

Match Report

WILLIAMSTOWN FIDA SEAGULLS GO DOWN IN GRAND FINAL.

By Bill Deller, Chairman, Football Williamstown

On a perfect day for football, bright sunshine and no wind, the Williamstown FIDA Seagulls in their first Grand Final in the Gold and Blue took on the undefeated hot favourites Chadstone Synners in the Division 2 Grand Final at Central Reserve Waverley on Saturday.

The Synners had the wood on the Seagulls during the season beating them by 83 points at the Fearon and then by 53 points in the return match at Chadstone. But the Seagulls were improving with every game and fancied their chances of causing an upset.

The game commenced with the Seagulls on the defensive, tagging the Synners stars in an effort to prevent the favourites getting off to a flying start. The plan worked to some degree but the Synners got off the leash often enough to kick 4 goals while the Seagulls kicked one themselves.

The second quarter was crucial. The Seagulls were backing themselves to come home strongly given their edge in pace and endurance but they could not afford for the lead to blow out any further. But the Synners had too many stars firing and added 3 goals while keeping the Seagulls goalless to lead by 41 points at half time.

The third quarter was a battle royale with both sides throwing themselves into the fray, The Seagulls were getting the upper hand as the Synners were slowing to a walk and the Seagulls run started to create avenues to goal. The large group of Seagulls supporters was in full voice as the young Seagulls took control and with winners all over the ground they attacked time and time again. The Synners dropped their bigger and more experienced players back into defence in a desperate attempt to stem the tide as the Seagulls bombarded the goals and narrow the lead to 35 points at the last break.

But the Synners would not be denied and goaled from the opening bounce to put the game beyond the Seagulls' reach. The Seagulls would not give up but the experienced Synners defenders held them at bay with strong marking and desperate play at the clearances. The Seagulls attacked for most of the last quarter but could not break through.

Chadstone were the best team throughout the season and the better team on the day and thoroughly deserved their win, but the Seagulls were magnificent in defeat and gave it their all until the final siren.

The match was played in excellent spirit and brilliantly umpired by top Vafa umpire Mark Gibson. Congratulations are extended to players, coaches, support staff and the large crowd who all contributed to making this a Grand Final to remember.

Chadstone Synners: 4.3.27 7.6.48 8.9.57 10.11.71

Williamstown Seagulls: 1.0.6 1.1.7 3.4.22 4.6.30

FIDA Grand Finals

By Peter Ryan, General Manager, FIDA

Overall a very successful day of FIDA football with five different clubs winning premierships. The standard of the football was exceptional and the attitude and behaviour of the players was generally very good. The little bit of bad sportsmanship at the end of the Division 1 match failed to spoil what was a very enjoyable day and a great example of FIDA football. All involved should be proud of their achievements.

A special thanks to Andrew Sharp and the Mazenod Panthers for their preparation and use of a great facility.

We are greatly appreciative of the umpires from the VAFAUA who give up their time to ensure we have a game of footy every couple of weeks. Tim Sutcliffe has done a fantastic job with the roster.

I would also like to thank the clubs who are supporting Friday's FIDA dinner particularly Chadstone, Williamstown, Rupertswood, Parkside and Ballarat who are bringing a table of ten or so.

Division 2 Reserves Grand Final

Cranbourne	3.2.20	6.4.40	9.9.63	12.15.87
Chadstone	0.0.0	0.2.2	0.2.2	1.3.9

Division 1 Reserves Grand Final

Kananook	6.5.35	10.2.62	15. 4.94	21.13.139
Bulleen/Templestowe	1.1.7	1.1.7	2.2.14	2.2.14

Division 3 Grand Final

Coburg	4.3.27	7.7.49	11.9.75	14.12.96
Parkside	0.2.2	0.4.4	0.5.5	2.7.19

Division 2 Grand Final

Chadstone 4.3.27 7.6.48 8.9.57 **10.11.71**

Williamstown 1.0.6 1.1.7 3.4.22 **4.6.30**

Division 1 Grand Final

Bulleen/Templestowe 3.1.19 5.2.32 9.2.56 **12.2.74**

Kananook 2.3.15 6.5.35 7.7.49 **9.12.66**