

Round 1 v Springvale Districts

A WIN, AS LUX WOULD HAVE IT

Much to the chagrin of the Coach and a profound lack of enthusiasm about the time and venue from the majority of the players, the season-opening "blockbuster" went ahead on Friday night at Newcomen Rd. Quinny was further discombobulated when the scheduled start time was put back 15 minutes, throwing his preparations into disarray.

It became patently obvious very early that our playing group have about the same aversion to "lights" as the inveterate imbibers in front of the Dingo caravan, who, like their beer, were at full strength. Not the same could be said about the ground illumination, which appeared well short of the 100 LUX required for a game of senior football. As a result, our proliferation of talls floundered trying to hold marks, a situation exacerbated by the dewy conditions and therefore greasy ball. The Springy mosquito fleet ran us ragged early with pace, clean ball-handling and creative disposal. Despite our lack of adeptness in the trying conditions, somehow our boys managed to stay in touch. Had it not been for the fecundity of Rowan in the ruck and the possession accumulations of Tony Lavars, the coach's demeanour may have been decidedly darker than it already was at half time.

At least things improved on the scoreboard after the long break, although the game is not likely to go down in the annals as the kind you'd write home about. The two Greens came into their own, especially Zac who proved he was worth more than that by contributing 4 good goals. The other Dingo debutants were a mixed bag. Fair to say we may not be singing "Hello Dolly" after 2 o'clock on a Saturday in the near future, whilst Tunik might have only treated it as a "dress rehearsal". Tunbridge as a spearhead looks to have the makings. His effort to lead hard and straight to receive a searing, low-trajectory delivery from Clausen and then convert was hopefully a harbinger for upcoming games.

The Dingley bench would have breathed a collective sigh of relief as they glanced up at the somewhat flattering 25 point scoreline after what was a far from convincing performance. Apart from those already mentioned, Dazza at full back did his job, Luke Bartholomew had a full-of-running second half, and one of the few talls not too adversely affected by the Dew was Frost.

Coach Quinn was in an introspective mood on Sunday morning (well actually that was not the only condition he was in!) when assessing our chances this Saturday against Heatherton, newly-promoted and coming off a hiding against Chelsea Heights. Was a gutsy, fighting, undermanned performance against a vastly more talented opponent a better preparation than a lack-lustre, struggling win against an adversary we were supposed to make short work of? Whether his angst is justified is a question that will be answered at Soutar Oval on the weekend.

Questions will also be answered over in the outer at the season return of the Ronnie Moore Hill Club. Will membership sales exceed all previously imagined expectations? Has Mark Feehan sobered up? Will any of the Caravan Park ventriloquists throw their voice?

See you there!

P.S. Roy Gill's much vaunted Coterie Group is up and running. Unfortunately the best efforts of all concerned failed to land any high-profile recruits but there's money in the bank and fundraising will continue in preparation for next year. The main concern now for this eclectic mix of tradesmen and professionals from all walks of life is to find a collective name. Suggestions have been coming thick and fast, more are welcome.

So far

The Village People The Denmen The Villagers The Chamberlains The Drongoes The Gringoes Den At Work The Gill-otines