



WILLIAMSTOWN SEAGULLS FIDA FOOTBALL CLUB

FIDA Division 2
Round 6, June 19
Casey Fields, Cranbourne

Seniors	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Williamstown	5.0	6.10	8.12	11.15	81
Parkside	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	6
Goals: Micky Green 3, Chris Green 2, William Lang 2, Johnno Kha 1, Ibby Nasser 1, Robbie McGahey 1 Josh Synot 1.					
Best: Micky Green, Robbie McGahey, Chris Green, Ibby Nasser, Jake McCarthy, Johnno Kha.					
Reserves	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Cranbourne	5.7	9.11	15.14	19.23	137
Williamstown	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	6
Goals: Patrick Micallef 1.					
Best: Andrew Villiers, Patrick Micallef, Dean Zavattiero, Noah Ward, Lewis Wardell, Thuan Ma.					

The Williamstown Seagulls Senior side travelled to the wind-swept Casey Fields in Cranbourne to take on Division 3 Premiership favourites Parkside. In a match that clearly showed the gap between Division 2 and Division 3, the Seagulls effectively sealed the game in the first quarter with a magnificent 5 goal haul, kicking into a howling gale. Using run and handball, the Seagulls were able to break the lines and link up effectively to produce multiple scoring opportunities. Unfortunately, the second quarter didn't see the same level of persistence, and the Williamstown players fell into the trap of trying to score long goals with the wind, instead of working the ball into better scoring positions. Realising the game was within their keeping, Williamstown was able to move players around, trying out new line-ups and positional options, which made the second half a more even contest. A good win in a canter.

The Reserves unfortunately weren't shown the same degree of generosity by Cranbourne, who had been beaten comprehensively by the Seagulls Senior side at the start of the season. With the restructure of the competition after Round 3, Cranbourne are now only fielding a Reserves team, but still have the advantage of a good half dozen Senior standard players. The Cranbourne dominance wasn't tempered by compassion, and they continued to bombard the goals all day. The upshot of this was the Seagulls' decision to push every player into the back half so that at least they could be part of the contest. This tactic also created the goal of the day when hard running by Andrew Villiers and Dean Zavattiero forced the ball forward to the point where Patty Micallef swooped onto it and ran into an open goal. In what could have been a disheartening day, the Reserves players were able to find a lot of positives in their personal and team efforts. Thanks to Goal Umpire James Wardell for his efforts over 2 matches.

FIDA Division 2
Round 7, July 3
Jubilee Park, Ringwood

Seniors	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Williamstown 1	1.3	2.5	4.6	5.10	40
Ringwood 1	3.1	3.3	4.3	6.3	39
Goals: Johnno Kha 3, Jake McCarthy 1, Taz Toussaint 1					
Best: Johnno Kha, Ibby Nasser, Taz Toussaint, Jake McCarthy, Robbie McGahey, Daniel Cesaria.					
Reserves	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Ringwood 2	4.1	6.5	7.5	11.5	71
Williamstown 2	0.3	0.3	1.6	1.6	12
Goals: Dean Zavattiero 1.					
Best: Liam Thursfield, Dean Zavattiero, Sam Belden, Andrew Villiers, Nathan Gillard, Chantelle Gordon.					

Round 7 saw the Williamstown – Ringwood rematch, where, in a clear measure of improvement, the Seagulls were fitter, faster and stronger than the Spiders side that took the honours in Round 3. Despite missing veteran ruckman Daryl Cousins (knee, due back before the end of the season) and form centre half forward Ray Causon (gastro), the Seagulls had a strong line-up going into the match. Regrettably, the slow starts that have plagued the team in the past were in evidence again, as top-placed Ringwood banged on 3 early goals into the wind to take the early lead. Wily journeyman Dominic Favorito was moved down back to become a very effective loose man in defence, helping to stem the tide, while hard man Nathan Gillard and experienced campaigners Chris and Micky Green tightened things up in defence. Jake McCarthy was in total control in the ruck, giving tall mobile runners Taz Toussaint and Johnno Kha first use of the ball from the centre, while kicking a late goal with the breeze at the end of the first term himself. The second quarter was a real arm wrestle, both sides scoring 2 points, until Johnno Kha's first goal of the day reduced the margin to 4 points going into the long break. The talk at half time was about self-belief, and the players showed that they had been paying attention, responding with a strong 2 goals to 1 term, which saw them hit the front for the first time. Those two goals, to Johnno Kha (playing just days after a distal dislocation of his finger), were a result of individual efforts by the likes of Corey Murphy and Josh Synot, whose desperation in the last line saw them both beat much taller opponents in marking contests. The Seagulls fitness and stamina was beginning to show as they ran out the quarter in fine style. Kicking with the breeze in the last term, Ringwood came out and gave it their best shot. The lead see-sawed back and forth – inaccuracy was costly for the Seagulls, but a goal to Taz Toussaint looked like it had put the game beyond the Spiders' reach. Ringwood was not to be denied, and responded with a goal that saw the scores all tied up. Courageous mid-fielder Robbie McGahey left the ground with an arm injury with the match still in the balance, thrusting first-gamer Sam Belden into the midfield rotation, where he stepped up with aplomb. While a draw would have been a fitting, if disappointing, result, the Spiders clearly wanted the win, and swept the ball forward again from the centre bounce. Resolute defence by the Seagulls not only held them up, but forced the ball onto the outer wing where some fierce and aggressive gut running by link man Daniel Cesaria set up a chain of handballs. With only seconds to go, lightly-built speedster Josh Knight beat 3 Ringwood defenders to take possession and snap a point. As the fullback prepared to take the kick-in, the siren sounded to seal what has been described as "the most famous victory in the club's short history." Johnno Kha was awarded the match ball as best on ground as decided by the Eastern Football League umpires who officiated – an admirable gesture that Johnno humbly accepted.

After a raucous rendition of the club song in the change rooms, the Reserves took to the field. Despite a large number of players being unavailable on the day, those who took the field acquitted themselves with distinction. Sam Belden, Andrew Villiers and Nathan Gillard all backed up in the twos after having played in the previous game, while Liam Thursfield was clearly relishing the run in the Reserves, as he was the dominant defender in a best on ground performance. Dean Zavattiero showed again that he is pressing strongly for a Senior call up, while Theo Causon obviously appreciated the support from Laurie Pollard in the ruck. Tristan Sheahan, Hassan Jamaledine and Noah Ward continue to make great strides in their football development, while livewires Thuan Ma and William Lang were as unpredictable as always. Daryl Rimmer was often one-out in the forward line, especially after the ever-improving Chantelle Gordon was moved into the midfield. The scoreboard wasn't a true reflection of the quality of the game, but significantly, the Seagulls proved themselves to be potent when kicking with the wind. A courageous mark and a fine set shot at goal by Dean Zavattiero was the only major of the day, but with just a little luck there could have been half a dozen more. Strong performances in the Reserves will keep the competition up for places in the Seniors, with Gillard and Villiers pressing for places, and Thursfield due for a recall, while Belden debuted in this round and Zavattiero and El Hawli (who was ill) both must be close.

Thanks to Goal Umpire Chris Belden for his efforts over 2 matches.



Andrew Villiers prepares to smother a Ringwood player's kick.