing two goals through Luke Paton and Jake Dance which would give the Port a little hope going into the last break but 8 goals in this quarter to Lindisfarne compared with 2 to the Port gave them a healthy lead of 29 points – a big ask of the young Port side. Coach Cato inspired the boy’s to pull out all stops in the final term & leave nothing in the tank.

The Port came out firing in the final quarter. Dominating the inside 50’s and winning their fair share of the centre clearances. The intensity from both sides was great. Ben Halton was the catalyst behind the resurgence winning the contested ball within the centre of the ground and applying plenty of pressure whenever the Two Blues got the ball. Reece Schuth stood tall in this quarter both in the ruck and with some strong marking around the ground.

On 21 occasions within this quarter the Port entered the forward 50 – and managed 5 goals and 3 behinds for the term. Unfortunately, the delivery into the forward 50 was not always to the quality required. In comparison the Two Blues managed 2 goals and 2 behinds – which was enough to see them over the line.

While the Port showed once again that they can match it with one of the benchmark sides in the competition, it was evident that a full four quarter performance is required to beat them.

**Congratulations Mitch Direen – 200 Games**

A big congratulations to Mitchell Direen who played his 200th senior game for the Port on Saturday. Mitch played his first senior game way back in 2004. We commend Mitch on his loyalty to the club and the example he has set for his younger teammates over the past 15 years – well done champ!

**Port Women v Huonville (report thanks to Angela Munnings)**

Last week the Port women travelled to Snug Oval to take on Huonville last Friday night .Despite chilly conditions and only a 5 day turnaround the Port were pumped to be playing under lights. From the first bounce the two teams looked to be evenly matched. Stacey Fox played a cracker of a game out rucking, running and marking her opponents despite being heavily tagged, her dominance frustrating the opposition but delighting the growing crowd of Port supporters.

The first quarter also saw Mady Eaves, Tara Slater, Serena Hubert, Sammy Kluga, Amy Sharp and Liz Kirkwood all playing well, which they continued on throughout the game. By the end of the quarter Port manage to kick a point, leaving Huonville scoreless.

Into the second quarter Port kept up their pressure with the game being played in Ports forward half 80% of the time. Isabel Sharp, Ash Munnings, Hollie Hassell, Hannah Cowmeadow  Hayley Kluga Gabrielle Burgess and Tameka Coventry all getting plenty of the ball, but were unable to convert any goals due to the opposition flooding back with The Port ending the quarter with another single point.

The third quarter saw the Port change up some positions with Jess O'Neill into the mid-field, Isabel Sharp to centre-half back and Hollie Hassell to full-forward This witnessed the ball moving from end to end very quickly putting our backline under extreme pressure. Emily Duggan at full-back played another great game assisted by Dana Van-Andel, Ella Brereton, Isabel Sharp, Brooke Griggs, Chantelle Coad and Grace Lovell. At the end of the 3rd quarter The Port 0-3-3 trialled Huonville 2-0-12.

In the last quarter Ella Brereton was assigned a tagging roll in the mid-field which made an immediate impact for Port seeing Stacey Fox kick our only goal for the game. The Port had numerous opportunities to score during the game but just fell short of getting the job done. Final scores were Port 1-4-10 to Huonville 2-3-15. After the game coach Mark told the ladies how proud he was of them all, their skills, sportsmanship and commitment to the game were admirable. Best players were Stacey Fox, Serena Hubert, Ella Brereton, Sammy Kluga, Mady Eaves and Jessica O'Neill. Today The Port ladies travel to the TCA ground to take on the Hobart Tigers along with our Colts, Reserves and Seniors team – let’s go girls!

**Southern Storm (report thanks to Will Polley)**

On the biggest day of football in the SFL calendar to date, the Southern Storm Colts took on their fierce, top of the ladder rivals, in the Lindisfarne Blues. The ground and weather conditions, despite a slight dew, could not have been better for a 10am game. The Storm were really looking to size themselves up to the undefeated Blues, in what was set out to be an uphill battle from the start, with 6 players out. The Storm took this news on the chin on Thursday night and accepted the challenge.

The first term saw an extremely even contest with the Storm really putting the pressure on early to result in a fumbling Lindisfarne side in the greasy conditions. The football was hot and everyone made their man accountable. Jacob Burnett stood tall at fullback crunching any and every pack that got in his way as well as being composed when the football was in his hands. The efforts of the Storm kept Lindisfarne to just 2 goals 2 for the first term, whilst Lindisfarne kept the Storm to just two points.

A few minor adjustments at quarter time saw the Storm go back out and regain some ground that was lost by playing solid lock down football. Reece Scotland and Murray Bastick each week have stepped up a gear, with Scotland having the ability to not only run out the entire game in the middle, but his ability to find the football in and under the pack as well as his explosive leg speed to get the ball going our way. Bastick too complimented these key attributes of Scotland, but he also was able to not only help us out in the forward line, but in the back as well. His intercept marks and tackles across the ground kept somewhat of a grasp on the game for the Storm. Unfortunately, a bit of a falling asleep period happened for the last ten minutes of the second quarter, and the Blues showed the Storm why they are undefeated, piling on 5 goals 5 whilst keeping the Storm Scoreless for the quarter.

A bit of regrouping at half time had the Storm questioning a few of the things that weren’t working and what was letting us down. The team set back out with a few little goals in mind and a few changes on the board, with Jacob Burnett switching into the midfield to see if his hard at the football mentality could get the ball going forward more. The option to change Burnett into the mid paid off immediately with the ball going our way out of the centre contest which rewarded Connor Soward with the Storm’s first goal of the game. The Storm’s forwards, who were faced with much taller opponents, had difficulty with some of the forward entries and the well drilled Blues made the Storm pay for the mistakes made, clearing the football in a fast spread attack that you would miss if you blink.

Ethan Lovell, Brayden Dowling, Harry Tolhurst and Samuel Ryan all stood exceptionally strong in the Back, taking many goal saving marks as well as plenty of spoils. Unfortunately, the highly precise kicks of Lindisfarne’s midfielders to exceptionally quick off the mark small forwards cut the exhausted Storm defenders up in patches resulting in another 5 goal quarter for Lindisfarne.

The final term saw the Storm go out determined to not give up, Burnett out of the middle and Oliver Townsend coming off the wing showed the large crowd that they weren’t giving up, using every chance they could to bust through the packs to get the ball into the hands of Scotland or Bastick to keep the play somewhat on our terms. The Storm kept surging the football forward, but unfortunately a few positioning problems for the Storm made it a struggle to get the football to continue to go our way once it left our defensive 50. The efforts of the mids and backs didn’t go totally unrewarded, with Connor Soward securing his second for the day making him the only goal scorer for the day for the Storm.  The final siren sounded which saw Lindisfarne serve the Storm their 3rd and most devastating loss to Lindisfarne for the season of 76 points. A lot was hard learnt by the Storm this week and a lot of work will be put into the young side in preparation for the next time the two arch rivals meet.

This Saturday, The Storm take on Hobart who are third on the ladder at 10 am at the TCA. A massive thank you to all that have come out early and supported us across the season, as well as a huge thanks to all of the Award Sponsors.

**Reserves**

On a huge day for the Cygnet Football Club the Cygnet Reserves were up against ladder leaders Lindisfarne. The last time these two teams met the Lindisfarne Blues ran away with a 100 point victory. The teams came out firing in front of a large, boisterous crowd, Lindisfarne pilled on 5 goals for the quarter to Cygnet’s 1.

The second quarter saw much of the same with Lindisfarne’s running game causing s lot of headaches for the Port. Lindisfarne kicked another 7 in the quarter to take a commanding lead into half-time. The Port backline was working hard all day, with Scott Blacklow having a ‘best on ground’ performance along with Jules Direen and Daniel Webster. Jake Munnings tried hard all day in the centre and up forward with Chris Stockfield tried hard from limited opportunities.

With Cygnet looking down the barrel of another 100 point blow-out, the troops rallied and although not reflected on the scoreboard the game was very entertaining and The Port bought a lot of pressure and energy to the contests. Cygnet were able to limit the Lindisfarne game plan and bring the game back to tight, contested footy. Cygnet outscored the Lindisfarne Blues in the final quarter in a much improved effort since the previous encounter.

This weekend 4 very important games at the TCA ground against Hobart teams that cannot be under-estimated. Coming off such a big weekend, The Port men and ladies will need to be switched on in all matches to get the points – good luck!!

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