Cygnet Football Club were home to the Claremont Football Club this week at Cygnet Oval, with three games being held, Womens, Reserves and Seniors. The u19 Storm side had a bye this week and along with the Port Women will be travelling to New Norfolk next week and the Reserves will be travelling to Pontville to take on Brighton. Our senior side will have a two weeks break before the huge game against Lindisfarne featuring  Barry Hall.  A mountain of planning is going into this day which will be a highlight of the SFL roster. Mark 27th July in the calendar at the Cygnet Oval, followed by a spit roast dinner and the Sportsman Night beginning at 7.30pm.

Cygnet Seniors

For what was to be a must win game for the Cygnet Football Club, there were four changes from the previous weeks’ game. Out went Mitch Direen and Adam Duggan due to injury and Joe Direen and Campbell Gane were unavailable. In came Elliott Ross and Luke Paton back from injury, Jack Brereton who had performed well in the Reserves last week and young gun Murray Bastick up from the colts for his first senior game (as a 16-year-old) after some great, consistent form.

Once again ruckman Reece Schuth started well and his on-ball brigade won the majority of the centre clearances in the opening quarter.

The disposal from Cygnet was great as was the intensity all around the ground. The intent on the ball was exemplified in the early stages of the first quarter when Jackson Gordon put his body on the line for the team in a heavy collision at half back. This seemed to lift his team around him.  Up forward Ben Halton was proving a handful for the Claremont defenders His contested marking a feature of the quarter. Rhys Jennings and Toby Cowen started well, winning plenty of the contested ball and giving the Cygnet forwards plenty of opportunities. Luke Ashlin continues to impress with plenty of composure under pressure as well as doing all the little things to give his team the advantage.  Goals in this quarter went to Ben Halton (4), Toby Cowen and Braden Livingston.  Cygnet 6.6.42 Vs Claremont 2.2.14

Once again, Cygnet started well in the second quarter winning both the centre clearances and the inside 50’s. Disposal again was great and we were able to move the ball quickly and efficiently giving our forwards the first opportunity.    Up forward Ben Halton and James Zeitzen capitalised taking many contested marks At their feet Luke Ashlin put himself in all the right places.  Three goals to Luke Ashlin and three to Ben Halton in this quarter. With seven goals in the first half – it was shaping up to be a big day for key forward Ben Halton. Coach Ben Cato was happy with his teams’ efforts in the first half but he pleaded that they were not to get complacent in the second half. Kane Nielsen left the ground with a shoulder injury late in the second quarter and did not return to the game. Cygnet 12.11.83 Vs Claremont 6.4.40

The third quarter belonged to Cygnet who piled on another six goals compared to a solitary point from the Pies. Ben Halton continued the domination up forward kicking another four goals for the quarter. Between Halton and his young protégé James Zeitzen, Cygnet were unbeatable up forward in the air and on the ground. Zeitzen assisting with two goals of his own for the quarter. Around the ground Josh Coad showed his class winning plenty of ball. Again, Reece Schuth was brilliant – not just in the ruck contests but also getting plenty of the ball around the ground. The Port dominated the centre clearances as well as the inside 50’s within this quarter – with Toby Cowen, Andrew Palmer and Rhys Jennings racking up the possessions Cygnet 18.17.125 Vs Claremont 6.5.41  Cygnet finished the game the same way they started. Another quarter dominated by Ben Halton – with another three goals to the tally. A satisfying solid four quarter effort from the Port with the only downside being some of the wayward kicking in front of goal. We are very lucky to have such talented young men coming up through the ranks. The speed, composure and class that these guys bring into the side is a tribute to the junior ranks. Better players for the Port were Ben Halton and James Zeitzen up forward and Reece Schuth, Toby Cowen, Andrew Palmer and Josh Coad within the midfield.   Goals for the Port came from Ben Halton (14), Luke Ashlin (3), James Zeitzen (2), Toby Cowen and Braden Livingston.

Cygnet 21.24.150 def Claremont 8.9.57

Goal Kickers: B. Halton 14, L. Ashlin 3, J. Zeitzen 2, T. Cowen, B. Livingston
Best Players: B. Halton, T. Cowen, R. Schuth, J. Coad, A. Palmer, J. Zeitzen

 Reserves

The Cygnet Reserves team have been playing some competitive football over the past few weeks but a lack of composure in the final minutes have cost the team. This week they had another chance to break through for their first win of the season, against Claremont who were just a couple of places higher on the ladder.

Cygnet jumped out of the blocks kicking 3.1 to 2 to take a lead at the end of the first quarter. Cygnet were playing hard football and look up and ready for a big game. A couple of u19 players stepped up to play this week along with the return of a couple of experienced players. The backline was again unbreakable in defence. Time and again the Claremont attacks were intercepted by Jules Direen and Daniel Webster. Joel Davey in the ruck was getting great first use to Patty Verrell and the other centre group.

At halftime Cygnet held a 19 point lead and the belief around the ground from the supporters was building. As expected Claremont came out hard in the third quarter. From their limited shots at goal Claremont put on 2.1 to Cygnet’s 1.2, setting up a huge final quarter. Cygnet became a little rattled in the final quarter with the opportunity to register their first win seeming to bring out some unfortunate turnovers. The ball bounced between each end throughout the quarter with neither side able to put any scoring pressure on. The defensive side of the Cygnet game was fantastic, with a lot of pressure applied to each possession from Claremont and through this extended effort Cygnet was able to register its first win of the season.

Cygnet 7.5.47 def Claremont 5.3.33

Goal Kickers: P. Verrell 2, D. Fahey, J. Davey, I. Coulson, T. Slevin, J. Munnings
Best Players: J. Davey, Jules Direen, D. Webster, T. Hayers, P. Verrell, Jacob Direen

Women

This week the Port women had an early start on the Cygnet Oval, playing the in form Claremont. With injuries and work commitments the team were down in numbers, playing with just 16 players and without a bench. The ground was in great condition although extremely slippery. From the first bounce Claremont used their size to muscle their way to the ball first, they scored their first goal within the first minute and a half. Claremont congested the mid-field early, making it difficult for our players to clear the ball out. Our back-liners were kept busy for the entirety of the game, Taylah Dillion, Amy Sharp ,Isabel Sharp, Tara Salter and Chantelle Coad all defending well .By the end of the first quarter Claremont had kicked 3 goals, 1 point to Ports' 1 point.

The second quarter saw a change in positions, Emily Duggan was moved into the backline, she was once again impressive, saving multiple goals and frustrating her opponents.Dana Van Andel after rucking well , against a much bigger opponent , was moved into the backline. This saw Stacey Fox rucking solidly for the rest of the game.The ladies put pressure on their hard hitting opponents keeping them to 1 goal 1point for the quarter, while we only managed 1 point despite the forward line seeing a bit of action.

After half time the determined Port women continued to work hard in the mid-field, led by Sammy and Hayley Kluga, with their tireless run and team work with Serena Hubert and Tara Slater. Despite a good team effort by the end of the third quarter Claremont had added a further 3 goals 2 to their score, while Port had only managed another point. The last quarter saw Liz Kirkwood move into the centre, where her speed and skills proved valuable getting the ball forward to Kirra Skabo and Mady Eaves who both has solid games, battling much bigger opponents all day.By the final siren Claremont had run out winners scoring 10 goals 4 points to Ports 4points. In the rooms after the match coach Mark told the ladies how proud he was of them all, and the scoreboard did not reflect how well they had played. Best players were Isabel Sharp, Stacey Fox, Hayley Kluga, Liz Kirkwood, Emily Duggan and Taylah Dillion. Next week the Port women travel to Boyer Oval, to take on New Norfolk for the second time in three weeks.