**TOUGH DAY FOR ‘THE PORT’ SENIORS**

It was another tough day at the office for the ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ last Saturday, with losses in the Seniors and Reserves to the Huonville Lions, whilst the Southern Storm Colts had another good win.

The Southern Storm Colts continued on their fine form of the previous week against New Norfolk with a solid victory over their Lion opponents. The Storm built on their lead each quarter with consistent scoring of four goals in the opening two quarters to go into the half-time break with a handy six goal lead. Joe Direen was creating headaches for the Huonville backs and was ‘one-grabbing’ most of the opportunities which came his way and he scored multiple goals in each quarter to finish with a bag of nine goals for the game. Five goals by the Storm in each of the third and fourth quarters had them running out convincing winners by 90 points.

The win showed that if the boys heed their Coaches’ advice, play as instructed and apply continual pressure to their opponents, then further wins will come the Storm’s way and they will consolidate their position in the top three teams on the ladder, and give themselves a real chance come finals time.

Better players in an excellent team performance were Nathan Duggan, who was in everything, Sean Burgess (playing his 50th Club game), Joe Direen, Peter and Paddy O’Neill and Scott Blacklow. Jake Dance kicked his second bag of 3 goals in a row, while Jake Munnings also booted three goals, Brandon Lane (2) and a single to Aiden Geeves. Joe has now kicked 53 goals for the season and has extended his lead to 16 goals over his nearest rival in the SFL Colts competition.

The Cygnet Reserves were keen to do well to celebrate Jamie ‘Big Daddy’ Direen’s 350th game for the Club, a fantastic achievement. Jamie has been an important member of the Club over many years and was a key player in the Club’s three-peat of Senior Premierships in 2002-04. Since his first Colts game in 1992, Jamie has played 207 Senior games, 133 Reserve games and 10 Colts games for his beloved Port.

Unfortunately the Reserves’ topsy-turvy season continued with the boys getting off to a poor start and a scoreless first quarter which had Huonville four goals up at quarter time. After some stern words from Coach ‘Sticks’ Clark, the Cygnet boys lifted their game and were much more competitive in the second and third quarters to be down by 5 goals at three quarter time. Unfortunately a scoreless last quarter by the Port resulted in a seven goal win to Huonville and leaves Cygnet languishing outside the top five on percentage.

Better players were ‘Darcy’ Millhouse, Reece Polley (playing his 100th Club game), Jules Direen, Pat Verrell, Sammy Reinmuth and Brendon Direen. Jamie Direen kicked two goals, with singles to Bradley Carver and Reece Polley.

A massive crowd had built up to witness the Port Seniors take on their arch-rivals. Cygnet brought in Ben Halton and Grant Clark and were quietly confident of taking the game right up to their Lion opponents. After a goal for goal first quarter the Lions held a 10 point lead at quarter time, but a six goal to three goal second quarter by the visitors extended their lead to 26 points at half-time. Ben Halton was playing an excellent game up forward for the Port, and despite often being double-teamed, was hitting the scoreboard regularly. At the other end of the ground, Huonville’s Garth and Paul were troubling the Port’s defence who were under constant pressure.

The third quarter was similar to the second, with Huonville kicking another six goals to Cygnet’s two and the lead had ballooned out to 8 goals at the final break. The Port battled valiantly in the last quarter to reduce the deficit with eleven scoring shots to one, but unfortunately could only score 3 goals from these forward thrusts. The final margin was 28 points in the Lions’ favour.

Ben Halton was outstanding at full-forward with seven goals, Jason Laycock gave plenty of drive in the ruck, Rhys Jennings was in and under all day and Brayden Hayes (3 goals) was his usual lively self. One very pleasing aspect was the performance of teenagers Jackson Gordon and Toby Cowen, who both show skills and poise beyond their years and who are developing into fine, young footballers.

**HUONVILLE LIONS TAKE HOME THE COMMUNITY BANK SHIELD**

With their victory, the Huonville Lions took home the Huon Valley Community Bank Challenge Shield for the third time in four years. In the Clubrooms after the game, Huon Valley Financial Services Director, Brent Hardy presented the Shield to the winning Lions’ Coach, Tim Lamprill.

**LADIES LUNCH A GREAT SUCCESS**

The Ladies Lunch last Saturday was a great success with lots of bubbles, laughter, chatter and loads of fun. Thanks to Jayne and Brigid and their team of helpers for putting on this fun day.

**DODGES FERRY THIS WEEK**

This week we travel to Shark Park to take on Dodges Ferry who are in very good form, having won three of their past four games, including good wins against top-five teams, New Norfolk and Hobart. All three Cygnet teams will need to be ‘on song’ but there is a real opportunity to come away with three important wins for the Port.

So, get along to support the Port at Dodges Ferry this Saturday.

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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’’**