**Good Day for ‘’The ‘’ Port at Sorell**

The Cygnet Football Club ventured to Pembroke Park in Sorell last Saturday for their first away game of the season. They were facing the hard task of tackling the vastly improved Sorell team coached by footy legend ‘’Jock” McGregor in excellent football conditions.

**Southern Storm**

The Southern Storm boys knew they would face a stiffer test than their big win over Claremont in Round 1 as Sorell has had a lot of success over recent years at this level. With some more new faces and after losing a couple of boys to senior duties, and under new coaches Freddy Webster and Paddy O’Neill the boys soon adapted to the conditions and got their running game going and held a comfortable half time lead of 24 points. With Luke Ashlin, Captain Josh Coad and Brayden Dowling leading the way the Storm boys piled on another 4 goals to one in the third term, and heading toward a comfortable win. However, credit to the young Sorell outfit as they really fought the game out to finally go down to the Storm boys by 26 points in a great team victory. Best players for the Storm included Luke Ashlin and Josh Coad. Brayden Dowling, Jake Munnings, Scotty Blacklow and Will Polley all showed their huge potential as this young side grows in confidence. Major goal-kickers included Phil Bastick who has become a real focal point with 4, and Jake Munnings with 2 capped off a great game. A great start to the season but some big games coming up over coming weeks – keep up the great work boys!!

**Reserves**

The Reserves were again short on numbers and required some veterans to suit up along with a few Storm boys to make up a full team. They showed plenty of enthusiasm and endeavour in the first quarter taking right up to the Eagles, however a younger Sorell unit had managed to kick away slightly at the long break. The Port had fine contributors in Captain Dallas Millhouse who kept on rallying his troops all day while Jack Brett, Elliott Ross and veteran Grant Clark were busy around the ball all day. As the game wore on the Eagles fitness began to tell and the Port struggled to keep up and the Eagles finally ran out strong winners by 47 points. Whilst disappointing, a much-improved effort from Round 1, so get on the track boys and let’s get a few wins on the board. Better Players included Dallas Millhouse who led superably all day while Jack Brett and Grant Clark were hard at the footy for the Port. Veteran Shane Clark and Scotty Blacklow in his second game of the day were excellent contributors. Major goal-kickers were Daniel Webster and Chris Stockfield with 2 each. A real need to get better numbers on the track to give our long serving players who should be watching from the side-lines a rest – however, great effort boys!

**Seniors**

The prospect of facing Sorell without star forward Ben Halton, Assistant coach Andrew Palmer, Matt Turnbull and Jackson Gordon seemed a tough ask given the Port had 7 very young players with an average team age of 20. George O’Neill and James Zietzen were both called up from the Colt’s to play in their first senior games for the Club with Jack Bester playing only his second. Both George and James acquitted themselves really well. The beauty of bringing young kids into any side is that they play without fear and their young legs can be crucial. Coach Cato took his youthful side into battle and the Eagles soon proved they may be in for a ‘baptism of fire’ piling on the first four goals of the match to leave the Port a bit shell-shocked. The Port kept their nerve and hit back to record three majors themselves to only trail by 1 point at the 1st break. In the second term the Port with Jack Brereton rucking well and Elijah Reardon looking extremely dangerous around goal, the Port really started to gel as a team and kept pace with the fleet-footed Eagles to edge ahead by to lead by 13 points at the long break. After some calm words from Coach Cato the Port needed a game-breaker in the 3rd term. Toby Cowen put his hand up to be that person and along with big Joe Direen, and Elijah Reardon put the Sorell team to the sword with Toby kicking 3 goals to provide the Port team what appeared to be a match-winning 32 point lead at three quarter time. However, any person who knows a team coached by Jock McGregor knows he would encourage to take it on a challenge and run over the young Cygnet team. That appeared to be on the cards when after a flurry of goals the Eagles grew within 5 points of the Port and looked like pulling off a fantastic come-back win. Some injuries threw the Ports structure to a degree, but with Coach Ben Cato who was fantastic all day providing direction the Port managed to steady the ship and snuff out the Eagles hopes with two goals to record a great 19 point win away from home, in a great contest for supporters of both teams. Better players included Toby Cowen whose outside pace and run really hurt Sorell along with his 4 goals. Elijah Reardon took from all reports the ‘mark of the year’ in the goal-square capped off by one of his 6 goals which could have been more as he missed 3. Big forward Joe Direen did his grand-mother Josie proud who passed away during the week with 5 great goals and young Jake Dance chimed in with 2. This week we face our old foes Huonville at Cygnet Oval in what should draw a massive crowd. The Lions are coming off a massive win over an under-manned Brighton, so it should be a much more even contest. The Port will hopefully regain some key players from injury, but the selection committee certainly have some tough decisions to make given the performance of the eligible Colts and youngsters who stood up and ensured victory against Sorell. Get along to Cygnet Oval Saturday to witness what should be three fantastic contests in what is always a great day at the footy!

On Sunday our Port Women travel to Sandy Bay to play University with the game scheduled to start at 12 noon.

**Ladies Football**

The Port travelled to Hobart to play the North Hobart Demons at Newtown bike track on a damp field but fine for the first half. With near a full squad, The Port were keen to start the match. Serena Hubert played a cracking game and just seemed to be everywhere, with good hands and kicking. Annaliese Dance, new to the side, showed us what she can bring to the team with a great day on the field along with Taylah Dillon, Tia Duggan and Sammy Kluga. April Pottinger kicked our goal in the third quarter which lifted the team’s spirits. Everyone tried hard and there was some good improvement but Hobart was just too good for the Port in the end showing the talent of some very experienced players. It was a good game and The Port get another step closer in learning the game and all the girls settling into positions and working together – well done on a great effort!

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