**TOUGH DAY AT CLAREMONT FOR ‘THE PORT’**

The Cygnet Community Bank Football Club took the tough road trip to Abbotsfield Park last Saturday to take on the three reigning Claremont teams in what has always been a ground the Port have struggled to win on.

Nonetheless, Coach Matt Brereton again had his Under 18 Cygnet Southern Storm boys primed and ready to play. Not really knowing what to expect from the opposition, the boy’s got off to a very good start and the young Magpies only led by 3 points at the first break. The on-ballers were getting their fair share of the ball, however with the wind becoming gusty, kicking to a target often proved difficult with both sides turning the ball over. The Claremont side kicked away in the second term to hold a good 32 point half-time lead. Although the strong wind was playing havoc with both teams’ accuracy on goal, the Storm boys through great team work and slick ball movement were able remain competitive in the second half to actually out-score their slightly stronger opponents to only go down by 29 points in great way to start the day. Better players in an excellent team effort were Jack Bester who finished his great game with 3 goals, while Sean Burgess and Joe Direen were both consistent all day. Jake Munnings, Elijah Reardon and Nick Duggan rounded out a fantastic effort. Reardon, Munnings, Brereton and Dance with one goal each helped Bester keep the score-board ticking over for the side – great effort boys!

The Reserves had to make a couple of late changes with full-forward Tim Bakes succumbing to injury, however Sticks and his men were looking to pick up where they left off the previous week against New Norfolk. That’s about where it started and stopped as the Magpies showed they had no premiership hangover to shoot to a 26 point lead at quarter time whilst holding the Port scoreless. By half time, that lead had stretched to 69 points with the Port still not bothering the goal umpires. Aiming for a better second half, Stick revved up the boys, but they had no answer to Claremont’s big forward Ricky Martin who showed all his senior experience finding the goals on numerous occasions. Sticks placed additional players behind the ball to try to stem the flow, but this meant that even when the Port went forward, the ball simply came back quickly with the back-line under constant pressure. The Magpies kicked right away in the second half and recorded a big 135 point to zero win. It wasn’t as if the players did not have a ‘red hot go’; they were simply outclassed by a polished Claremont team. Better players included Tom Slevin who saw plenty of the ball in the backline, while a fit Josh Wilcox worked hard on the ball. Chris Brereton and Paddy Ford battled hard in the ruck while the evergreen Ian Coulson tried in vain to lift his team-mates. Not the result Sticks and his men were looking for, but they now just need to put this game behind them, re-group, and focus on Brighton this weekend.

The pressure was then on the Seniors after defeating New Norfolk the week before to see if their improvement was in fact genuine against a very strong Claremont out-fit. The loss of Jason Laycock to injury hurt the Port’s structure. The wind by this time was blowing a gale toward the score-board side, and this did not make for a very skill-full display for supporters of both teams. However, the first term was relatively even with the Magpies leading by 16 points. The second term was as tough as the first but the Magpies were constantly hurting the Port when they turned the ball over, and took a 33 point lead to the main break. The Port side continued to battle hard in the second half led by Brayden Hayes, but they just lacked the polish the Magpies had to finish off their hard work. In a gutsy second half the Port held on determinedly, to only go down by 67 points in what was a pretty fair effort. Considering the Port were humiliated by around 245 points at the same venue last season, you have to take the improvement and positives out of the match (which there were), and like the Reserves, refocus for a big game against Brighton this Saturday.

Better players included Brayden Hayes in arguably a best on ground performance. He had great support from Josh Doyle who really did a great job on Sean Salter while Ben Halton again showed his class around the ground. Big ‘Pud’ Darcy looks in great condition and has been great in both matches so far, while Toby Cowen continues to impress at senior level, and Will McCall as usual played with plenty of desire and courage. ‘Pud’ Darcy was a focal point with 3 goals while Brayden Hayes showed his poise and polish with 2 and Toby Cowen also chimed in with 2 along with Benny Halton. Rhys Jennings added a goal in what was a pretty encouraging effort, with Claremont not having it all their own way all day. Join us after the Brighton Senior match this Saturday for cards, food, light music and refreshments in the Clubrooms after the player awards – always a great social night and everybody welcome!

**NEW CHANGE ROOMS – OFFICIAL OPENING**

The official opening of the Club’s new change rooms will now be held at our home game against Dodges Ferry on Saturday 30 April, at 1.15pm. Come along on the 30th and check out the new facilities on what promises to be a great day of footy. Jacquie Petrusma will cut the ribbon on behalf of the Premier Will Hodgman who will be overseas at this time.

**WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?**

The Club has several membership packages available, ranging from $65 which includes a Club cap and a free drink or food to the value of $5 at each home game. Player sponsorships are also available for $120.

Also, check out our Port Cygnet Football Club Facebook page for more details or please see Marcus Synnott and get on board The Port train in 2016.

**CAMPBELL BROWN TO ATTEND PAST PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS DAY – SATURDAY 28th MAY**

The Club through the Past Players and Supporters Committee is proud to announce the highly entertaining ex-Hawk and Gold Coast Suns, Campbell Brown as guest speaker for the function. Check out the article on the Club’s Facebook page and website (cygnetfc.com.au) which out-lines Campbell’s career highlights. Do not miss Campbell’s many tales and he is sure to have the audience in raptures. Only 120 per-sold tickets are available for this event. No door sales unless cancellations. Tickets are $60.00 per person plus gate entry with the function commencing at 11.30am. The cost includes a two course meal & free refreshments till the Senior match commences. Tickets are available for purchase at the Cygnet Newsagency, otherwise, go to our website or Facebook page for organising committee contact numbers to secure your seats. Two tickets out of the first 30 sold, will have the chance to sit beside Campbell on the day!! The event is guaranteed to sell out quickly. Proceeds for the day will be placed toward floor coverings in our new player change-rooms.

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**Weekly Award Donors**: Phillip & Loretta Wilcox [Wilcox Electrical], Bill Cribbin’s BP Cygnet, Roys Bits of Old Pizza and R & D Meats

**‘’Support the Port in 2016’’**