

Match Reports for R4



Photo courtesy of Anne-Marie Cupples

MPL v Waverley

The Southern men went down 3-2 for the 3rd time in a month when they couldn't quite get over the line against a determined and hardworking Waverley side.

The men's side continue to show their improvement from last year but are not quite doing enough to get over the line and register the points. The group has talked about staying together as a tight unit and striving for improvement at each training and match and the results will come in what is looking like the most hotly contested Premiere League in recent years.

The Waverley match started OK with both teams registering early chances which neither team capitalised on. After the first 10 minutes Waverley started to get on top and some poor tackling in the circle lead to a stroke being awarded which they converted. Waverley continued their dominance and registered a another goal to go 2-0 up before young gun Josh Mulder pegged one back for the home team after looking dangerous all game. At 2-1 down Southern started to gain some ascendancy and were looking dangerous before Mulder was bumped and suffered a broken collar bone. It remained 2-1 going into half time.

In the 2nd half Southern started to get more of the ball and were starting to look dangerous using an overlapping Joey Kenny. For the second week running they weren't clinical enough in the attacking circle and numerous 'would be' goals were missed.

Waverley went 3-1 up with a well worked corner variation with 17 minutes to go and it seemed to trigger a reaction in the Southern boys. With a bit more energy and changed structure they started to heap pressure on the Waverley defence and pegged a goal back with 7 minutes to go when Matt L'Huillier scored a trademark drag flick past Vikings keeper Tom Scott.

The boys threw everything at the Waverley defence in the last few minutes but again couldn't quite get the important equaliser.

Stand out performers were: Ed Arnold, Matt L'Huillier and Joey Kenny, Josh Mulder.

Al Hart was also impressive on debut.

MPA v Footscray

On a chilly Melbourne Sunday afternoon the men's Pen A team arrived at Farm Road with one point from the first 3 games (they had played 3 off the tops sides from 2014). Not the best start to the year, but so far had kept the home ground as a advantage being yet to let a goal in at home. Just from watching the warm ups you could see a hungry southern side, pumped and primed compared to a young Footscray side that looked cold and scared. From the first touch all the United boys pushed hard, pressing up throughout the ground to get in front and get the first touch. This made it very hard for the dogs to find a way out. The first 15 was all southern but not being able to put the ball in the back of the net with all the pressure was a problem as the 14 yr mullets from Footscray started to get more of the ball. Some strong defence from the ever growing back line and some brilliant movement of the ball through the middle of the ground, southern were able to take control once more. The Sleeth brothers making a return to the ground where they made there name was a handy inclusion as they slipped nicely into the structures and help with the movement of the ball to Nat dog backflip who ripped around to his back stick to put a ripper of a toma into the back of the net. At 1-0 up southern lifted the tempo and pressed even more. Some cutting balls through the middle of the ground involving the inner's and half's and some great movement from the forward line saw the score line quickly become 3-0. Which included a cheeky first goal of the season from Bahramis and a strong hit across the keeper from Chris. Holding control of the game going into half time southern were unlucky to give away a PC that saw a dogs drag flick go between the SU post player and keeper. Very unlucky. After some delightfully sweet oranges, snakes and water. Plus a stern speech from the coach the boys headed out for the second half. The first 20 min of the second half was scrappy with neither team able to take control. A few structural changes from new assistant coach Hayden led to a brilliant finish from Adam on his reverse to put the boys up 4-1 and saw a return of the pressure from the first half. Many more chances were created up to the end of the game but a mix of good keeping and southern players trying out their soccer skills saw the score stay at 4-1. The boys coming from the ground pumped, pumping out the song for the first time this year. No one singing louder than Flacky who was more pumped to get through a game without getting sent off.

MPC v Camberwell

This week the Pennant C team went out to Camberwell where they had a tough match against the top of the ladder team. The boys stayed strong against a much more mature and experienced Camberwell side and unfortunately the Pennant C boys went down 4-0. The boys showed great courage and strength and it was an inspiring effort from the whole team. There was one standout performance and that was the overly aggressive goal keeping skills of Chris Abaniel who redefined the art of keeping from the top of the circle. Overall the team showed great determination and can hopefully stay together throughout the year!

MPD v Essendon

Essendon at Essendon, never a fun place to play however we took a very young team to the match with only Richard Thomson and myself representing the "Wise old owls" section of the club.

Few players stood out more on the day than **Alisdair Stretch** after bagging a lazy 4 having been given a license to roam free in the forward line and strike at every chance. He was well supported by **Jarrold Way** who also scored a good goal mid game.

We played a system that only had 3 high forwards and a solid midfield and this resulted in quick transitional play when we applied pressure to the equally young Essendon team that struggled to complete any attacking moves in the first half. The young men of the PD team embraced the game style, with the **Callum Thompson** (Captain) controlling the centre well which allowed everyone to contribute evenly for first 45 minutes. At this point of the game we comfortably had victory to ourselves with a 5-1 lead.

HOWEVER.....true to our current form, we allowed our structure in defense to fall apart for 15 minutes and the Essendon team put 3 quick goals in, making the final few minutes all about holding on.

And that we did.....5-4 away.

This young group cannot think the game is 45 minutes long, and they must get fitter in both mind and body if they want to play finals hockey. Its time we got behind the plans of the coach and captain and play them out for a full 60 minutes. Most of this will be achieved via a strong training attitude. See you all there on Wednesday !

A quick mention to the Erbacher boys.....all 3 in the one team + dad....."SPECIAL"

Coach.

MPF v Camberwell

"F troop had the mother's day game away at the Koonung College swimming pool. Rain abated shortly after push off so at least half the field was puddle free by half time. Camberwell caught us on the hop with long overheads in the first half and should have been four in front by half time (how they rounded Roger so many times and did not put the ball in the net I do not know). Team talk at half time worked, full backs played deeper picking off the overheads; ball retention by the younger brigade (Felix and Lachy) and rebounding from Shane put us down the right (the puddle free side) with James (Killer) slapping away a cross. Pressure mounted and a short corner converted by Chris Abaniel (who didn't see the ball coming) on the left post (low as usual with stick on the ground making all the difference after his misdirected push out put the runners off). Umpires did their best to confuse the players (thanks Louis) and Camberwell pressed for a winner but could not find a way passed Roger who was a wall in the second half. Thanks to the 5 fill ins (Riggysy, Shane, Binksy, Killer & El Presidente).

Mike's best: Shane Fisher, Felix Harvey, Roger Arnold."

