

R6 MPL V Greensborough



Photo courtesy of Anne-Marie Cupples

The Premiere League guys knew they were up against it when taking on 2014 champions Greensborough on Saturday. Greensborough had no fewer than five athletes that have represented either the Kookaburras or Australia A and three others that have played at AHL level. Add to that, the fact that Southern have never beaten Greensborough at the top level and the writing was on the wall.

However, Southern are a different team this year and although they had registered only one win going into the match they had been playing well without getting results and they knew they had every chance of upsetting the highly regarded Greensborough team.

The match started at a frantic pace and Southern got three good early chances that were either saved or put wide. About half way through the first half Southern earned their first penalty corner of the match and Matt L'Huillier made no mistake putting it high and wide of the keeper who didn't even see the ball. A few minutes later L'Huillier made it 2-0 with another rocket and Southern were well and truly on top.

Going into half time 2-0 the guys knew the job was only half done and they would have to dig deep and keep doing the things that were working. Knowing what they had to do and doing proved difficult. Greensborough scored 3 minutes after the break through Victorian Vikings striker Gordon Zull and gave United the worst start to the half possible.

Greensborough managed to even the game up with 10 minutes to go and this spurred the Southern boys on who pushed forward, controlled possession and started to get back the run of the play.

With only five minutes to go, young guns Brad Marais and Nathan Ephraums combined well to earn a corner and everyone was waiting with anticipation and hoping L'Huillier would score his third. The corner was mistrapped and the chance wasted. However only a couple of minutes later the flying Dutchman Rens Vernij found himself deep in the attacking circle from right defender and swept home the winner from close range to give United the points.

Top performers:

Matt L'Huillier, Rens Vernij, Joey Kenny, Michael Pearce, Todd McHardy and Nathan Ephraums



Photo courtesy of Anne-Marie Cupples

On blissful Saturday afternoon at prime time was the men's Pennant A. With a club cult figure Bobby Magic returning to the old Farm Rd. Early in the game a short corner was awarded and Jono smoked a drag flick that sizzled into the net, leaving the Southern faithful on their feet early. Then Bobby Magic jumped into 3rd gear and running to beat the goalie to the ball, then taking a raised ball to the body. Then yet again the sizzling flicker Jono slamming one into the back board which left the Altona goalie's ears ringing. With a 2-1 lead at half time and the mastermind behind the team Jono Boyd giving us some inspiring words for us to win the second half. As the 2nd half begun the crowd was building to see a Southern win or to see a memorable moment with S.Flack not getting a card. Half way through the 2nd half cult figure Bobby bought the Magic and drew a defender and a worried goalie towards him then quickly dishing it off to his "bro" Nathan backflip Shannahan who nicely slotted one with Bobby running up with both arms open and sharing celebrations. With the score 3-1, the Crowd was in amazement to think Flack may go a whole game without receiving a card. But then Flacky thought he was a lumberjack and decided to rearrange the opposing players stick. Whistle blown... Flacky was shaking in his boots, with fines master Hayden popping his head out of the shadows of the dug out... A yellow card was awarded. Flacky shattered claiming after the game that it was kryptonite to him. The boys finished of with a 3-2 win with Altona getting a late goal.

Will Flacky survive one game without being carded? Watch this space.

Chris Silvers

MPD v Greensborough

Its hard to believe, but the same team that represented us in the PD a week earlier (and soundly defeated by the bottom team "Mornington" 4-1) at home.....was the able to come together late Saturday afternoon and play the house down in one of the better victories I have been involved in. It's difficult enough to turn around "bad form", but to do it at the Greensborough on a Saturday night is simply that much harder. The SUHC team made a conscious effort to stick to a "team plan" and while the stronger opposition was up for a tough game, it was the consistency of attack and much better basic skills (which was lacking from a week earlier) that gave us a breakthrough midway through the first half. At the break we were 1 nil up, but the reality was that Greensborough were starting to crack. Our much younger team applied themselves well and were not bullied off the ball at anytime, rather.....kept the pressure on causing consistent turnovers and fast movement up the field.

Again, midway through the second half we scored off a short corner and the result was secured moments later when a backline miracle ball was lobbed over the keeper to consolidate the dominance being applied.

Late in the game a goal was awarded by the umpires (a ball deflected in off our own stick) that had even the Greensborough players wondering "what the" was happening.

Anyway.....that made little difference, we went home winners, but most importantly the young group worked hard to make a plan stick and ultimately work, and got the result due to "real mateship" on the field, that adds so much value to a team environment and club off the field.

Worth remembering when things get tough, asked yourself "who are you representing and how do we want that to look ?? "We win together and lose together, but we are always a team ".

Special mentions:

A Stretch 3 goalswhen he is on, he is really on !

Brad Byrneoutstanding in the net. BOG by a mile.

Nick Durrant-Tom Lewis- Jarrad Way-Rees Leighton-Jack Erbacher all top efforts.

Richard Thompson.....wise old owl, valuable in any team.

James Erbacher ' Coach"

MPE v Greensborough

Pennant E made the trip to Greensborough for the late Saturday game not knowing if we had a team. Luckily Pennant D playing at same bat time and same bat location were able to give us two players and Murray agreed to fill in giving us bare 11. We started over the top of the defence but could not slot one from the first few forays. The lesson for the young blokes was to increase the power into the circle. A hard cross from Jelly and a near post scramble saw a ball dribble in between the keepers legs off Mike's stick for 1-0 and a break and early ball from Killer released Mike for a 1on1 with the keeper making it 2-0. Early in the second half Ben Erbacher created a turn over off a 16 and a one two with Mike for Ben to tap in on the far post. We conceded a corner goal as we started to run short of petrol but generally kept our heads and possession to seal the win 3-1. Mike's best: Killer; Ben Erbacher & Murray

Other Results

MPL Reserves lost 2-3 to Greensborough

MPC lost 3-4 to Doncaster

MMA won 3-0 over Casey

MMB lost 0-7 to GDW