**A ‘STORM’ HITS KERMANDIE OVAL**

On a weekend when we paid homage to all our wonderful mothers on Mothers’ Day, a great day unfolded last Saturday when the Cygnet Community Bank Football Club played its home game at Kermandie as part of its endeavour to ensure that the Southern Football League is exposed to the broader country community. This has been met with great praise from the Southern Football League Board, and is a credit to the Club, the Kermandie steering committee and Southern Storm parents and volunteers. We also thank the Hobart Football Club for making the trip further south to play on the oval for the first time in many years.

The Storm boys were pumped in the rooms and with a number of the boys from the Kermandie region, really wanted to make up for recent losses for Coach Matt Brereton, their Club and their supporters. The first term was a relatively even affair and Hobart looked like they had come to play with the Storm leading by only 9 points at the first break. The Storm certainly put their stamp of authority on the game from there-on leading by a healthy 63 points at the half time break as they completely run away from the Hobart team on the big ground. The young Hobart cubs simply had no answer to the Storm’s run and class all over the ground. With Nathan Duggan running rampage and big Joe Direen unstoppable at full-forward (9 goals), the Storm continued to pick up the pace after the long break and held Hobart to only 1 goal for each half to run away and record a very impressive 112 point victory. Better players for the Storm were Nathan Duggan who was dominant for the second week in a row, while Joe Direen with 9 majors was a real focal point that Hobart did not have an answer for. Bryce Webster played his best game this season and Brandon Lane was his busy self all day. Jackson Gordon ensured the famous Kermandie name was up and about with a dominant display. Other goal-kickers included Elijah Reardon, Jackson Gordon, Jack Bester, and Brandon Lane with 2 apiece, while Campbell Gane, Jake Dance and Sean Burges all hit the score-board with 1 each. A really impressive effort by the boys who now have a well-earned break with the bye and should be a much better team now that the players are really gelling as a team, and take some real confidence into upcoming matches – well done boys!!

The Reserves were keen to put the disappointing performances of recent weeks behind them and fancied their chances against a travelling Hobart unit. However, Hobart jumped out of the blocks and surprised the Port with their run and skill to hold a commanding 30 point lead at the first break. The Port really fought back hard in the second quarter and held the Tigers well to still be down by 31 points at the long break – but were still in the game. Sticks implored the boys for a big third term, but it was the Tigers who took the premiership quarter to kick 4 goals to the Port’s 1 to really take control of the game and lead by 51 points. The last quarter was about keeping things respectable on the score-board, and the Port were still giving everything they had, but the Tigers had superior fitness, run and class around the ground to record a good 53 point win. However, the Port did hold them well in the second half and could have easily lost by more save for the spirit and endeavour shown. Better players included Darcy Millhouse who has been a terrific pick up since transferring from Channel, while Coach ‘Sticks’ Clark and Reece Polley really tried to lead from the front all day. Sam Walter, Tommy Slevin and Paddy Wilcox rounded out an even team performance. Brad Carver with two goals was his side’s multiple goal-kicker and ever-green veteran Justin ‘’Larry’’ Jarrett on the come-back trail after many years out of the football scene showed he can still find the goals and still has that uncanny skill with 2. Luke Smith, Shane Clark and Jamie Direen all kicked 1 apiece. Keep working hard on the track boys and the wins will come after the bye!

All was then set for a great Senior contest in perfect conditions and with a good crowd in attendance. The Port suffered two major blows with the loss of Benny Halton and Grant ‘’Noodles’’ Clark at the selection table. Arguably, our best players over the last few weeks, it certainly hurt the Port’s structures, but we placed faith in those who seized their chance. A frantic and fast paced opening term was great to watch with both sides going in hard and both back-lines constantly repelling each-others forward sorties. Scores were low and tied up at the first break. The second term was virtually a repeat of the first and both sides simply could not assert their authority over the other. The crowd was getting value for money with only 5 points separating both teams at the long break. They say in footy that the third quarter is the premiership term, and in a low scoring affair where goals were hard to come by, this would prove the case for the Tigers. A six goal to four third quarter enabled them to pull away and hold a 15 point lead at the last change – but would it be enough in a tight game? The last term started well for the Port with a goal but the Tigers were able to steady under tremendous pressure, and despite the Port throwing everything but the kitchen table at them, showed some real grit and courage to go on and take the win by 17 points, in a great contest that really could have went either way.

Better players included Will Ford who was like a ‘Rock of Gibraltar’ in the back-line and Ollie Burke looked dangerous all day in the Port’s forward line. Loic Auderset is showing the faith the coaching staff are placing in him and has now become a regular senior player and Brad Watson continues to impress after a long lay-off with injury. Jacob Brereton continues his fine season and Gav Quirk did everything he could to drag the Port over the line. Ollie Burke completed a great game with 3 goals and Brad Watson, Pud Darcy and Brayden Hayes all added two apiece while Loic Auderset and Gav Quirk contributed one each. Whilst a disappointing loss, the Port head into the bye with plenty of upside, with Ben Halton, Grant Clark and Jason Laycock all ready for a return. It has been a long time since the Club has recorded 4 wins to start the season, so well done boys and use the bye to freshen up and focus on some really important upcoming games. **Please note this Saturday (14th May) will be our first bye.** Our I-Pod night that was arranged by the social committee was a tremendous success. Our functions have been outstanding over the last couple of seasons, mainly due to this committee’s hard work. Go to our Facebook page to see who won all the prizes, photos etc.

**THANK YOU**

The Club would like to thank the 25 volunteers from the Kermandie steering committee and Southern Storm who manned gates, ran the shop and bar and in doing so, also enabled our hard working volunteers a rare day off to watch the game from the side-lines. A success all round, so thank you one and all.

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

See Facebook or our website for more details.

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