**PORT CLUB NOTES 22 July 2017**

**Port and Storm take honours over Brighton**

It was a huge and successful day for the Cygnet ‘Community Bank’ Football Club both on and off the ground last Saturday, as it hosted the Brighton Robins and welcomed over 110 attendees to its annual Past Players, Officials and Supporters Function.

***Southern Storm***

The first quarter was an even contest with Brighton taking it right up to the Storm, with both sides scoring four goals for the quarter. The Storm got their team running game going in the second quarter, doing all the attacking and adding a further four goals while restricting the Robins to one behind, and the Storm’s lead was out to 27 points at half-time.

Whatever the Brighton Coach said to his charges at the break certainly hit home as his boys kicked the first four goals of the third quarter and the margin was reduced to three points. However, the Storm lads awoke from their slumber, kicking the last three goals of the quarter to take a 23 point lead into the last quarter. It was an even last quarter as both sides found scoring hard and only scoring two goals each, which gave the Storm a final winning margin of 26 points.

Kyle Russell’s strength and attack on the ball won him many possessions, Hallam Blacklow battled well all day while Peter O’Neill provided his usual run through the midfield. Others to do well were Campbell Gane, Marcus Coulson and Jake Munnings. Well done to Bryce Webster who played his 50th Club game for the Storm and Port.

Marcus Coulson and Jacob Hayers were good targets up forward, each kicking four goals while others to hit the scoreboard were Sean Burgess (2), Hallam Blacklow, Liam O’Neill and Kyle Russell.

The Storm have cemented third position on the Colts ladder, but will need to play four full quarters of team football next week if they are to secure a win against second-placed New Norfolk.

***Port Reserves***

After somewhat indifferent form over the past few weeks, the Port Reserves were keen to make a better account of their battle against the Robins than in their previous meeting where they were soundly defeated. The Port got off to a great start with early goals but the Robins hit back with three of their own and the margin was just three points in the Port’s favour at quarter time. The Port made all the running in the second quarter with six goals, including an after the siren goal from Shane Clark, but importantly had held their opponents to one goal and the Port’s margin was 33 points at the long break.

It was even third quarter as Brighton hit back with two goals to the Port’s one goal, but with the Port’s lead only four goals with a quarter to play, the game was still up for grabs. However the Port were keen not to rest on their laurels, and with excellent team work they stacked on four goals to the Robin’s four behinds for the term to run out well-deserving winners by eight goals. This was a great way to celebrate Ben ‘Pinna’ Smith’s 100th game for the Port.

Shane Clark had an excellent game, finishing with three goals, Adam Direen was in and under the packs, Grant Clark showed his vast experience while Lucas Pel (2 goals), Jack Brett and Chase Connlley were other strong performers in a genuine team effort.

Others to hit the scoreboard were Chris Stockfeld (2), Nick Townsend (2), Micheal Darcy (2), Chase Connlley and Dwain Warn.

***Port Seniors***

The Port were missing Ben Halton and Mitch Direen for the clash with the Robins, but were keen to secure fifth spot on the ladder and celebrate Club stalwart and team man Cam Wilcox’s 250th game and Aaron Dance’s 100th game for the Port.

With Gerard Brereton winning all the taps and giving first use of the ball to his on-ballers, Rhys Jennings, Sam Dean and Andrew Palmer, who constantly drove the ball forward, the Port got off to the perfect start with six goals for the quarter, including three to live-wire Brayden Hayes, to Brighton’s two behinds to open up a 40 point lead. It was more of the same in the second term as the Port piled on another eight goals while keeping the Robins goal less for the half, to extend their lead to 88 points at the half-way mark.

The Port’s interchange bench was down to two with Brayden Hayes (hamstring) and Jackson Gordon (ankle) rested for the second half and then shortly into the third quarter Andrew Palmer (quad) and Ollie Burke (knee) left the field, leaving the Port with the bare 18 players for the remainder of the game. However, this did not deter the home team, keen to improve on their poor percentage with a big win. A six goal to one quarter, with Will Ford making the most of his move forward kicking several goals, and the Port’s lead was out to 20 goals at the final break. It was more of the same in the final quarter, with Josh Halton adding two goals to his tally, and the Port extending their final winning margin to a massive 140 points.

Rhys Jennings and Sam Dean consistently won the hard ball and with Gerard Brereton clearly winning the ruck taps, the on-ballers got the Port’s running game going. 100th gamer, Aaron Dance, continues to improve as does Joe Direen who took several strong marks and finished with 3 goals, while Paddy O’Neill was strong off half back, in what was an excellent team performance by the Port.

With the Port sharing the goals among 12 players, major goal scorers were Will Ford (5), Joe Direen (3), Josh Halton (3), Brayden Hayes (3), Jake Dance (2) and Ben Cato (2).

***Next week***

This Saturday the Port will host ladder-leaders New Norfolk, who are undefeated in both the Senior and Reserve competitions, while the third-placed Storm will take on the second-placed Eagles in their match.

There are no SFL Womens games this weekend, with the Port Womens’ next game against the South East Suns at Dodges Ferry on Sunday week (6th August).

***Live Music (29th July)***

Don’t forget that well-known local band ‘Odyssey’ will be playing live in the Clubrooms @ 8.30 to 11.30pm after the New Norfolk game this Saturday night. Get along for a great night of music and help celebrate Emily Direen’s 21st and Shane ‘Sticks’ Clark’s 30th birthdays.

GO THE PORT!!!