

# OISC



SEASON 2010

FIXTURES, REPORTS, AWARDS

# SEASON AWARDS

## OISC Perpetual Awards

<u>Best Club Man:</u>	Steven Sinclair
<u>Rookie of the Year:</u>	Peter Barone
<u>Most Improved:</u>	James Kitching
<u>Platinum Shinpad:</u>	Adrian Stenta
<u>Silver Boots:</u>	Paul Barolo
<u>Fashion Award:</u>	Tavis Callaghan
<u>Club Virgin:</u>	Michael Sorgini

## SAASL Perpetual Awards

<u>Saturday Div 2B Top Goalscorer:</u>	Andrew Rossi
<u>Saturday Div 4A Top Goalscorer:</u>	Branko Ripa
<u>Saturday Div 4A Player of the Year:</u>	Branko Ripa
<u>Saturday Div 6C Top Goalscorer:</u>	Dean Ciccarello

# A GRADE

Coach: Bill Cagialis

Captain: Adrian Stenta

## Awards

Player of the Year: Adam Carbone

Player's Player of the Year: Adam Carbone

Leading Goalscorer: Mark Ciccarello (22)

## Saturday Division Two

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PT
Old Ignatians	18	16	1	1	74	14	+60	49
United Allstars	18	12	2	4	43	22	+21	38
Ma Hawks	18	11	3	4	34	18	+16	36
Comets	18	8	6	4	32	19	+13	30
Navarino FC	18	6	2	10	27	42	-15	20
Adelaide Cougars	18	5	4	9	30	43	-13	19
Adelaide Budapest	18	6	1	11	28	41	-13	19
Southern Breakers	18	5	4	9	36	57	-21	19
Gleeson FC	18	4	2	12	20	40	-20	14
FC Adelaide	18	4	1	13	21	48	-27	13

## Round 1 v Southern Breakers

**11-4**

Goals: M. Ciccarello 4, Carbone 3, La Vista 2, Panagos, Leane

Lineup: Gouzos; Mihalopoulos (J. Kitching), Dew, Stenta, Sabatino; M. Ciccarello, Manou, Carbone, Siklich (S. George), La Vista; Panagos (Leane)

After watching the dark clouds following them in all the way from Port Elliot, the Southern Breakers knew they were in for a torrid time at Glenunga Superdome. After checking that Bill Cagialis hadn't named himself as captain, Stenta donned the armband and informed us all in the pre-match huddle that only our best would do today. Andy Sabatino and Alex Panagos were making their starting A-Grade (and OISC) debuts, whilst Adam Carbone had returned from 11 years playing in the FFSA.

Both games against Breakers last season were 5-goal-affairs - there were 5 scored within 25 minutes in this one. We dominated early, with Carbone and La Vista prominent through the left channels. Mark Ciccarello was the fortunate beneficiary, scoring twice, before Carbone scored a sublime chip with the outside of his left foot, whilst moving at pace. 3-0 up after 18 minutes, and the bookies had suspended betting on the result of the match. Within 5 minutes, however, they reopened the market after we conceded two very silly goals. An unnecessary freekick was given away 30 yards from goal on the right touchline, and the resulting set piece saw no marking at the back post and an unmarked Breaker scoring with his head. Within two minutes, Breakers scored again after another defensive mistake allowed their striker to waltz in one-on-one at beat Gouzos at the near post. We upped the

ante in the final ten minutes of the half, and La Vista finally scored right on half time, not before the Breakers linesman almost developed RSI through the amount of times he kept lifting and dropping his flag (the majority of which were incorrect).

We deserved and received a spray at half time from Bill, and it had the desired effect on the team. Any chance of a comeback from our country opposition was snuffed out by Ciccarello nabbing his hat-trick directly from the kickoff (12 seconds), and further goals from Panagos (a stinker from 25 yards) and Carbone within the first 10 minutes. After 65ish minutes and 7-2 up, Bill rang through some changes, with James Kitching replacing Chinga for his A Grade debut, Shaun George replacing a tiring Siklich, and debutant Shane Leane replacing Panagos. The final 25 minutes reflected much of the first half - 6 goals were scored and the Breakers linesman against threatened to contact WorkCover for his RSI problem. Leane, Carbone (hat-trick), Ciccarello (again) and La Vista all added to the deficit, and we could have had 15 or 20 on the board, but for the aforementioned linesman and some desperate work from the Breakers 'keeper. Disappointingly, we conceded two goals which were preventable and were very fortunate that those lapses came at this stage of the season against a lesser quality of opposition we are unlikely to meet for the rest of the season.

Much to take away from this match, but also much to build on. Whilst we are on top of the league on goal difference, it will mean little unless we can back up the performance next week against Navarino.

## Round 2 at Navarino FC

**3-0**

Goals: M. Ciccarello 2, Carbone

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, Chitti (Barolo), Stenta, Sabatino; M. Ciccarello, Manou, Carbone (Ricci), Siklich, La Vista; Panagos (Leane)

The A Grade travelled to Navarino in high spirits (and on top of the league) after their thumping win over Southern Breakers. The team welcomed Peter Chitti in for his first game since 2005, Paul Barolo back from suspension, and Daniel Ricci into the squad for his maiden first-team appearance. After conceding four goals last week, we knew that Bill would be making us do extra laps at training if we conceded any more goals. Plus, we had to defend his honour, playing against a club that if he was born 30 years earlier he probably would have ended up being the President of.

The last time we were at Navarino (Round 10, 2009) there were 7 goals, 2 red cards, and end-to-end action. This time, the first half was pretty uneventful as both teams struggled for cohesion on the rather big pitch. We crafted few opportunities, and when they did come, the left-footed duo of Michael La Vista and Adam Carbone were in the thick of the action. Our best chance came from a corner which we thought had crossed the line, a sentiment which the referee did not agree with. Alex Panagos also created a good half-chance for himself on the half hour with a delightful back-heel turn which narrowly missed the right post. Our defence of Ryan Dew, Captain Stenta, Chitti, and Andy Sabatino lapped up everything thrown at it, and Goose in goal only had one save to make (which was a cracker).

As the second half progressed, it was obvious that we were getting on top, with Carbone, Mike Manou, and Mato Sikilich dominating the centre of the park. The first goal eventually came from an absolutely delightful cross-pitch through ball from Carbone which opened up Mark Ciccarello on the right hand side of the box to slot home on 60 minutes. This observer is decidedly impressed with the meteoric leap 'the wrong' Ciccarello has made to the leading scorer in Division 2A since his debut OISC season as a C Grade player in 2008. Coach Bombay made a tactical switch soon after the goal, swapping a tiring Carbone with an energetic Panagos, and the move instantly paid dividends. Panagos won a ball deep in midfield which Manou threaded through to Carbone, who changed into third gear, accelerated past his defenders, and scored a diagonal shot from the left hand side of the box. The third goal was soon to follow: another through ball behind the defence saw Ciccarello released on the right, and having missed his previous opportunity from exactly the same spot, he slotted the ball past the 'keeper. La Vista and an opposition defender both managed to beat the ball to the line, but it was scrambled over, and the referee credited Ciccarello with the goal. With the game in the bag, Coach Bombay subbed Carbone and Panagos after excellent displays. We ran out the rest of the match with ease, with both substitutes, Shane Leane and Daniel Ricci coming close to increasing the margin. The only negative to come from the match was the re-occurrence of the hamstring injury that has kept Peter Chitti on the sideline for the last 4 weeks. Typical of the commitment of the man, he aggravated the injury making a sliding block of a Navarino shot, to ensure our first clean sheet since September 2007 was kept.

Next week sees FC Adelaide visit Glenunga. They have lost both games so far this season, but whilst we are in a confident mood, we remember that although they finished below us last year in Division 2 they beat us both home and away.

## Round 3 v FC Adelaide

2-1

Goals: Stenta (pen), Carbone

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, Barolo, Stenta, Sabatino; M. Ciccarello, Siklich, Carbone (Thomas), Manou, La Vista; Panagos (Leane)

*"You know, I have said it before, a win's a win. To put it in gentlemen's terms, if you go out on a night and you're looking for a young lady and you pull one, you know, well, that's it. Sometimes they're good looking and some weeks they're not the best and our performance today would not have been the best looking bird, but at least we got into a taxi with her. If that makes any sense? She wasn't the best looking lady we've ever taken home but she was pleasant, very nice and thanks very much let's have a coffee...a win is a bird and we take her out. At the end of the day we want a better looking one than that but, if not, we'll take her home anyway."*

Ian Holloway

(describing an ugly win whilst managing QPR)

Need I say more? Ian Holloway does a fantastic job describing our performance against FC Adelaide this week. Yes we won ugly, but we still won. There were some pleasing and not so pleasing things about the A grade performance on the weekend. What was pleasing was the fact that we managed to pull off a hard fought victory against a side we have struggled against for some reason in recent years (they beat us 1-3 twice last year). Inevitably we would have lost this match last season, but today we stood firm. Another pleasing aspect was the way we defended. For the second week in a row we did not concede a goal in open play (FC scored a penalty). In fact there was very little Gouzos had to do in goal all day. Also pleasing was our ability to come from behind to secure a victory; again not something we

have been accustomed to at OISC in recent years. Finally, we kept our perfect record in tact with our third win in a row from as many matches to start the season.

Not so pleasing was the way we performed against a team that appeared undermanned and lacking a little in confidence due to a poor start to the year. What FC Adelaide lacked in these areas though, they more than made up for in determination as they matched OISC for long periods in the first half, even if the blustery conditions brought the two sides closer together.

The Wolves tried to play with the same quick passing, silky movement of the ball that has been a feature of the team's play in 2010 and should have gone ahead after 15 minutes. Some fine triangle work involving Sabatino, La Vista and Manou resulted in Carbone being released down the left flank. His centre found Panagos right in front of goal with only the keeper to beat. Despite his firm shot, the keeper pulled off an amazing save to keep the score at nil all. As the Wolves continued to pile on the pressure through creative play by Manou, Panagos and Carbone and hard running from Ciccarello and LaVista, FC Adelaide were increasingly on the back foot. They were the first to score though.

A fast breaking move from FC Adelaide put OISC under some pressure. A rather harmless cross that should have been easily dealt with by Stenta was not and his botched clearance struck Siklich on the arm. It was a harsh decision, but I've seen them given before. The visitors went ahead from the spot despite Gouzos guessing correctly and getting his hand on the ball. That goal seems to spur OISC into action and with seconds left in the half, La Vista beat his man on the left and made his way into the box. Whilst the cross he delivered came to nothing, the referee said he was taken out after it and awarded OISC a dubious penalty (perhaps a square up?). Stenta stepped up from the back to calmly slot away the equaliser and immediately after it was half time.

Some inspiring words from Coach Bombay did the trick at half time. From the kick off we had our opponents on the back foot, scoring within 5 minutes of the restart. Carbone showed real class with a superb finish after some excellent build up play through the midfield. No more goals were scored and we were made to battle and scrap for the win for the majority of the second half. We panicked a little on the ball putting ourselves under pressure for no particular reason. For some reason we were determined not to pass to Dew or Manou despite their pleas and excellent positioning. Barolo was solid at the back in his first start of the season, whilst Leane and Thomas came on to provide much needed run and fresh legs, the latter making his A Grade debut after some excellent performances in the B Grade so far this year. Ciccarello finished the match with what looked like a broken nose after showing courage defending one last attack and this typified his attitude and hard work on the day.

*"You know, I have said it before, a win's a win...at the end of the day we want a better looking one than that but, if not, we'll take her home anyway."*

## Round 4 at Gleeson

### 2-1

Goals: M. Ciccarello, La Vista

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, Barolo, Stenta, Sabatino; M. Ciccarello, Manou, Carbone (D'Argenio), Siklich, La Vista (P. Barone); Panagos (Leane)

OISC travelled to Gleeson as the only unbeaten team in Saturday Div 2, and the pregame message from Bill was focused on establishing a gap for ourselves at the top of the league. For the first time in his coaching at OISC he was able to name an unchanged 11 from the team that beat FC Adelaide at Glenunga last week.

OISC quickly found themselves 1-0 up after 2 minutes when a Manou through ball was not dealt with by Gleeson's left back (he totally missed it), allowing Ciccarrello to finish the one-on-one and notch his 7th for the season. Despite the promising start we quickly found ourselves under the pump as Gleeson upped the ante. The next 20 minutes of the half passed rather uneventfully as neither team could create an opening in what was a very scrappy affair riddled with skill errors and poor decision-making from both teams. Gleeson managed to draw level after some neat work down the left ended in a soft cross and even softer shot bobbling its way into the net. To our credit we lifted and were all over them in the next 10 minutes until the half, and managed to get a second. Carbone played in La Vista who managed to belt the ball into the keeper and have the rebound come back off him, jumping over the keeper into the open net. This fortuitous second meant we went into the half unconvincingly up 2-1.

Understandably Bill was not pleased by the performance, but stressed how despite this we were still up where it mattered. Some strong words were aimed at the group as a whole, and the gauntlet laid down to up the intensity.

We started the second half much more positively, and good work from Carbone down the left ended in Ciccarello rushing onto a bouncing ball near their penalty spot, but unfortunately unable to finish the half volley. A tiring Panagos was replaced by the Future Leane, who promptly showed his worth to the A-Grade with tireless running and a committed effort. In truth the second half was relatively uneventful as Gleeson's only chance came off a miscued free-kick that brushed the top of Gouzos' crossbar. Meanwhile, we failed to take advantage of numerous promising moves (D'Argenio this means you!) . A special mention must go to Gleeson's young #24 who, after being frustrated by a professional foul, lost his cool and was the recipient of two yellows within 2 minutes, both for petulant hacks. Barolo's call of, "Are you going to tell your mother you did that?" as he left the field is surely worthy of the OISC quotes thread.

So despite playing very averagley for the second week in a row, we yet again recorded a decent win against an opposition team fired up for the occasion. This author feels it is a sign of the times as teams are lifting against us, eager to knock off the top dog. Special mention for this game goes to Barolo and Sabatino who were instrumental in nullifying a dangerous gleeson forward line. After results went our way (draws), we find ourselves with a 4 point lead over Comets and Hawks and looking forward to a tough cup game next week against cup holders and Div 1 Sunday team Ingle Farm.

# Challenge Cup Round 1 v Ingle Farm

## A vs Ingle Farm

**3-2**

Goals: M. Ciccarello 2, P. Barone

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, Barolo, Stenta, M. Ciccarello; Ricci (S. George), Manou (J. Kitching), Carbone, Siklich, La Vista; Panagos (P. Barone)

Four games, four weeks, four wins. Coach Bombay had so far guided OISC to the perfect season, getting the best out of all of his players. The visit of Ingle Farm, the 2009 Challenge Cup winners and runner-up in Sunday Division One, however, was akin to the final match of that epic match in the Goodwill Games against Iceland - the dominant power led by an evil-looking coach (in this case, the barking-loud fat man from Ingle Farm) up against the upstart underdogs with the reformed former great leading the way (naturally, Coach Bombay). Playing a quality opposition like Ingle Farm doesn't happen every week in Saturday Division 2, and it would be a significant litmus-test for us.

The game started at a breakneck pace, with Ingle Farm dominating possession and former NSL player Lachlan Campbell prominent. We were wasteful in possession and struggled with the sharp closing-down from our opponents. When we did attempt to move forward, we were far from clinical in the final third. Our only attacking thrusts in the first 20 minutes all came from set pieces, with Mark Ciccarello coming closest with a back post header. Ingle Farm hadn't forced a save at that point, but had managed to get the ball in much-more dangerous positions, with only Stenta and Barolo to thank for the scores remaining level. At the 25 minute mark, Ingle Farm took the lead. A mis-cleared header from the defence found

its way to an Ingle Farm midfielder about 30 yards out. He controlled the ball on his chest and volleyed first time over the despairing arms of Gouzos. It was a quality goal and was well deserved after Ingle Farm had controlled much of the flow of the game to that point. They continued to press for the second goal, and despite Gouzos' best efforts, scored within ten minutes with a curling shot from the edge of the box. Panagos was injured late in the half, giving Peter Barone an opportunity to use his pace to unsettle the defence, however the Ingle Farm sweeper was on top of his game, reading everything coming over the top as we resorted to playing long balls to Barone's head and bypassing our technically-gifted midfield. We were extremely fortunate that Ingle Farm did not extend the lead before the break, with the midfielder who had earlier scored from 30 yards managing to miss an open goal from 5 yards, and the aforementioned Campbell hitting the crossbar from a 25 yard freekick.

The half-time break brought with it a slight tweak in formation, with Mark Ciccarello moving back to his wide-midfield role and Daniel Ricci being unleashed in a two-pronged attack alongside Barone. The message from Coach Bombay was to utilise our creativity and play without fear, as this game had no bearing on the league, which was our ultimate focus this year. What followed was perhaps one of the most involving and gripping thirty five minutes of football ever witnessed at Glenunga.

Ingle Farm almost ended the game with a Damian Mori-style attempt from kick-off, which Gouzos managed to get a fingertip too and tip over for a corner. The first ten minutes of the second half were relatively uneventful as neither side were willing to over-commit going forward. Then, the match suddenly changed. An Ingle Farm midfielder committed two bookable offences (I've seen a red produced for similar tackles to the second one that was put in) literally within 30 seconds of each other, and suddenly we had a numerical

advantage and some attacking impetus. Carbone and La Vista found themselves with significant space in midfield, and their telepathic understanding began to show, at one point Carbone playing La Vista into a wonderful position in the box only for him to scuff his shot. Within five minutes we had capitalised on our numerical advantage, with Carbone releasing La Vista down the left, and he put a perfect cross to Ciccarello's head which was headed into the bottom left corner. 1-2 and it was game on.

Another superb through ball by Carbone within 3 minutes released Ciccarello down the right-hand side. He won the ball in front of the keeper, who engaged in a tackle reminiscent of Schumacher's tackle in the 1984 European Championships. Unfortunately, despite Ciccarello having 6 stud marks across his chest, the referee awarded a goalkick. The amount of time that Ciccarello required for treatment added an extra 6-7 minutes at the end of the game which would only extend the drama that was to unfold.

The next significant passage of play involved another poor refereeing decision. A long ball was played out on the left hand side of the field near the half-way line. Barolo was first to the ball with a raised left foot, as he won the ball, he was cleaned up by an Ingle Farm attacker and the whistle was blown. The referee pulled a yellow card out of his pocket and Ingle Farm immediately began protesting, believing that their player was being carded. It was to the astonishment of all that the referee gave Barolo his second yellow-card of the match, evening up the numbers. Coach Bombay remained calm, however, and we maintained our format, reverting to 3 at the back, marshalled by the ever-present Stenta. There were 17 minutes left (of normal time) and we still believed we were a chance.

Completely against the run of play (in which Gouzos made two crucial saves), we somehow managed a second goal. This observer for the life of him cannot remember how the build-up went, but it was another La Vista cross and another Ciccarello header, this time at the back

post. All this observer can remember is 50 blokes suddenly screaming, dancing, and singing in unison, and the Ingle Farm body language obviously dropping. All the momentum was with us and we had approximately 12 minutes remaining. Within two of those minutes, we had the lead. Some great work by Carbone fed the ball to Barone, who beat two defenders and slotted home from the top of the box with a placed shot in the bottom corner for his first senior goal for OISC. Pandemonium followed!!!

The final 10 minutes (plus injury time) were perhaps the longest in OISC history. Captain Stenta and his defence consisting of Gouzos, Siklich, and Dew were immense, dealing with every ball in the air, even when the big sweeper from Ingle Farm came forward. The opposition still managed to create space for one or two chances, which Gouzos managed to keep out or watch go wide. The Ingle Farm President was the best-dressed ballboy at the ground, having arrived just as we scored the third goal in a suit having been at a wedding. As they pushed forward, we had chances to wrap it up. Peter Barone found himself one-on-one but was thwarted by a superb one handed-save, whilst Shaun George (on for Daniel Ricci in the 90th minute) managed to get behind the defence after a Carbone through ball, but his final touch was too heavy and dealt with by the 'keeper. Ingle Farm launched one final attack, which ultimately resulted in a goalkick. As the final whistle blew, the OISC players embraced, knowing the magnitude of the win. Former President Ronnie Arboit called it "one of the top 5 OISC moments", whilst former Secretary Rob Lorenzutti described it as "one of the greatest all-time OISC wins in A Grade". The benchmark had been surpassed and a message had been sent to the rest of the SAASL - beware the Wolves.

## Round 5 at Cougars

6-2

Goals: Leane 3, M. Ciccarello, Stenta (pen), Carbone

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Sabatino; M. Ciccarello, Manou, Carbone, Siklich (Mihalopoulos), Ricci (Ortner); Leane

After last week's epic cup win at home against Ingle Farm the As made another trip out into the shady western suburbs of Adelaide, visiting mid-table Adelaide Cougars. Bill stressed the importance of forgetting last weeks result, for it would count for nothing if we surrendered points and a chance to maintain our 4pt gap at the top of the league. A somewhat changed lineup saw Sabatino return to leftback, 'The Future' making his starting debut in the central striking role, and Big Kitching replacing the suspended Barolo in the back 4.

The first 10 minutes were fairly even, Cougars being ok going forward and causing us one or two worries. Mark Ciccarello was on hand to pick up a poor goal-kick on the edge of the box and easily carried it in, finishing well to give us a 1-0 lead. One became two soon thereafter as Future Leane got on the end of a Sab long ball, just getting there before the keeper and defender to tap it over and into an empty net. It was around this point that the true ethnic flavour of Cougars became apparent, alot of bickering and complaining ensued. Unsettled as they were, one of their defenders decided to rugby tackle Leane before the ball had even been crossed from the left, giving Stenta a chance from the spot (which he duly converted). Somewhere around this point their leftback imploded, picking up two stupid bookings in about 30 seconds to get himself sent off. Cougars pulled one back just before the break as they converted the rebound after a penalty save by Gouzos. However, shortly after they

were dismantled by the rampant Future. Controlling the ball under pressure, he spun one man on the edge of the box before ghosting across the 18 yard box, then rifling the ball into the opposite top corner. A wonderful finish on his starting debut.

This observer does not remember much of the second half. We scored some good goals, Carbone carrying the ball a fair distance and slotting as well as Leane getting on the end of some nice Ciccarello work down the right to complete his hattrick. In truth we probably could have scored 10 today. A defensive mixup towards the end gifted Cougars a simple second, making the final result 6-2. In the end it was a solid result, achieved with a good all-round performance. Also congratulations to Kitch and Shane for their debut starts, and Ortner for putting in a solid 20 minutes in his first A-Grade match of the season.

Special mention must go out to Cougars for their ability to continue to hurl insults even in the face of such a shellacking. For a team so unblessed with talent, they make up for it with epic trash-talking skills. The pick of the bunch was one of theirs who claimed we were being given the title by biased refereeing on the basis of us being an "Australian club from the Eastern Suburbs". This reporter hopes the Cougars lads enjoyed their weekly trip to Fulham Macca's on Saturday, and that many a burnout turned out successful and smoky in the adjacent carpark.

## Round 6 v MA Hawks

5-0

**Goals:** TOG, M. Ciccarello, Stenta (pen), Manou, A. Rossi

**Lineup:** Gouzos; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Sabatino; M. Ciccarello, Siklich (Barolo), S. George (A. Rossi), Manou, P. Barone (Ortner); Leane

Another fine victory for the Wolves on Saturday saw the table toppers stretch their lead on third place to seven points. With most teams continuing to take points off each other, promotion is now Ignatians' to lose.

The match opened with Iggies somewhat changed from their settled line up. Despite some big outs, the players stepping into the squad were all capable and it was a team in a bullish mood that took to the hallowed turf. It was a bright opening from both sides as the play swung from end to end. Hawks were keen to impress their promotion credentials and gradually began to take control of the game as Iggies relied on breaking with speed and purpose. In the last few weeks, the defence, marshalled by Skipper Stenta, has been the cornerstone upon which Iggies have built their success. Sabatino has without question been a standout player in that period and it was through his inventiveness that Iggies scored their first goal. Receiving a short corner on the edge of the box and despite running at full tilt, Sabatino swung a dangerous low centre across the six yard box. Ciccarello and George created enough confusion for Leane to pivot and shoot, via a deflection, into the roof of the net and an unlikely 1-0 lead.

With Kitching keeping their striker quiet and away from the box, Iggies began to create more opportunities and it was not surprising that they extended their lead. Barone, who was impressing on the left, received the ball near the halfway line before making a mazy run down the touchline. Having turned his marker for a third time, Barone swung a beautiful centre where Ciccarello outjumped his opponent to nod into the top corner. It really is becoming a trademark of the league's top scorer and further proof that if you put in the hard yards to present yourself at the back post, rewards are plentiful.

The match was effectively decided within a five minute period either side of the half time break. Just prior to the interval, the Hawks found themselves with their first clear cut opportunity as their striker bore down on goal. Gouzos, who had spent more time retrieving long distance shots rather than actively saving attempts at goal, was quickly off his line to pull off a fine one-on-one save – the mark of a top quality keeper which undoubtedly the Goose continues to grow in to.

Coach Cagialis reinforced to his charges that the warning served up prior to the half time whistle would be indicative of what was to come unless Iggies could kill the game with a third. He implored his side to push for that game breaker early, which they duly delivered via an incisive Ciccarello diagonal ball. Manou, running away from goal, reached the ball just prior to the keeper and was brought down for a cast iron penalty. Stenta stepped up and dispatched the spot kick in a manner that could be described as effortless – something the English national team will hope but probably fail to emulate at the quarter final stage in a month or so.

With the desired three nil lead, it was a matter of how many from there. Whilst the Hawks continued to provide stiff opposition, Iggies were well and truly on top as their evenness across the board shone through. Dew and Ciccarello on the right; and Barone and

Sabatino on the left were providing significant run and carry on the flanks and numerous opportunities were created by getting behind the Hawks defence. George, who was making his first and second last start of the season prior to his South Africa odyssey, continuously stamped his class on proceedings with his ability to create space and time for himself and team mates. Siklich controlled the centre of the park while Leane ran himself into the ground and was unlucky to not be rewarded with further success.

Ultimately it was a couple of set pieces that put the stamp on the Wolves efforts. The first was a fortuitous goal as a Ciccarello long throw was directed straight to the keeper. Unfortunately for the Hawks custodian, he dropped it at the feet of Manou (who claimed he had followed it in, but I suspect had been too slow to begin tracking back) and it was dispatched from 25 cm for a 4-0 lead. Rossi, making his debut (for the season Rossi!) had been a flea like menace for the 35 minutes he was on the park, almost in the fashion of the old box to box player. Demonstrating he belongs at this level, Rossi's performance was rewarded via a well taken goal from 4 yards, directly from a corner, 5-0, good night and good luck.

OISC have significant respect for the Hawks who have been somewhat of a bogey side over the journey. The Wolves had braced themselves for a tough test and they were not disappointed. To run out 5-0 winners and to put further space between themselves at the top and third spot was a testament to the professionalism of the outfit Cagialis has put together. Next week brings an away trip to Comets, 1vs2 and the ultimate test of where Ignatians are at for season 2010.

## Round 7 at Comets

**2-0**

Goals: P. Barone (2)

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Sabatino; M. Ciccarello, Manou, S. George (Chitti), P. Barone, La Vista; Leane

After a resounding performance the week before against third placed MA Hawks, the Wolves took the long and treacherous trip down Greenhill Rd to the parklands to face Adelaide Comets. The challenge ahead was significant; first was taking on second in a battle of the last two undefeated teams in Division 2. For OISC, the game represented a chance to maintain a perfect start to season 2010 and to go 7 points clear atop the ladder.

In very difficult conditions, a dour, scoreless first half was played out. Comets started brightly and had the Wolves on the back foot for the opening 15 minutes. Whilst threatening with a couple of long free kicks and a few dangerous balls into the penalty area, Comets never really created any clear cut chances during their time on top. What they did serve up, Gouzos and the back four were able to deal with.

OISC gradually worked their way into the game and tried to construct some forward movement with their usual slick passing game. Unfortunately, the conditions were not conducive to this style of football as the first half turned into a 'long ball' fest. This must have been frustrating for our midfielders, who continually watched the ball sail over their heads, and the forwards, who had to chase the long balls down.

In fact the only real highlight of the first half came from Kitching who sprinted to the aid of the fouled La Vista (playing in his last match for a while before heading to the World Cup as a back-up for Chipperfield and Carney). Kitching arrived on the scene to deliver some 'rough justice' to the opposition. However, all Kitching managed to do when he arrived on the scene was get booked after his 'handbags at 5 paces' assault on our bemused opponent. "If you're going to run that far and get booked, at least make it worthwhile!" was the amusing retort from one Comets fan.

The half time message from Coach Cagialis was simple; despite only operating at around 60%, OISC was still at 0-0. If we could just lift another 5% each, victory would surely be claimed. And that's exactly what happened. A couple of injuries to Comets players and the sending off of one of their defenders certainly helped our cause in the second half, but they were by no means turning points. The dye had been cast well before these events.

Manou was dominating in the middle of the park, pulling the strings associated with every forward movement OISC mustered. The wide men in Ciccarello and La Vista came into the game through quicker ball movement to them and began to trouble their markers. George (also playing in his farewell match before heading to the World Cup as a local) kicked into first gear and was beginning to look dangerous before he ran out of legs at the 55 minute mark. Leane was forced to tough it out in the lone strikers role against four defenders and worked admirably, having a hand in both goals. And the back four handled anything the Comets delivered with aplomb with Kitching reading the play expertly and Dew and Sabatino providing plenty of width and forward thrust. It was pleasing to see Chitti get a run as well in his first game back since his self-diagnosed grade two hamstring strain against Navarino.

The Wolves needed a hero though (and someone to wash the kit) and in Barone they found one. Just as he did in the cup against Ingle Farm, Barone stood up to show us why the OISC faithful shouldn't discount him this season despite his obvious handicap: the fact that he is a Barone. His two well taken goals proved the difference in this match. Both were the result of pure instinct that only a true striker has. Barone's ability to read the play, make intelligent runs and work off the other players around him led to the two one on one's he had with the Comets keeper; both which he gobbled up appreciatively. For the life of me I can't remember the exact details of how each goal unfolded, but I'm sure someone will divulge all at training this week for those of you at home who like to keep score whilst playing along.

So there it is. Not the perfect performance by any stretch of the imagination, but the perfect result from a very even team of players who have a steely determination to take all before them this season. Sabatino will be missed over the next month, George not so much. We have players fighting for positions all over the park which is a headache for Coach Cagialis, but a good headache rarely experienced by an OISC A Grade coach in recent seasons. It remains to be seen whether the Wolves can finish off the first half of the season undefeated with tough matches against Budapest and the Allstars on the horizon. A mouth watering 2nd round cup clash with BOSA is on the cards as well.

## Round 8 v Budapest

4-2

Goals: M. Ciccarello, P. Barone, Carbone, Stenta (pen)

Lineup: Kyriacou; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Barolo; M. Ciccarello, Manou (Dal Broi), Carbone, Chitti (Ortner); Leane (A. Rossi)

Adelaide Budapest are always a tough challenge and this week was no different. Rain during the week coupled with the heavy use of the pitch meant that the surface was not ideal for the fixture. If anything it brought the two sides closer together as it played into our hard tackling opposition's hands.

Some forced changes were made prior to the match. Kyriacou came into the squad for his first A Grade start in goals for Gouzos who was unavailable and Barolo was welcomed back into the defence at left back replacing South Africa bound Sabatino. Chitti started as a defensive midfielder next to Manou as Siklich didn't come up for the second week in a row with his dodgy groin. Carbone returned from the mines to replace George (World Cup duties) and Barone reinforced his 'utility man' credentials by returning to the left side of midfield as La Vista was unavailable.

The Wolves started brightly, and inside the first 20minutes we were 2-0 up. Carbone was the architect of both goals with his defence splitting passes setting up Barone first and then Ciccarello. The OISC faithful could smell blood and perhaps the players caught a whiff of it too because from that point on the first half belonged to Budapest. Instead of getting on with the job of pumping our opposition, OISC sat back and paid their opponents far too much respect. The defence was sitting far too deep and not marking tight enough and OISC

were turning the ball over cheaply putting the team under pressure. We conceded before the half was up when a short corner left Dew isolated against two opponents. A difficult ball came across the goal mouth and was unfortunately bundled in by Barolo for an own goal. This spurred Budapest on and they were unlucky not to go level before half time. 40+ year old Popovic was leading the line for Budapest well and made Stenta look second rate on a number of occasions, first by nut-megging him and later by turning him inside the box to narrowly miss a shot. Stenta responded to this by blaming Dew (unfairly) for his poor defending.

Half time came at the right time for OISC with the players having a chance to catch their collective breaths. The first half performance was disappointing, but we were still 2-1 up. This is a clear indication of how our goals and expectations have risen dramatically this season. The second half began slowly for the home side and we paid the price for missed opportunities. Budapest equalised after their striker (who was clearly in an offside position) reacted first to a rebound off the crossbar from a stinging shot to head home. 2-2 and Budapest had the momentum. Manou hobbled off with a quad injury allowing Gary to make his first appearance for the club after crossing from NSW. After missing some earlier opportunities, Carbone finally found the back of the net unconvincingly turning in a cross from the right. Leane won a penalty a little later in the half which Stenta converted to round out the scoring.

We look forward to the challenge of taking on BOSA this week in the cup. They are top of Division 1 and will give us a clear indication of just where we are at.

## **Challenge Cup Round 2 vs BOSA**

1-1 (OISC win 5-4 on penalties)

Goal: M. Ciccarello

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Barolo (Chitti); M. Ciccarello, Manou, Carbone, Siklich (Condon), P. Barone (Dal Broi); Leane

BOSA presented the biggest test of the year for the Wolves and a true indication of where the team was at. Top of Division 1 and a comfortable victory over us in preseason meant a good performance was essential for victory this weekend.

There were some welcomed and unexpected returns to the squad. Siklich had recovered from his groin twinge to add strength and steel to the centre of the park, Chitti was also fully healed from his self diagnosed and treated hamstring strain and ready to plug up any holes Bill could spot, whilst Condon made his first appearance for the As this year.

The Wolves were surprisingly on the front foot from the get go as the sleep deprivation began to wear off and confidence gradually grew throughout the team. The defence was putting in another solid display which allowed the Wolves' midfield to express themselves, with Carbone especially, causing the BOSA defence all kinds of problems. BOSA were quite fortunate to keep it at 0-0 at halftime as the Wolves missed numerous chances to capitalize on their early dominance. Bill's halftime speech reiterated the point that we were on top in this game and that our fitness should see us run over the top of BOSA. The good showing against quality opposition had Bill contemplating the possibilities for next season.

The second half was a much more even affair. The width of Barone and Ciccarello began to stretch BOSA, which allowed Leane to find some more space but he also failed to trouble the keeper. An end to end game ensued as both keepers were tested and made some great saves, but the best chances were still spurred wide of the mark, with BOSA's very own impersonation of a modern day Jesus hitting a 1 on 1 comically wide, a sign that maybe this was meant to be a day for the Wolves. Full time grew closer and the score remained 0-0, though this must have been one of the most exciting 0-0's that the enthused Glenunga Superdome had seen.

The fitness of both sides was tested in extra time, with the Wolves again starting the brighter. A throw in from the right wing, found Carbone near the edge of the box, who then slipped a through ball down the line to Ciccarello, whose low drive went through the keeper's grasp and trickled over the line to send the Superdome into overdrive. However this spurred BOSA into their most dominant period of the match and they eventually got their reward in the second half of extra time. Some good work down the right resulted in a corner deep into extra time. A great ball was whipped into the back post and the BOSA skipper escaped his marker and rose highest to head into the roof of the net. Momentum was now well and truly with BOSA, who were very unlucky not to find themselves 2-1 up shortly after when a rocket cannoned into the cross bar and a low cross was also volleyed onto the cross bar from 6 yards out. The Wolves were unlucky not to have won in normal time, but also lucky to make it to penalties.

The game would be decided from the spot, with Carbone, Stenta, Dal Broi, Ciccarello and Manou putting their hand up to cope with the pressure, while others (Dewy) couldn't bare to watch. The hopes of the Superdome were pinned on the back of these 5 players and of course the keeper Gouzos, who had already put in another solid performance between the

sticks. The first 4 penalties were duly converted, but the fifth would prove decisive. The BOSA player shot to the left of the goal, but Gouzos had flung his big frame in the exact direction and the ball cannoned off his legs and away from the goal. All that was needed now was for Stenta, Ciccarello, and Manou to convert and the Wolves would be through. Stenta scored with ease, and BOSA reciprocated. Ciccarello coped well with the pressure and put his spot kick into the bottom left corner, the next BOSA player converted and the chance to win the game fell on the wise, experienced shoulders of Manou. He coolly converted into the bottom right corner and sent the Superdome into a state of ecstasy. Both Manou and Gouzos were deservedly mobbed by the crowd and chants of 'Gouz, Gouz, Gouz' were as loud as the vuvuzelas that deafen anyone hoping to enjoy the World Cup.

A great win and another message sent to both Div1A and Div2A, a 10th consecutive victory and hopes of Hindmarsh ever growing on the minds of all OISC members, with next week another test against the in form All Stars who would be eager to end this winning run.

## Round 9 at Allstars United

1-2

Goal: Barolo

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew (D'Argenio), J. Kitching, Stenta, Barolo; M. Ciccarello, Siklich (Ricci), Carbone, Chitti, P. Barone; Leane

OISC travelled to Cowandilla on the back of an epic cup win, hoping to maintain a 9point gap over its nearest rivals at the half way point of the season. One change saw Chitti come into the lineup for the injured Manou.

We started relatively poorly on the small pitch, our 4-5-1 crowding the middle too much. Bill swapped to 4-4-2 early on, and our pressure off a corner gave us an early 1-0 lead. This was to be the high point for Iggies in a performance worth forgetting.

For the remainder of the half we were on the back foot and Africa found a deserved equalizer just before the break, a nice cross from the left finding its way past Gouzos into the corner. At half time the message was stressed that we needed to lift our intensity in the second half.

Unfortunatley the message was not taken on board by our players who were distinctly flat in the second period. In truth, maybe 2 or 3 of the us can probably put our hands up and say we had a game today where we beat our direct opponent. Africa found a winner halfway through the second, a relatively tame long ball finding its way to a skillful winger on the edge of the box who finished expertly into the opposite corner past Gouz.

Not much else to say about this other than I hope this will spur us on for the second half of the season. The job (promotion) is nowhere near completed, and hopefully today's performance and more worryingly effort levels were just a blip on the radar.

## Round 10 at Southern Breakers

10-0

Goals: M. Ciccarello 4, P. Barone 3, Ricci, Carbone, Leane

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Chitti; M. Ciccarello, Manou, Carbone (Sparapani), Ricci (Condon), Ortner (Leane); Barone

The wolves had an interrupted and far from ideal preparation for the game due to lateness and the surprise absence of Bill, who was attending the birth of his second child, a baby girl, for which congratulations is in order. This saw second in command, Piero, take the reins of A's coach and continue on with Bills formation and tactics. The wolves were on top from the very start and asserted their dominance on the match with Mark Ciccarello, Daniel Ricci and Peter Barone all getting on the scoreboard early. The backline was well on top and in command with all members comprehensively controlling their position and saw the Breakers with no memorable chances. The wolves went into the half time break 5-0 up and hoping to continue on with the good showing and determined not to concede any soft goals.

The second half was much of the same with Barone, Ciccarello Carbone and Leane all troubling the scorers and the Breakers only opening up the Wolves defence once but saw their replacement striker for Shaun's missing uncle fail to work Gouzos who was enjoying the solidarity of back four. The Final scoreline ended up 10-0, a fair result that reflected Iggies dominance it could well have been more, but you can't ask for more than 10 goals and a clean sheet. The only blimp on the day was the unnecessarily high amount of yellow

**cards, whether this was due to the referee or the nature of our challenges is debatable  
but the cards were needless either way.**

## Round 11 v Navarino FC

A vs Navarino FC

5-0

Goals: P. Barone 2, Carbone, Stenta (pen), TOG

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew (Dal Broi), J. Kitching, Stenta, Chitti (Barolo); M. Ciccarello, Siklich, Carbone, Manou, La Vista (Ricci); P. Barone

After clinically dispatching Southern Breakers last weekend in an unforgiving performance, the Wolves hosted a Navarino FC team that had climbed the ladder into fourth and were putting pressure on the promotion spots. With Africa (2nd) and Comets (3rd) also playing, we knew that any dropped points would let one of those two teams back into the title chase, whilst if results went our way, we could finish the day with a 10 point gap, our biggest of the season. Coach Bombay only made one change, with Siklich returning from suspension at the expense of Ortner. La Vista, Dal Broi, and Barolo all returned to the team (and the bench) through various absences giving the A Grade arguably its strongest 14 man squad of the season.

The match started with Navarino creating a raft of early chances that were wasted which would ultimately come back to haunt them. The defence failed to deal with their consistent bombardment down the right hand side, and OISC were extremely fortunate not to fall behind. Gouzos was forced into a number of key saves by a switched on Navarino. However, as the half grew, we took the ascendancy through the hard work of Siklich and Manou in the middle, and it was no surprise that we took the lead. Before the game we spoke about pressuring the opponent's within their own half, and Carbone made

a 'hard ball get' before slipping Barone through to continue his fine scoring form. Ciccarello had a few chances to extend the lead but failed to trouble the 'keeper. The match completely swung in our favour when the Navarino captain was comically (but correctly) given his marching orders by the referee for deliberate handball. Again, forward pressure, this time by Barone, caused the captain to simultaneously lose the ball and handle it, preventing Barone an obvious goalscoring opportunity.

We knew going into the second half that a second goal would knock the stuffing out of Navarino. It was hard work getting there, however, as they continued to graft out in the midfield, and create some attacking momentum. However, the back four, having adjusted to their early onslaught, were now completely switched on and able to repel the majority of forays forward. Kitching in particular was having a running battle all day with their sole striker, a battle which he comfortably won, and continued to let their striker know about. The second goal came midway through the half, after a low cross on the left by Carbone was turned in by a Navarino defender. The floodgates threatened to open after Carbone won a penalty, converted by Stenta, but Navarino admirably held on. Ricci had a number of opportunities but was wasteful, whilst Ciccarello failed to make space on the few occasions he got loose. Eventually, Barone and Carbone both got on the scoresheet, after being provided by substitutes La Vista and Dal Broi. Barolo acquitted himself well after coming on, showing no signs of the broken toe which had forced him to miss the trip to Port Elliot.

Coach Bombay will have a selection headache this week for the big Cup match against Salisbury Villa given the all-round performance of all 14 players. The A Grade has only made the Challenge Cup quarter-finals twice previously, with the class of 2010 having another opportunity to make history, having already set club records in the SAASL

**(spanning over the last two games of 2009 and 2010) for the number of matches (league and cup) undefeated, and number of consecutive wins (league and cup).**

## Challenge Cup Round 3 v Salisbury Villa

5-2

Goals: P. Barone 2, M. Ciccarello 2, Ricci

Lineup: Gouzos; Dal Broi, J. Kitching, Stenta, Chitti (Dew); M. Ciccarello, Siklich, Carbone, Manou, Ricci (Panagos); P. Barone (Leane)

After a comfortable win against midtable Navarino in the league, OISC hosted last years Div 2 Saturday champions Salisbury Villa in the 3rd round of the cup. We lost twice, 2-1 and 1-0, to Villa in the league last year and those 6 points effectively gave them the title and resigned us to another year outside the top flight. Coach Bombay made one change to last weeks team, bringing in Dal Broi at rightback for Dew.

We started fine form, going 1-0 up after about 2 minutes. A few short passes down the left ended with Carbone bursting down the edge of the box, beating his man and centering for Barone to finish from close range. We didn't keep our lead long as a lapse in concentration at the back saw Villa profit from a harmless long ball, scoring a gift. From then on the game was effectively OISC's as we piled on 3 more goals in the first half to be 4-1 at the break. Ciccarello scored two headers of Carbone set pieces, and Ricci sent in a cross from the left that ended up in the top right corner (it was epic). Whilst the game was not over at half time, we had clearly been the superior team and the scoreline reflected that. Skillwise there may not have been a huge difference between the team but I would say that our heart and endeavour was far above Villa's, intensity being the key word of the season for us.

Barone effectively killed the game off in the first 5 minutes of the second half as he turned in circles for an eternity before firing in from outside the box. From here Villa's frustrations

seemed to get the better of them as they began engaging in off-the-ball assaults and provoking. They did manage to pull one back late as a shot was deflected in over the unfortunate Gouzos. All in all the second half was a more even affair as we backed off slightly and Villa got into a bit more of a passing groove. Both teams missed a couple of chances as the game petered to a close.

As Stenta has been saying pregame for the last few weeks the results will take care of themselves if we continue to follow team rules and keep the intensity high. Cup Round 3 was no different as a highly disciplined Ignatian unit thoroughly crushed last year's champions. We are only one game from Hindmarsh now and it would really be a reward for the teams efforts to play there this year. After disposing of last year's cup champions and now 2 of the top 3 (league standings-wise) from Saturday Div 1, we should rightly look forward to the next draw with optimism.

## Round 12 at FC Adelaide

6-0

Goals: Ricci 2, Carbone 2, Manou, La Vista

Lineup: Gouzos; Dal Broi, J. Kitching, Stenta, Chitti (Sabatino); M. Ciccarello, Siklich, Carbone, Manou, Ricci; Leane (La Vista)

The Wolves traveled to FC Adelaide on the back of a convincing cup victory the week before. Leane came into to replace the in-form Barone, who was working on his tan on the beaches of Bali, and Sabatino returned for the As squad for the first time since his World Cup antics.

The aim was to not just beat FC Adelaide but to outplay them and put another nail into their relegation coffin. The Wolves started the game well on top and it soon became clear that the lack of pace of FC Adelaide's central defensive pairing could be easily exploited. Carbone, Manou and Siklich dictated the pace in midfield and often sent Leane, Ciccarello, and Ricci through into the space behind the FC Adelaide defence. After a sustained period of possession Ricci opened the scoring after he was sent through on the left wing, and to everyone's surprise he took a touch before shooting, calmly slotting it past the keeper.

The first half finished 1-0 but it could well have been 3 or 4. The back four were again instrumental in OISC having the upperhand, with a stern and calm approach that left the FC Adelaide strikers with little time on the ball despite the strong breeze blowing against them.

The focus at half time was to lift that extra 10% and assert our dominance on the scoreboard. The second half followed the same pattern as the first with the Wolves well on top, Carbone got to another delightful throughball from midfield to coolly slot over the

keeper 1-on-1, definitely the goal of the game. Carbone was then sent through by Ricci and again slotted it 1-on-1 with the keeper. The next three goals followed in quick session, with Ricci, Manou and La Vista all tucking away their chances resulting in a score line that reflected the difference between the two teams.

A solid performance and another week closer to promotion and hopefully the championship, and with the return of Barone next week the As will be its strongest its been all year.

## Round 13 v Gleeson

5-1

Goals: P. Barone 3, M. Ciccarello 2

Lineup: Kyriacou; Dal Broi, J. Kitching, Stenta, Chitti; M. Ciccarello, Siklich (Panagos), Carbone (Ortner), Manou, Ricci; P. Barone

The story of the Gleeson rivalry has been told many times before in one of these hallowed reports, and there is no need to go into it again. Looking at the table, there was an opportunity to achieve two magnificent things today: (i) bring ourselves to within 4 points of clinching the title; and, (ii) keep our rivals in the relegation zone. We were reminded pre-match by Coach Bombay that Gleeson had provided us with probably our sternest test in the first half of the season and that we needed to be switched on before the game. Keeping our concentration pre-game was quite difficult following an unfortunate injury that ended the B Grade match early and caused a significant delay to our kickoff. Then, when it was finally time to get underway, our referee appeared to be more interested in a rematch of the Briggs v Green fight which began behind our goal, only to be thwarted by the quick thinking Paul Barolo.

When we did finally get started, we took the ascendancy and threatened early. The pitch conditions made it hard to play our usual passing game, but one sweet move down the left involving Adam Carbone and Daniel Ricci put Mike Manou through, he rounded the 'keeper, and rolled the ball into the empty net, only for a Gleeson defender to theatrically clear the ball off the line. From the resulting corner, a ball fell to James Kitching near the penalty spot but his shot was cleared two metres from the line by the same defender. The remainder of

the half was a slugfest as the conditions made playing football difficult. Gleeson were playing long balls over our defence and were having some success reading the variable bounce and managing to get behind our fullbacks. However, they never really tested Kristos Kyriacou in goal. We attempted to maintain our standard short passing game, but were found wanting by solid Gleeson defending and poor execution. Indeed our best opportunities outside of the first ten minutes were from long clearances, but produced zero reward.

We took a deep breath at half time and suited up at the start of the second half persisting with our own game plan. As has been the case all season, we opened the scoring from a set piece, and it was Mark Ciccarello who scored the goal. A long corner by Daniel Ricci found its way to Manou at the back post, he put a looping heading into the mix which was flicked on by Kitching. A Gleeson defender cleared it off the line, however it only went as far as Ciccarello to tap in off the line for a deserved lead early into the second half.

That lead lasted all of 10 minutes, however. After a wave of attacks down the right, we were caught forward and a long ball was thread behind the defence. Kitching got to the ball just before the attacker at his shoulder and played it out, or so everybody thought. The Gleeson attacker chased the ball and played it into the box, despite it being out of play by more than two metres. Neither the linesman (who was significantly behind the play), nor the referee (who was closer to the halfway line than the byline) signaled the ball out of play, and the on-rushing Gleeson attacker who finished the ball past Kyriacou taught OISC a lesson about playing to the whistle.

A slugfest ensued, with some ugly displays by our opponents as they attempted to intimidate their way into the lead. However, our talent shone through as we blew the game apart with 4 goals in the final 20 minutes and put a gloss on the scoreline that we perhaps

didn't deserve. Ciccarello got the second, knocking the ball into the net when the 'keeper had one hand on the ball (which is completely legal), after he had made a diving save from a Peter Barone shot. The Gleeson bench vehemently protested this decision, and the indiscipline from the sideline carried through to the field, which ultimately contributed to Gleeson losing their heads (and the game). Barone scored the third after some excellent link-up work by Carbone, Ciccarello and Manou found him wide open in the box and able to slot home from 10 yards. Barone, in amongst the match being stopped twice due to Gleeson players emulating the pre-match boxing ticket, slotted in his second and third after some excellent work from our midfield to release him behind the defence.

At the end of the day, the poor condition of the pitch which prevented us from playing our natural game, the fact that it was a derby match, and the determination of our opponents to frustrate us physically, made this win extremely satisfying. Next week we host Cougars where a win could potentially send the title to Glenunga.

## Round 14 v Cougars

3-0

Goals: J. Kitching, Leane, P. Barone

Lineup: Kyriacou; Dal Broi, Stenta, J. Kitching, Chitti; M. Ciccarello, Siklich (Thomas), Manou (Barolo), La Vista; Leane, P. Barone

Adelaide Cougars are bi-polar...I'm convinced of this fact. During this week's match (as was the case last time), they were again lippy and talking themselves up with plenty of bravado. Some of the comments coming from their supporters, subs and coaches on the sideline were borderline crazy; especially considering the match was played in good spirits on the park. The 'cherry' on top of the cake was a Cougars forward accusing Kyriacou of being a racist for calling him a donkey. I didn't know donkeys were affiliated with any particular race on our planet, but you learn something every week.

So why bi-polar? Well despite their antics during the 90 minutes, many of their players from both the A and B Grade stuck around drinking at our bar until well into the night. They were actually quite friendly and good to talk to off the pitch and were happy to stick around buying drinks to support our club. Whether or not their intentions were honourable (the bar maid did have her very large rack on display) the fact remains that they still stuck around and for this I give them credit.

Why am I waffling on with this tripe instead of talking about the match this week? Well simply, we have a big cup match against Parafield Gardens this weekend and I'd hate to give them any key bits of info on our team ahead of this...just in case they are reading this as I

speak. So the report will be brief and may or may not contain some juicy bits of information in it for our cup opponents.

James Kitching gave OISC the lead at half time with a well taken shot from a near post corner. This continues Kitching's rich vein of scoring form this season and he will definitely be a key player Gardens will have to watch out for this week in front of goals. Cougars best chance came just before the half from a counter attack. Kyriacou was forced into a fine save, pushing the shot around the far post. It is the first clean sheet the shot stopper has kept in the As all year! Another first was the juicy oranges we had a half time...yummy!

The second half was dominated by the Wolves, though Cougars put up some solid resistance and were a much better side than the one we rolled last time. Either that or the crap pitch levelled out the two sides. Manou was dragged in the second half as he continues to battle form and injury (note for Gardens), but not before he had a hand in setting up Barone and Leane for two second half goals. It was a welcome relief to Barone who has struggled to find the back of the net in recent weeks and good reward for Leane who worked hard all day after returning to A Grade action after failing in his bid to be transferred to Woolworths.

We now have to play on a Sunday this week and it will be interesting to see how many players will be missing in action due to work commitments. Bring on the cup!

# Challenge Cup Quarter Final at Parafield Gardens

1-3

Goal: M. Ciccarello

Lineup: Gouzos; Dal Broi, J. Kitching, Stenta, Chitti; M. Ciccarello, Siklich, Carbone, Manou, La Vista (Leane); P. Barone

After a sterling cup run so far in which we had accounted for last year's champions Ingle Farm as well as two teams in the top half of the Saturday Premier League, OISC travelled to another powerhouse in the form of Parafield Gardens. Suffice to say the least, our cup run had not been the easiest but we looked forward to a mighty challenge. The team had one change from last week, Carbone returning to his midfield role at the expense of the Future.

We started in bright fashion and stunned the large Gardens faithful as we took an early lead, a scramble in their box leading to the ball ballooning into the air before being bet by a pivoting Ciccarrello, who finished expertly into the bottom right corner. However Gardens proved the difference in the league we play and theirs was substantial as rather than give in or bicker, they stuck to their guns and created a couple of chances in a half that had limited attacking play. Gouzos was off his line very quick to expertly thwart a 1 on 1. They equalised after being let in by an unlucky slip at the back by OISC, leading to a tap in for their quick striker. 1-1 at the half was probably a fair reflection of the game that was being well fought – a number of cards and bruising tackles indicated the nature of an important cup quarter-final. The message at half time was simple; keep up the effort and heart and we can win this game.

The second half followed a similar pattern as both teams struggled to break down the opposing defences, and much of the game was spent battling for possession of the ball in the middle. We could have been ahead after Carbone brilliantly cut in from the right wing onto his left foot, ducking into the box but sending his shot high. Just as the game looked like going into extra time, Gardens made the most of a soft free kick, sending it into the mixer for their captain to nod it past the unlucky Gouzos. As we pushed up off the kickoff to find a last gasp equaliser, they robbed us of the ball near our box and launched a quick counter that led to a shot taking a deflection over Gouz.

So in the end the greatest cup run in a while for OISC finished at the quarter final stage. However, many lessons can be learnt from this defeat. In particular the cup has highlighted a number of important things looking forward to the Premier League next year – that we are definitely good enough to win games and compete at that level, and should not feel overawed moving up. This reporter would personally like to thank the players on the pitch for their effort as I feel that nobody did not try their hardest, and we gave it our all – but unfortunately it was not to be. We look forward to Hawks next week and hopefully clinching the Div 2 title... and in the future, here's hoping Division One glory.

## Round 15 at MA Hawks

3-0

Goals: La Vista, Siklich, Dal Broi

Lineup: Gouzos; Dal Broi, J. Kitching, Stenta, Chitti; M. Ciccarello, Siklich, Carbone, Manou (Dew), La Vista (Ricci); P. Barone (Leane)

No report submitted.

## Round 16 v Comets

0-0

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, Dal Broi, Stenta, Chitti; M. Ciccarello, Manou, Carbone, Siklich, Ricci (La Vista); Barone

Question: What's the worst football match I've ever witnessed?

Answer before Saturday 21st 2010: Adelaide United vs Newcastle Jets, Round 1, 2010/11

Answer now: OISC A Grade vs Comets, Round 16, 2010

Need I say more? Playing up at the Senior School for the first time and still suffering the effects of having won the championship the week before, OISC put in one of its most disappointing performances for a long time. Victory over the Comets would have not only condemned them to Division 2, but it also would have kept us on track for a record breaking season. But alas, it was not to be.

OISC started slowly, with a poor warm up compounding the feeling that this was a game that was going to be hard to 'get up' for. Comets, having it all to play for, began brightly, but in fairness did a lot of huffing and puffing without much substance. Gouzos was forced into two fine saves as the half unfolded, with the big custodian keeping us in the game. Mr Siklich was involved in a 'war of words' with the Comets supporters, who continued to bitch, moan, threaten and wah-wah all day long. But perhaps the most significant thing to come out of the first half was the send off of Dal Broi, who had brought his family to watch, after just 15 minutes. There was not much in either of the two yellow cards he received; rather it was the quick succession of fouls he committed in a period of 5 minutes that proved his

undoing. Down the other end, Barone had a couple of chances to score, but found the Comets keeper at the top of his game and hard to beat.

The second half was a much more open affair with both sides guilty of wasting great chances to get on the score sheet. Again it was Gouzos who kept OISC in the match and the Comets keeper who did the same down the other end. The fact that you couldn't tell we were a man down in the second half spoke volumes for the increased effort we put in (by increased effort I mean we went from reverse to first gear). As the match drew to an end, we had the best of the chances, with Barone returning to his school 1st XI days, missing two 1-on-1s (sorry Pete, D'Onofrio told me to say that). All in all, a disappointing day, disappointing result and disappointing performance on an anti-climatic day at home. Here's hoping we can get up for our next two matches so we can finish off the season with the kind of performances the club deserves.

## Round 17 at Budapest

3-0

Goals: Barone 2, Carbone

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Barolo (Ortner); M. Ciccarello, Siklich, Carbone, Manou, Ricci (Panagos); P. Barone

This was our first 'nothing game' for us, with our position on the table already finalised and Budapest happily safe in the mid-table, having avoided the cluster of teams at the bottom facing relegation with a few '6-pointer' wins in the last month. As such, this was a potential banana skin for us, as motivation was not surprisingly quite low.

The lacklustre warmup and casual attitude pre-match felt more like a preseason fixture, and our performance in the first 20 minutes reflected that, putting in what this observer believes is the worst opening start to a match this season. After the opening period, however, we gained the ascendancy through the midfield and continued to pepper the Budapest goal, without giving their 'keeper anything much to do. About half an hour in, he limped off with a twisted ankle after coming out to bravely prevent a 1-on-1 opportunity being taken, and the left-back moved into goal. Within 2 minutes, he should have been off the field as well, after some delightful leadup work from Adam Carbone and Michael Manou released Peter Barone, and the substitute 'keeper prevented a certain goal by deliberately handing (punching away) the ball outside of the box. To the Budapest crowd's delight, the referee only offered a yellow card. Mark Ciccarello blasted the resultant freekick into the orbit of Jupiter. Matthew Siklich had a long range effort brilliantly saved by the stand-in 'keeper in the shadows of half-time.

A halftime spray from 'Rocket' Cagialis followed as we all agreed that our performance was below par. There was also some half-time entertainment as we realised that a referee inspector had actually rocked up (the SAASL claims to not have enough referees, but it can still send out inspectors?), and the referee was no doubt getting a dressing down for missing the blatant red card and starting the match 10 minutes late. The referee 'upped his game' in the second half and managed to book a Budapest substitute for 'entering the field of play without permission' and question a number of players about their non-matching 'skins'.

A resilient Budapest managed to hold us out for another 20 minutes or so before the floodgates opened and we scored three in ten minutes to seal the game. Adam Carbone scored the first, a tap-in after fine work down the right by Ciccarello and Barone, whilst Barone himself bagged a double with two clinical finishes. The highlight (or lowlight) of the second half was a miscued clearance from Captain Fantastic slamming straight into Paul Barolo's chin (welcome back to the A Grade mate), at which point Barolo fell to the ground and knocked himself out. When he 'came to', despite protestations to the contrary ('relax, i'm fine'), he required substitution soon after, and provided some unintentional comedy for those on the sideline with continual repeated requests for answers to the questions 'how did I get here?' and 'what's the score?'.

Another solid (yet unspectacular) win for the Wolves. This marks our seventh clean sheet out of the eight league games of this half of the season, with only the illegal goal scored by Gleeson blemishing our 'goals against' record.

Congratulations must also go to the D Grade for clinching back-to-back Championships in Division 4B and an undefeated season (thus far).

## Round 18 v Allstars United

3-1

Goals: P. Barone, Dal Broi, Carbone

Lineup: Gouzos; Dew, J. Kitching, Stenta, Barolo; M. Ciccarello (Rayner), Siklich (A. Rossi), Carbone, Manou, Ricci (Dal Broi); P. Barone

This match had all the hallmarks of an end-of-season fixture that meant nothing to both teams: positions settled on the table, lacklustre warmups, and no wolf burgers in sight due to the OISC razor gang instigating budget cuts in preparation for the AGM in November. However, this match still meant something to the Wolves: Allstars were the only team in the league to have defeated us this season, and were also the last league team to score a legitimate goal against us. With the majority of the squad available, with the exception of Michael La Vista, who was at his third cousins's brother's wife's cousin's daughter's 3rd birthday party in Canberra, and Peter Chitti (location unknown), we were determined to reverse the defeat from Round 9. An unchanged lineup from the Rd 17 match against Budapest lined up, with Gary Dal Broi unable to win back his place. In fairness to the New South Welshman, he had been sightseeing in Hahndorf earlier in the morning and had decided to take the shorter 'scenic route' through the Adelaide Hills to Athelstone and St Ignatius College. Naturally, he arrived just as the whistle went for kickoff, after taking a detour via Houghton.

The intensity lacked for the first 20 minutes, and our opponents really put pressure on our defence. We were caught in possession far too often and were not marking tightly enough. After threatening early a few times, Allstars took the lead with a booming strike from a set

piece too hot for Michael Gouzos to handle in goal. The deviation on the flight of the ball forced us to check that it wasn't a Jabulani in disguise, such was the sideways swerve generated by 'Billy'. We struggled to break down our opponent's defence, either putting too much emphasis on our crosses, or picking out their 6'5 central defender ('Billy'). As such, we entered into half time behind for the only time in the league this season, and for the first time since Cup Round 1 against Ingle Farm. In unfamiliar territory, it was unknown what kind of baking we would get from Coach Bombay. Thankfully, it was more Charlie Sheen than Emilio Estevez, and we were determined to ensure that we finished the season on a high.

We set the tone early in the second half as our passing game got into full groove. We equalised within 10 minutes of the restart with some excellent work by Adam Carbone to put Peter Barone through for an easy finish. At the other end, Captain Fantastic was leading the line with Paul Barolo in the thick of the action. Ryan Dew was being his natural 'buzzing' self, letting our Allstars' best player know on a few occasions that he played for a 'joke of a club'. We took control of the midfield, Michael Manou lapping up anything coming through, and began to seriously threaten the opposition goal. The breakthrough came from a set piece, with Dal Broi, keen to amend for his navigational errors, slotting home a perfect free kick after Barone had been hacked on the edge of the box. Before Dal Broi stepped up, Captain Fantastic asked "Has anyone ever seen him take a freekick before?" BANG, straight into the top right corner. Dal Broi, still hyped up from all the sugar that he ate from the Handorf Chocolate Shop, casually asked James Kitching "How many goals have you scored this season?". When Dew starting laughing, Kitching asked him the same question.

Within five minutes the lead had doubled, with Carbone, after taking some ribbing for brushing Dal Broi away from the free kick, scoring a deflected effort into the bottom left

corner. The bemused midfielder appropriately did not celebrate, and just shrugged, Michael Jordan vs Cleveland Cavaliers-style. Allstars, to their credit, finished the game off strongly, and if not for Michael Gouzos in goal, could have easily equalised. The dangerous Kanga managed to get in behind our defence on two occasions, and was only thwarted by superb one-on-one stops by the big 'keeper. There was time for Andrew Rossi to come off the bench and get a touch, as well as for Luke Rayner to make his first A Grade appearance of the season. The highlight for the crowd, however, was the red card of the niggly Allstars central midfielder, who had broken Barolo's toe earlier in the season (not that Barolo would remember that).

When the final whistle went, emotions were mixed. Relief and joy at the victory was mixed in with sadness at it being the end of such a successful and record-breaking season. The challenge for the boys is to see how many can stay in shape over Summer, and how many can come back and have a crack at winning the club it's first ever SAASL Division 1 championship.

# B GRADE

Coach: Piero Sparapani

Captain: Martin Radcliffe

## Awards

Player of the Year: Luke Rayner

Player's Player of the Year: Joel Ortner

Leading Goalscorer: Andrew Rossi (20)

## Saturday Division Two Reserves

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PT
MA Hawks	18	14	2	2	53	12	+41	44
Old Ignatians	18	13	2	3	68	19	+49	41
Navarino FC	18	9	4	5	36	21	+15	31
Comets	18	9	3	6	30	21	+9	30
Allstars United	18	8	2	8	41	29	+12	26
Adelaide Cougars	18	8	2	8	33	44	-11	26
Gleeson FC	18	7	3	8	21	39	-18	24
FC Adelaide	18	6	3	9	22	35	-13	21
Southern Breakers	18	3	2	13	28	69	-41	11
Adelaide Budapest	18	1	1	15	21	64	-43	4

## Round 1 vs Southern Breakers

8-0

Goals: A. Rossi 4, Sparapani 2, Thomas, D'Argenio

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; D'Argenio, Surman, Eldic, De Simoni (Culshaw); Kangas (Cavuoto), Thomas, Rayner, Ortner; Sparapani (Woods), A. Rossi

Well Well Well, another season, another story. A couple of new faces for the B grade this year under (old) new coach Piero Sparapani paid immediate dividends with a comfortable 8-0 win over Southern Breakers.

The match was very comfortable for the Wolves, with an Andrew Rossi hat trick in the first half meaning another piercing in his left ear is all but certain. The other vice captain managed to put two spectacular performances together on the day, controlling the midfield from pole to post, and guiding the Brisbane Lions to a 3-0 start to the AFL season. Rowan Thomas was as lively as ever; with pace to burn, but in all fairness, this match should have quite easily gone into double figures.

The only real moment of controversy came from the referee disallowing what would have been Piero's hatrick for offside, after the Breakers defense simply stopped. Hopefully the rest of the club was watching and remembered to learn to "play to the whistle".

From the newbies, mini D'Arge scored on his league debut, and Kangas will provide width throughout the season. Culshaw was solid at the back when he came on, whilst Woodsy was still stuck in the mentality from the Es/Fs 8-a-side trial game as he was well off the pace.

Davide came off the bench to bamboozle anyone that came in his way, as the Bs announced themselves as fierce competitors for the title this season.

## Round 2 at Navarino FC

2-3

Goals: Leane 2

Lineup:E. Ciccarello; D'Argenio, J. Kitching, Surman, De Simoni (Cavuoto); Thomas, Ricci (Kangas), Mihalopoulos, Ortner; A. Rossi, Leane (Sparapani)

Do you know what "nemesis" means? A righteous infliction of retribution manifested by an appropriate agent. Personified in this case by an 'orrible c\*nt...Navarino FC.

Our opposition had cost us the title last season, the only team we did not pick up a point against, with the 5-1 defeat midway through the season the turning-point at which we dropped points in 3 consecutive matches. As such, the message from the staff involved being 'switched on' from the start and ensuring that gave this match the dedication it deserved. We welcomed big Kitch into the lineup after he got lost in the (A Grade) clouds, whilst Daniel Ricci, Shane Leane, and Chinga Mihalopoulos were playing their first B Grade matches for OISC.

The match started at a very slow pace, but we were soon under the pump. Navarino threatened through the middle and down the right as we struggled to deal with long, high balls. Our main issue from last week, which was that we allowed too many balls to bounce in defence, was not being addressed, and we were lucky not to concede an early goal. We did ultimately concede after 25 minutes. An innocuous long-throw from the attacking left was not properly dealt with, and a Navarino striker was able to steal in and score a very soft goal. Within 10 minutes Navarino had doubled the lead. A long-ball free kick was aimed at the left side of our defence, and both OISC defenders managed to miss the header, allowing

the Navarino attacker time and space to hoof the ball into the roof of the net. Aside from those two moments, Emerson was untroubled in goal in the first half, which goes to show that the team which takes its opportunities is always going to be the one that ends out on top. To our credit, we rallied in the final 10 minutes of the half, with Rowan Thomas and Joel Ortner prominent in our attacking forays. It resulted in two quality goals, both scored by Leane, one from a direct Ortner cross, and one from a Thomas through ball. We thus entered half-time with all the momentum.

Unfortunately, we failed to recognise the correlation between conceding a third goal one minute into the second half, losing all of our momentum, and a good deal. After a long clearance from a Navarino defender, a horrible mix-up between defender and 'keeper allowed a Navarino attacker the simplest of finishes. For the next 44 minutes, we needed goals, and we pushed forward. However, the Navarino 'keeper was up to the task, and claimed anything in the air within 5m of his goal. We tended to rush our play a bit and tried to 'play African', passing the ball into the net as opposed to shooting. This led to our downfall, with only one memorable attacking foray, a shot by skipper Andrew Rossi that was wonderfully saved by the 'keeper. The final period of the match was less than memorable, with poor (verbal) discipline costing us valuable seconds and the majority of the 50/50 refereeing decisions.

Many lessons can be learnt from this match. In terms of our opposition, it turned out that the fat-bodied, mullet-sporting Navarino squad was the equivalent of the gypsy bare-knuckle boxing champion. All it took were three punches, and we were knocked out three times. In terms of ourselves, we understand we have a long way to go mentally if we want to emulate the results of 2009.

## Round 3 vs FC Adelaide

B at FC Adelaide

2-0

Goals: TOG, Rossi

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio, J. Kitching, Surman, De Simoni (Rugari); P. Barone, J. George, Ricci, Sparapani (A. Rossi), Ortner; Leane (Kangas)

We entered this match with our last performance firmly behind us, determined to make amends for some lacklustre defending and ordinary discipline. Although the table suggested otherwise, FC Adelaide always are a tough opponent, and have always challenged us for the title in Division 2B. Indeed, in 2007 they finished second to our Championship, whereas last year they were crowned Champions after we lost in the final round of the season. Piero made a slight formation tweak, changing to 4-5-1 with two attacking midfielders, and bringing Jason George, Peter Barone, Kristos Kyriacou, and himself into the starting lineup for the first time this season. Interestingly, none of the 'leadership group' was in the run-on side for various reasons, so James Kitching inherited the armband for the first time. Andrew Rossi was spotted posting on Facebook about it.

We dominated the match from the get-go, and were rarely troubled at the back. Pez had kept faith with the same back four from the previous week, giving them an opportunity to make amends. Another slight tactical adjustment saw Kitching play more of a sweeper role, whilst Andy Surman man-marked and challenged the ball in the air, whilst the vocal Kyriacou in goal ensured that no player went unmarked. We were less fluid going forward and threatened predominantly from set pieces. The pace of Ortner and Barone on the wings

meant that we got the ball behind the defence on numerous occasions, but did not get the finish that we craved. The breakthrough came midway through the first half. Good work by Ortner and Leane on the left wing saw Leane fouled on the edge of the box. Sparapani swung the ball into the box, Surman attacked it diagonally, which fooled the 'keeper and FC Adelaide defenders, causing one of them to turn the ball into his own net. The half ended in acrimonious circumstances, with George on the ground clutching his face after a misplaced elbow from an FC Adelaide midfielder.

The second half was much of the same; OISC lapping up anything that FC Adelaide could throw at them, whilst wasting their possession and attacking advantage. The highlight of the half were the continual vocals of that same FC Adelaide midfielder; each time he opened his mouth the OISC players knew that they were winning the battle mentally. The second goal was inevitable, and it came with about 20 minutes to go. We were consistently threatening down Ortner's left wing. Barone, moved up front after Leane had been subbed, received a ball wide on the left. After some off the ball movement, he swung a ball through to the oncoming Rossi who tapped in from 6 yards with his first touch. That was also part of his post-game Facebook status.

This was a much-improved performance, and a significant step in the right direction.

## Round 4 at Gleeson

B at Gleeson

2-0

Goals: Sparapani, Thomas 2, Leane 2, Ortneri

Lineup: Kyriacou; Mihalopoulos, Radcliffe, J. Kitching, De Simoni; Kangas (Culshaw), J. George, Thomas, Ortner; Sparapani (Leane), A. Rossi

After comfortably dispatching of last year's champions FC Adelaide, we faced another test this week against the relegated Gleeson. The lineup once again was significantly altered by player unavailability, with Captain Marty (in his first appearance for the season) and Chinga moving into the backline, Rowan Thomas returning from A Grade duties, Adam Kangas starting for the first time since Round One, and Andrew Culshaw being rewarded for his C Grade form with a call-up. Whilst we had played (and comprehensively destroyed) Gleeson last year on the way to the Reserve Cup Final, we knew that the derby game always required 100% focus and intensity from the beginning.

Coach Sparapani would have been thrilled, therefore, that he could lead by example by scoring a stunning 25 metre free-kick within 2 minutes of the kickoff. The cheeky bugger turned actually called it before he hit it, after getting the nod of approval from Jason George. We doubled the lead within 10 minutes after some quick thinking by Chinga saw a long throw turn into a through-ball for Rowan Thomas to slot home a second. Some solid defending at the back meant Kristos Kyriacou had another quiet first-half, with De Simoni playing probably his best game in an OISC shirt. The link play between De Simoni and Joel Ortner on the left hand-side was a joy to behold, and as their understanding develops so

does the attacking impetus of the B Grade. Our third goal came about 5 minutes before half time, a well worked move involving Jason George and Adam Kangas saw Andrew Rossi released down the right flank. He beat a defender and brought the ball along the touchline, squaring to Thomas to knock in his second goal.

The half-time message was 'more of the same'. Gleeson came out revved up and had a crack in the first fifteen minutes, with Kyriacou forced into one save, but Martin Radcliffe, James Kitching and Jason George through the centre comfortably dealt with the Gleeson long-balls and physicality of their centre forward (which dropped off significantly as the half wore on). Shane 'The Future' Leane came off the bench, after being dropped for rocking up 2 minutes before kick-off (too busy watching Justin Bieber on Video Hits), and within 10 minutes had scored another brace. The first came from a superbly timed long-ball which Chinga hit from a free-kick, and the second came after a fast break from a Gleeson penalty. With about 20 minutes to go, Joel Ortner also managed to get on the scoresheet for the first time this season, after a run and cross by Rowan Thomas was met by his right knee at the back post.

We took the pedal off in the last portion of the match when we really should have gone on to kill it, but the game was definitely over as a contest as soon as we scored our fourth goal. This was probably the best performance of the season (particularly given Gleeson's previous results), and bodes well for our Reserve Cup fixture this week against Saturday Division One side Stirling. As Coach Sparapani noted, we definitely demonstrated that they were no better than our "G Team" (cue laughter).

## Reserve Cup Round 1 v Stirling

4-2

Goals: Rayner 2, A. Rossi, Eldic

Lineup: Kyriacou; D' Argenio, J. George, Radcliffe, De Simoni; A. Rossi, Rayner, Drazetic (Eldic), Thomas, Ortner (Culshaw); Sparapani

With the World Cup looming Coach Pez took a leaf out of Pim's book and employed a 4-2-3-1 formation, bringing in Dali "The Head" Drazetic to partner Vossy in the holding midfield role. Kitching & Chinga were required for the As and Shane Leane had a "tricep twinge" (what the? must be a Gen Y injury, or is he Gen Z?) so Kristian Eldic, Davide Cavuoto & Joe Rugari also got the call-up.

We defeated Stirling 4-2 with a dominating performance. The first half we had the vast majority of possession with Dali, Rowan & Joel combining well in the midfield, and the defence was rarely troubled. We could only manage the one goal though that came from Vossy putting one away late in the half, which he followed with the classic aeroplane celebration.

Stirling pressed relentlessly for the next 20 minutes, with their captain "Sideshow Bob" scoring a free header from a corner to bring it back to 1-1. Kristian Eldic had come on for Dali at the interval and had an immediate impact up front, scoring a screamer from his "cross" virtually from the left corner post to the top-right corner to send the vocal Iggies crowd into raptures. 2-1 and it was game on. Andrew Rossi pounced on a loose ball and restored our two goal lead for 3-1, before a defensive error just outside the box gifted them a 2nd and it was 3-2 with 10 to go.

To our credit we managed to switch the momentum back our way for the remainder, and the performance was topped off with a solo run and clinical finish from Vossy for his 2nd, followed by him puffing and panting back to the halfway line just in time for the restart, narrowly avoiding a yellow for time-wasting from the card-happy ref. 4-2 to the Wolves and the Iggies song was pumped out proudly.

A fantastic result to outclass this Div 1 team - those of us hoping for some weekends off during the season may be disappointed, as with a bit of luck this squad has the capability to repeat last year's Reserve Cup finals appearance.

## Round 5 at Adelaide Cougars

2-0

Goals: TOG, A. Rossi

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio, Surman, Radcliffe, De Simoni; Cavuoto (Kangas), Rayner (Culshaw), J. George, Thomas, Sparapani; A. Rossi (Tavella)

No report submitted.

## Round 6 v MA Hawks

2-1

Goals: Ortner, Rayner (pen)

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Culshaw (Condon), Radcliffe, Surman, De Simoni; D'Argenio, J. George, Thomas (Cavuoto), Rayner, Ortner; Sparapani

A glorious day set a fitting scene for the B Grade's big clash with league leaders MA Hawks. You could feel the excitement in the dressing room before the game, with Luke Rayner explaining to the team the effect of the various possible results on the league table. If only he had done the same to his Lions team at West Lakes on Sunday, they might still be in the top 8.

We got started and after some pressure from Hawks, we scored somewhat against the run of play. Some good persistent work from Rowan Thomas and Daniel D'Argenio down the right kept the ball alive and the ball was squared to Joel Ortner coming in from the left, who finished nicely into the bottom corner. We took control after the first goal and had Hawks under pressure for the rest of the first half, winning a string of corners. We did have the ball in the net from one of the corners at one stage but the referee blew for a foul for no apparent reason. It would not be his last bemusing decision of the day.

Piero Sparapani also hit the bar just before half time with a nice lob from distance, but we would have to settle for a 1-0 lead at the break.

Hawks were down to 10 men early in the second half, when a cynical foul on Rowan was harshly punished by the referee. The game got a little spicy from there, but our opposition

seemed to be inspired by their numerical disadvantage and put us under a spell of sustained pressure. We mainly dealt with it well but conceded a soft equaliser when a long throw was volleyed home by the Hawks striker. This seemed to wake us up and we pushed forward in search of a winner. Shortly before the end, I briefly stopped paying attention and when I turned back around, Vossy was placing the ball on the spot. I'm told we got the penalty for somebody elbowing skipper Martin Radcliffe at a corner, so well done Marty.

Vossy coolly put away the pen to the keeper's left, and we closed the game out comfortably to record a 2-1 victory, despite Piero seeing red late on for retaliating to a series of blatant but unpunished fouls while he held the ball in the corner.

## Round 7 at Comets

2-2

Goals: Rayner (pen), TOG

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio, Radcliffe, Barolo, De Simoni (Culshaw); Condon, J. George, Rayner, Thomas (Surman), Ortner; A. Rossi

Iggies reserves arrived at a very wet Comets ground, with a win important to establish a firm presence at the top of the table, particularly after a good win over MA Hawks in the previous game.

Piero sat this one out due to suspension, with Barolo making a welcome appearance.

The wind and rain made for a scrappy start to the game, with Iggies taking a good 15 minutes to settle. Comets playing a very high game, pushed forward for an attack with our defence stepping forward prior to an overhead pass leaving 3 Comets players a good way off-side ... the linesman's flag clearly up, the ref makes the bizarre decision to over-rule, leaving Comets players free to put the ball in the net. Not sure which set of players looked more surprised.

On with the game and to our credit, Iggies started to play much better. Jason, Vossy and the wing backs getting some useful balls into Ortner, Rossi and Rowan. A period of good pressure sending Rossi clear only to be brought down in the box. Up steps Vossy to slot away, keeping that 100% penalty record in tact. Comets keeper's goal line distraction antics more numerous than effective!

More Iggies pressure then lead to a free kick at the half way line. Radcliffe's ball picked up by Rossi on the right flank, with interchanges in the box finding Thomas to bundle one in just before the half time whistle.

Back out for the 2nd half, and for some reason we again took too long to find our feet in the blustery conditions. Comets still playing a high game, pushing forward through the middle. A shot from well outside the box, blocked by Radcliffe but not cleared, with the Comets player latching onto the rebound and hitting a superb dipping shot over Kristos into the net.

Iggies still had plenty of time to find a winner, however we were in too much of a hurry to find the forwards, overlooking necessary link-play for predicatable route 1 stuff. Ortnier, one of our better players, finding some joy on the left flank. Some good chances starting to materialise for our forwards, however in-between his obvious and irritating bouts of time wasting, the Comets keeper did pull off some very good saves from our boys.

Piero reverted to 3 at the back, throwing another a man forward in an effort to grab a winner. In the end however, a draw it was to be and a frustrating one at that.

In summary endeavour and heart was there, composure, creativity and patience unfortunately missing.

With other results doing us a favour a hard week of training is now required, with a chance to get back to winning ways next week at home.

## Round 8 v Budapest

3-0

Goals: Rayner, De Simoni, A. Rossi

Lineup: Cicchiani; Culshaw, Radcliffe, J. George;  
Condon, Mihalopoulos; Kangas, Rayner (Photakis), De  
Simoni; A. Rossi (D. Ciccarello), Cavuoto

Iggies reserves arrived at Glenunga and were determined to overcome Budapest who were at the lower end of the table. Piero informed the team of how important it is to not drop points at this stage as the other teams around us certainly wouldn't. Piero made a slight adjustment from a 4-1-2-1-2 formation to a 3-2-2-1-2 due to the unavailability of 6 players for this week.

With Kyriacou keeping for the A's this week we had Cicchiani in goals for his first game of the season.

With the sun out to start the game, Iggies knew that we had to get a couple of goals up before the rain came. With not even 5 minutes played, the rain came down and it was looking as though it would turn out to be a scrappy game but it didn't last long. With 15 minutes gone, I don't remember much of the buildup play but Rayner received the ball just outside the box, took a couple of steps and slotted our first for the match.

Iggies kept the pressure on and continued to push forward but with little happening with the score until a mix up in the middle from Budapest and the ball spilled out. Kangas then managed to pick out a pass from the middle of the park which split the defense and De Simoni was able to run into the box, run around the keeper and slot in our second. The

Budapest keeper was quite upset and just booted the ball out of the goals which accidentally smashed the umpire in the face and the game was on hold for a couple of minutes while the umpire received some treatment.

Not long after the half time whistle went and Iggies went to the break 2-0 but we felt like it should have been a bigger margin. With the defence of Culshaw, Radcliffe and J.George, Condon and Mihalopoulos holding strong at the back our defence was impenetrable.

In the second half the Iggies kept the pressure up but were unable to convert. With one of the few times that Budapest got into their forward area, one of their players thought that a throw in should have been a free kick and decided he would mouth off at the Ref. The ref turned around and yellow carded him, to which the player obviously didn't agree and he hurled another wave of abuse at the ref which in turn the Ref once again turned around and red carded him.

Our second half was full of chances but only one of them was converted. It was a wide ball down the wing which De Simoni fed through to Cavuoto up forward. He was stuck close to the line and tried to get the ball back into the middle, a deflection off the Budapest defender and the ball had spilt out to Rossi who was able to easily add to his tally for the season.

The rest of the second half was not very eventful except for a couple of notable yellow cards to Cavuoto and Kangas for kicking the ball after the whistle was just blown. There was also an incident where Condon received the ball out wide, and was able to cross it into the box. The ball came in and Kangas saw an opportunity to pounce. The Budapest keeper thought otherwise and decided to come off his line to get to the ball. With Kangas going up for a header, the Budapest keeper decided to try and fist the ball out. They both collided and

both hit the ground hard. Kangas was up but the game had to stop for a couple of minutes as the keeper stayed on the ground apparently hurt.

With so many chances missed throughout the game, I do recall during this break Rayer mentioning to me how many chances we missed and that we should have been up by much more. Upon the restart I recall Rayner receiving the ball at around the penalty spot and he had no one in sight and all eyes on the Goals. He took a step and the ball went flying over the cross bar. He looked in dismay and fell to the ground heartbroken not to get his second. Once he got up, he was subbed by Piero.

With D. Ciccarello and Photakis coming on for the dragged Rayner and superstar Rossi, the Iggies continued the pressure but were still unable to convert.

It was a strong game all round with a solid team performance. This win put the B's on top of the table 2 points clear of Navarino. Next week we host Modbury Jets for Round 2 of the Cup.

## Reserve Cup Round 2 v Modbury Jets

4-3 (aet)

Goals: Ortner 2, Rayner (pen), D'Argenio

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio, J. George (Surman),  
Radcliffe, De Simoni; Kangas, Rayner (D. Ciccarello),  
Sparapani, Thomas, Ortner; A. Rossi

Iggies reserves lined up for what was sure to be a physical game against a largely English Modbury side sitting at the foot of Div 1.

Piero had a strong squad to select from, and reverted back to the 4-1-3-2 formation.

From kick off it was obvious how our opponents were going to play, a high game with two very central strikers. The size of their scouse centre forward presenting issues from the onset and after 5 minutes Radcliffe's headed challenge from a throw fell into the box and our defence failing to clear allowed an easy tap in to send Modbury 1 up.

It took another 10 minutes, however Iggies then settled and got into our stride. Vossy and Piero linking well with Kangas and Joel on the flanks and Rossi and Rowan lively up front. Defence doing well to contain their forwards, with some direct balls down the flanks and to our front men. Not long before half time a good period of passing across midfield, teed up Rossi on the edge of the box whose goalbound shot handled on the line by Modbury defender. The defender shown a straight red our '100%' man steps up to slot home the spot kick.

More of the same after the interval. Some crunching tackles coming in, with plenty of mistimed ones from Modbury. Jason in particular tackling hard from our end, an approach

which saw him take a hard knock on the head mid way in. Darge also doing well carrying ball out of defence, and a few minutes later was taken down late and another red comes out for our opponents.

Iggies getting on top now, Modbury supporters getting frustrated, Rossi very lively and Rowan carving a number of scoring opportunities. 15 minutes before time, our cross from the right finding Ortner who headed down to his right foot and slotted home.

Iggies striving hard to hold on, however at a Modbury corner, their man timed it well and beat our defence to head in an equaliser.

Game turning sour toward final whistle, a handful of dimwitted monkeys on the Modbury sideline letting their club down.

A bruised Jason forced to come off, replaced at the back by Andy. Against the 9-men Iggies did come out stronger, our midfield getting on top. A Modbury clearance then fell to Radcliffe, whose first time volley sends Darge through, who then does well to score from the right side.

Not long after and the goal of the game, ball played out to Ortner to the left of the box, who controls and hits a superb curling shot into top corner, champagne stuff.

Then (and remembering we are only against 9 men) Iggies went to sleep periodically. A quickly taken ball releasing their left winger, who squared across for the forward to send past Kristos. This set up a nervy finish, however we saw the game out and progress to the next round.

Overall a good hard fought win for Iggies. Some good attack play and combative work in midfield and defence. It wasn't that pretty though and perhaps more focus needed to get

back to the more measured passing game on display earlier this season. In closing credit does need to be given to the Mubury captain, a good bloke, who, obviously embarrassed by some of his support's sideline antics, came over to apologise and wish us well for the season.

## Round 9 at Allstars United

0-3

Lineup: Kyriacou; Condon, Radcliffe, J. George, De Simoni (Surman); Kangas (Lai), Rayner, Thomas (Panagos), Ortner; Sparapani, A. Rossi

No report submitted.

## Round 10 at Southern Breakers

10-0

Goals: A. Rossi 4, Rayner, D'Argenio, TOG

Lineup: Arboit; Lai, Radcliffe, Surman, D'Argenio;  
Thomas, J. George, Panagos (De Simoni), Sparapani  
(Mercuri), Rayner; A. Rossi (Tallarida)

No report submitted.

## Round 11 vs Navarino FC

3-0

Goals: Rayner (pen), Di Rito, Ortner

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; D'Argenio (Kangas), Radcliffe, J. George, Surman; Thomas (Sparapani), Rayner, Panagos, Condon, Ortner; A. Rossi (Di Rito)

No report submitted.

## Reserve Cup Round 3 v Elizabeth Downs

5-4

Goals: A. Rossi 2, Surman, Radcliffe, Kangas

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio (Kangas), Surman (Lai), Radcliffe, Sabatino; Thomas (Di Rito), Rayner, Sparapani, J. George, Ortner; A. Rossi

Elizabeth Downs arrived at Fortress Glenunga eager to avenge their final loss back in '02. Before the game, Piero spoke about all the little things we had to do in order to match a team who is currently sitting 2nd in Sunday Div 1.

The perfect storm from the night before had calmed only slightly by the time we kicked off. There was a strong wind blowing towards the high school end, which meant defending that end would be a nightmare.

However it was Downs who started the game strongest, setting up plenty of opportunities on goal. They had the majority of possession in the first 20 minutes but were unable to capitalise. Their closest effort came from a corner but was saved off the line by D'Argenio. We were attacking on the counter and soon took the lead through Rossi.

Our lead didn't last long though, with Downs answering within a few minutes. After a menacing run through the middle of the park a free kick was awarded about 23 yards from goal. One of their midfielders calmly stepped up and slotted it over the wall and into the top right hand corner via the underside of the crossbar.

Our lead was soon restored however, with Andrew Surman nodding home his maiden OISC goal from a Piero corner. Downs pressed for an equaliser but were caught on the counter

with a marvellous team goal. Rowan collected the ball in his own half and, after a one-two with Piero, charged towards the Downs defence at pace. He then squared the ball to Rossi who beat the keeper from just inside the box.

Trailing 3-1 at half time, Downs started the 2nd half on a mission. Their relentless forays forward were nullified until about the 70th minute when their striker decided to send a pile driver into the top left hand corner of our net from about 35 yards out. Soon afterwards, they had squared the ledger at 3-3 after our defence failed to clear a bouncing ball in the box.

We soon went 4-3 up after the Downs defence failed to clear a corner and the ball fell to stopper Marty who made no mistake from inside the box. As Downs pushed for yet another equaliser, Rossi was able to break free from his marker, race towards goal and then unselfishly (it would have been his hat-trick remember) give the ball to Kangas, whose left foot shot beat the keeper. 5-3 up with not long to go but Downs made it interesting by scoring a fourth from just outside the box in the dying stages.

## Round 12 at FC Adelaide

1-3

Goals: Ortner

Lineup: Kyriacou; Dew (J. George), Radcliffe, Surman, D'Argenio; Thomas (Kangas), Condon, Panagos (Di Rito), Barolo, Ortner; Sparapani

The B-Grade approached this week with much confidence after a thrilling 5-4 win against Elizabeth in the cup last week, however, it was a different squad to the previous week which meant that it would be a completely different game against an always competitive F.C Adelaide.

The match was an arm wrestle in the first half, with both teams struggling to create any real opportunities, before we were unlucky to concede a goal from a misjudged goal-kick. FC Adelaide then lifted and quickly slotted a second goal which left us 2-0 at the break.

We came out firing in the second half, dominating the first 20 minutes which allowed Joel Ortner to put away a goal. We continued to attack and were unlucky not to score from any of the chances we created. FC Adelaide managed to create a quick counter attack, moving the ball quickly from their defence catching us out, which then allowed them to score their third goal. We continued to press forward creating even more opportunities but still could not find a way into the back of the net, even via a penalty.

Much is to be learnt and taken from this game. This leaves us in second place on the table, 3 points behind MA Hawks with 6 games remaining in the season.

## Round 13 v Gleeson

8-2

Goals: A. Rossi 4, La Vista 2, Rayner, Dew

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Dew (Culshaw), Barolo, J. George, Sabatino; Thomas, Rayner, Sparapani (D'Argenio), Condon, La Vista; A. Rossi

After a disappointing loss last week, we went into today's game needing a win to get our title aspirations back on track. We were without our captain Radcliffe (who preferred to swan around in the Barossa for the day), as well as his centre-back partner Andy Surman, and Kristos was promoted to the As. We welcomed back joint-VC Emerson into goals, inherited La Vista from the As and Culshaw made the squad on the bench.

The pre-match instructions from Piero was to score 2 by halftime & within 10mins this was achieved, with both coming from Rowan Thomas corners, & a third quickly followed, this time finished off by a sharp header from near post by Rayner. A scramble in our own 6-yard box led to a goal being conceded from a deflection, but thanks to a slick run by La Vista finished off by his classy chip over the keeper we reinstated our 3 goal advantage. 4-1 at the break.

La Vista continued to wreak havoc down the left, & was rewarded with his 2nd. Dewy, diving & header has never before been in the same sentence, but put them together today & the result was our 6th. A complacent restart led to a quick reply from Gleeson but Rossi quickly slotted two more to make it a drubbing. Their captain's frustration led to him making a late, blatant hit on saba, sending him to the deck spluttering with a suspected cracked rib, which was later confirmed by the ambulance officer. This ended the game after Gleeson refused to

play the last 10min fearing a retaliation on their culprit. The most fired up was surprisingly Sam Condon, but then maybe not given his brother Crackers was on the sideline.

8-2 thank you very much, & the gfc (Gleeson's football crisis) certainly hasn't ended for them as div 3 beckons, with the real possibility of facing our Cs & Ds next year. For us, the match against MA Hawks in 3 weeks shapes as the title decider, but first we must knock off Cougars and then hopefully keep the momentum going with a QF Cup win. One week at a time...

## Round 14 v Cougars

7-0

Goals: Panagos 3 (x1 pen), Sparapani (pen), A. Rossi, Dew, Ortner

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; D'Argenio, Radcliffe, J. George, Culshaw; Dew (De Simoni), Condon, Panagos, Ortner; Sparapani, A. Rossi

No report submitted.

## Reserve Cup Quarter Final at Para Hills East

1-2

Goals: A. Rossi

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio, Radcliffe, J. George, Culshaw; Thomas, Rayner, A. Rossi, Drazetic (T. Smith), Ortner; Sparapani

The next step in the Reserve Cup saw OSIC draw Para Hills East. Building up form from the leading up matches and defeating Elizabeth Downs in the previous round, OISC had belief that we could once again continue further into the Cup.

At the start of the first half we were still asleep and were found chasing the ball. PHE took advantage of this lapse of concentration, crossing a long ball to their striker who chested it down to a free player who easily slotted it from the edge of the box. After conceding this early goal, OISC became more composed and began to get into the game. Not being able to create any clear chances, we looked very dangerous from set pieces. OSIC chance came when Joel Ortner won a corner on the left side. Piero Sparapani swung the ball in towards the back post where Ortner headed it into the ground, up onto the cross bar where Andrew Rossi finished it from 2 yards to level the scores. Just before half time, another set piece chance 'went missing' when Sparapani swung it in towards Daniel D'Argenio head, but it was somehow kept out by a magnificent save from the PHE keeper. We looked on top for the rest of the half, but couldn't jag the lead before halftime.

Our halftime talk focused on pushing forward and to keep up the intensity for the entire 45 minutes. Unfortunately we didn't listen to our own words and conceded in the first five minutes from a defensive error being swung in and the PHE attacking midfielder (who

scored their first) elegantly chipping the advancing Kristos Kyriacou. It seems that we only started to play well after we had conceded. We remained solid with Luke Rayner and Dali Drazetic commanding the middle of the park, and began to use the wings to our advantage. Few chances were created by either side, but OISC kept fighting. We thought our chance would come when Rowan Thomas played a through ball on the right to Rossi who cut inside the PHE defended and shot across the goal passing the keeper, only to be cleared on the line. Another dangerous run down the wing and cross by Thomas could not be put away inside the box. As the game was slowly coming to an end, so were our hopes of getting to the finals for the second consecutive year. The final whistle sounded and that was that.

We should all feel proud of ourselves making it this far and taking it to some of the quality sides from division one of the Saturday and Sunday leagues. We should not feel bad as PHE were a superior opposition who used their large pitch to perfection. Heads up lads as well still have a title to win this weekend with a top of the table clash against MA Hawks.

## Round 15 at MA Hawks

1-1

Goals: Ortner

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio, Radcliffe, J. George, Barolo; Rossi, Rayner, Panagos (Surman), Condon, Ortner; Leane (Sparapani)

The Bs travelled across town to the home of the MA Hawks for one of the biggest games of the year. Second on the table, trailing the Hawks by 3 points and a superior goal difference in favour of the Wolves, a win would see another OISC team sitting rightly on top of the table. The absence of Rowan Thomas saw Rossi move to the right wing and Leane making a return up front.

For a game of such significance the pace was not up to standard with both teams struggling to string any fluid passing moves together and a solid no-nonsense approach from both sets of defensive players led to an uneventful first half with both keepers having little to deal with besides an outrageous crack from the young MA Hawks striker that clipped the apex of the goal.

Piero's halftime team talk focused on a much greater linkup between midfield and attack and pointed out that communication and attack on the ball was lacking up front. The Wolves stepped up their efforts in the second half, with Rayner and Condon starting to anchor the midfield causing the Hawks to dirty up their approach on the ball with numerous dubious tackles being made. Some good work down the right midway through the second half allowed a teasing ball to be whipped into the back post for Ortner to side foot agonisingly into the post. A change up front saw Piero anchor the front line and his quality

at set pieces all most made dividends immediately with dangerous balls being whipped into the six yard box. With 10 minutes from time Piero swung one into the penalty area to find Ortner timing his run to perfection and calmly slot his header home, sending the Wolves into euphoria.

The emphasis was now on protecting this fragile lead, the MA Hawks determinedly pushed on and late into the second half around 5 minutes from time, the ball broke to the young Hawks striker 12 yards out on a slight angle, he did the rest. The Wolves shocked by this recovery couldn't mount any last minute heroics. A disappointing result given the circumstances, but a fair one none the less. The gap remains 3 points between the two teams and with three games to go there is still hope that another title could be heading to Fortress Glenunga.

## Round 16 v Comets

3-1

Goals: Rayner (pen), D'Argenio, Leane

Lineup: Cicchiani; Culshaw, Radcliffe, J. George, Barolo; Thomas (Kangas), Rayner, Condon, Ortner (Sparapani); Leane, A. Rossi (D'Argenio)

After a couple of disappointing weeks the Bs needed to get back in the winners circle to keep the pressure on MA Hawks at the top.

We set up as a 4-4-2 with a diamond midfield, anchored by Rayner with Condon at the top, behind dual strikers in Leane & Rossi.

At the kickoff several of us were surprised to see the young, smiling Hani in an opposition strip – all those training sessions a few years ago where we let him join in despite him being still in nappies obviously gave him a great sense of loyalty to Iggies once he became legal...the kids of today! Barolo marking him ensured he got plenty of attention, especially around the shins, surprise surprise.

We started with a flurry creating several attacking moves in the first 15 mins, with Leane & Ortner were heavily involved.

The breakthrough came 20 mins in, with a Rayner through-ball to Leane giving him the chance to take on the keeper and open our account, and Shane did not disappoint. 1-0.

As both teams settled it became evident we were not going to walk over these guys, who drew with us last encounter. Comets started to dominate, their 2 senior heavyweights

taking control and distributing from deep in their midfield with relative success. Just before the break a mid-air clash between our defence and their striker saw the ball falling to the latter giving him an easy tap-in for the equalizer.

We took back the ascendancy in the 2nd half, looking dangerous on the flanks in attack , and in defence putting plenty of pressure on the ball carrier which led to several mistakes from clearances and passes. The fresh legs of D'Argenio & Kangas were injected at the right time, and the Comets were waning. A mini-win for us was when their young playmaker from our last encounter (the red-booted no.10) was subbed midway through the half. Their frustrations in defence then resulted in a penalty, which Rayner slotted bottom right to give us the lead. 2-1. Sparapani came on with 10 to go and immediately hassled their midfield. To the Comets credit they kept fighting, and just as they were starting to threaten again, a Rob Green-style howler by their keeper (who had played very well until this point) gifted us the 3rd which took the wind out of their sails. 3-1.

Overall a solid win and great to beat a team we didn't manage to first time around. If we can beat the Allstars in the final week then if we don't win league at least we can say we beat every team, a claim MA Hawks can't make with only 1 point from the two games against us. Go Comets next week against Hawks! With Budapest in last week that is our last chance for them to slip up.

## Round 17 at Budapest

2-1

Goals: Leane, Rayner

Lineup: Kyriacou; D'Argenio, J. George, Radcliffe, Culshaw; Kangas (Surman), Rayner, Thomas, Ortner (De Simoni); Sparapani, Leane

This game had it all, and also offered nothing at the same time. How you ask?

Well when we arrived we could have been forgiven for thinking we were in Strathalbyn with the unmown, clover riddled pitch. Shane showed up with no boots, the Bs cards that were "missing" turned up in the coach's kitbag (who would have thought?), and at kickoff time the opposition only had 3 players on the pitch so we waited 10 mins to avoid them forfeiting. The general attitude appeared to be that we would roll this team by 10+ and some players were no doubt dreaming of hat-tricks and goal celebrations. How wrong we were...

Within 20 mins we had had a plethora of clear-cut chances without converting, Rowan was ridiculously sent off, their ref and his own linesman were having a slanging match about dodgy offside calls and our quality of play if you can call it that resembled the opposition who are bottom of the league, have 2 players that are 60+ and have conceded 60+ goals.

Finally we put one away with a clever run from Sparapani into the box, the ball cut back to Shane who finally found his radar. 1-0. Did this kick us into gear? Ahhh that's a big NO.

We continued to struggle to find rhythm for the rest of the half, the break could not come quickly enough. Di Simoni came on at left-mid for Ortner who was in the As squad.

The second half started like the first, and Budapest seemed to thrive on us getting increasingly frustrated. The inevitable then happened, we conceded from a counter-attack and found ourselves 1-1, on the back foot and asking ourselves "What is going on here?". Surman came on for Kangas, and their keeper who all game had been toying with us by dribbling around and going for runs, got caught out as Andy dispossessed him in the box, appeared to have got around him when the keeper held him back, preventing a sure goal. The ref saw this as fair somehow and now our bad play was coupled with bad luck.

Fortunately with 10 mins to go D'Argenio made a great run to the byline and cut it back to the top of the 6 yard where Rayner's outstretched boot connected and sent the ball past the keeper for the winning goal. This gave us the 3 points but certainly did not leave us feeling like winners. Our last game gives us a chance to finish on a positive note, by playing like we have most for the season and also for redemption against Allstars.

## Round 18 v Allstars United

7-2

Goals: De Simoni 2, Panagos, D'Argenio, Leane, Sparapani, J. George (pen)

Lineup: Kyriacou; Lai, Sparapani, J. George, De Simoni; Thomas, Condon (Tavella), Rayner, Panagos, D'Argenio; Leane (Cavuoto)

No report submitted.

# C GRADE

Coach: Ivan Pendes

Captain: Branko Ripa

## Awards

Player of the Year: Branko Ripa

Player's Player of the Year: Branko Ripa

Leading Goalscorer: Branko Ripa (24)

## Saturday Division Four

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PT
Old Ignatians (2)	15	10	3	2	63	26	+37	33
Adelaide Red/Blue Eagles	16	10	3	3	48	23	+25	33
Flinders (2)	16	10	2	4	42	23	+19	32
Adelaide Uni (2)	15	8	2	5	40	35	+5	26
Strathalbyn	16	7	3	6	39	28	+11	24
Greenock Town	16	7	2	7	39	26	+13	23
Brahma Lodge	16	6	3	7	50	35	+15	21
Hahndorf (C2)	14	2	0	12	16	53	-37	6
Dragon Rangers	16	1	0	15	17	105	-83	3

\*OISC (2) vs Hahndorf C2 was not played

\*Adelaide Uni (3) vs Hahndorf C2 was not played

# Challenge Cup Preliminary Round v Greenock Town

**1-4**

Goal: Ripa (pen)

Lineup: Lissner; Huang (Woods), Andrawos, Jahangiri, Earls; Balestrin, M. Bolognese, Kari, G. Bolognese (M. Sorgini); Ripa, A. Sorgini

It wasn't to be for the Cs in the Cup this season, as a makeshift lineup was defeated in the Preliminary Round by a hungrier and better organised Greenock Town team. Seeing players hurriedly introducing each other to their teammates five minutes before kick-off is never a good sign, but several last-minute changes due to absences required just that, with a shortage of defenders and the inclusion of Balestrin and Woods who had just played in the Es fixture.

Despite the difficulty in fielding a team, the start was encouraging, with good passages of play for the first 20 minutes and the ball flowing well from defence through to Branko and Adam up front. Unfortunately, the good build up resulted in nothing but a few tame shots on goal from Branko and Darcy, while Greenock had come closest to goal with a good counter culminating in a shot which trickled past Bacon but wide of the far post. Shortly thereafter, Greenock did claim the lead, finding Ali exposed in defence and slotting past Bacon. Determined to find a quick equaliser, some good work from Darcy on the left wing was followed by a low cross to the back post, but the simple finish from Mich Bolognese was not there. Around the half hour mark, however, a poor corner from Darcy found the hands of a helpless Greenock defender deep in the box. The infringement was spotted by the referee and Branko coolly slotted the penalty to make it 1-1. Just before the break, Greenock again found the lead, with a header off a corner finding the crossbar but being tapped back in to the net after some inattentive defending.

After the break we continued being wasteful with long hopeful balls to the forwards, and after some more off-target shots from Darcy and Branko, Mich Bolognese again had a good chance at the far post off a corner, this time his low shot finding the post twice after an unlucky ricochet and finally being cleared. Greenock, meanwhile, made us pay dearly for missing opportunities, and found a third goal with a cross into the box being poorly handled by the defence. Again, the chances to get back into the match were there, with Adam not finding the time to get off a shot deep in the opposition box and a shot from the edge of the area by Mich flashing just wide of the post. Though the defence was made more solid with the introduction of Woods, it was left exposed by the midfield in the search for goals, and

this resulted in a fourth Greenock goal with little over 10 minutes left in the game - a fortunate deflection from a weak shot just inside the box fooling Bacon and effectively killing off the game. There were more chances to score, most notably with Balestrin whose shot was powerful but too central to beat the keeper, but it was too little too late.

Though already out of the Cup, there were a few encouraging signs from a team which will be strengthened with the introduction of players missing from the first game. Next week the League begins, once again with a fixture against Greenock Town. They're a well drilled team who can cause us problems, but there is undoubtedly more talent in our side, and a more composed and efficient display can definitely see us coming home with the three points.

## **Round 1 v Hahndorf (C2)**

Match abandoned due to pitch conditions and never replayed due to league positions being finalised.

## Round 2 at Greenock Town

2-2

Goals: Ripa 2

Lineup: Lissner; J. George, Andrawos, Culshaw, Earls (Huang); Eldic, Kari (M. Bolognese), Lai, Ripa, Ventura; Drazetic

With Murray Bridge promoted to Div 3 this year, the Cs were given their longest road trip for the season in the first round. Players that had heard of the northern town were given designated driving duties. The referee had never officiated a seniors game, which led to some interesting decisions throughout the game.

The game started off at a frantic pace, with OISC eager to reverse the result from last week's cup loss to the same team. Both teams seemed to panic when in possession, leading to numerous turnovers. Each side had half chances to take the lead, however wayward shooting ensured the scorers weren't troubled. Greenock's best chances were created out wide, which kept our two fullbacks busy, whilst our best chances were when we attacked through the middle of the park.

Greenock opened the scoring from their only corner in the first half. A well weighted cross was met by one of their strikers who nodded home from about 8 yards. This acted as a wake up call for the team, who then started to find feet instead of missing targets. A quick set of passes between Ace Ventura, Darcy and Dali resulted in Branko beating the offside trap and he made no mistake with only the keeper to beat.

With Greenock's confidence dropping, we found time to take the lead late in the half. A string of passes between Kristian, Dali, Branko and Darcy ended up with the latter having a shot on goal. The keeper was able to parry it away, but only into the path of Branko, who followed up with a firm strike from an acute angle.

In his half time talk, coach Pendez insisted on utilising Darcy and Butter more often in the centre of the park in the hope of opening up the game and switching the ball from side to side. The second half was one of stalemate, with both defences (led by holding tight and scoring opportunities few and far between. A Dali corner was cleared off the line by one of the Greenock defenders, in what ended up to be our best opportunity of the half.

Mick Bolognese replaced the injured Darcy, and Glen came on for the rampaging Tom Earls, who had found himself in the referee's book for a late challenge. One of our last

opportunities came when a ball was played over the top, or what we thought was over the top. One of their defenders decided to parry the ball away in a brain-freeze moment, before reality hit and the referee marched up to him showing yellow.

The last foray forward for Greenock was successful, with a cross from the left met by one of their strikers who had ghosted in at the far post. Although Bacon was able to get a hand to it, he could only manage to push it into the inside of the side netting.

Even though conceding in the second-to-last minute was a disappointment, a draw away from home is encouraging, especially when you take the previous week's result into account. The goal will serve as a reminder for the rest of the season that we have to stay focused for the full 90 minutes.

## Round 3 v Red/Blue Eagles

4-1

Goals: Kari 3 (x1 pen), TOG

Lineup: Ilicic; Huang, Andrawos, Culshaw, Tavella;  
Cavuoto, M. Bolognese (Fimiani), Eldic, Ventura  
(Rugari); Drazetic (A. Rossi), Kari

Ivan looked happy to see every selected player finally rock up to Glenunga for the first home match of the league, against Red Blue Eagles. Knowing that a rubbish reserve team doesn't necessarily mean the As will be bad, we started determined and focused against a team that, in the Andy Warhurst era of darkness, pumped us quite badly. Dali and Darcy were doing excellent things up front from the word 'go', Davide was seeing a lot of the ball in his first Cs game of the season, and the defence with Culsh and Andrawos at the centre was absolutely rock solid. We quickly nabbed the lead with some play through the centre setting up Darcy and Dali to fox the opposition defence with a lovely short triangle in the area, Darcy coolly slotting past the keeper. Not much later, we doubled the lead, this time with a long punt from Andrawos finding Dali's head (hard to miss), and subsequently Darcy's feet. Darcy was on fire so he needed no further invitation and sent in an unstoppable low shot. The chances kept coming, and finally, just before the half time break, we were given a penalty when a lovely ball up the line from Andrawos found Davide, who beat two players and cut into the box, where he was unceremoniously flattened. Darcy stepped up and fired in the spot kick for a first-half hat-trick.

In the second half, Red Blue Eagles came out fired up, though this produced more dirty tackles than pressure on our goals. However, they did reduce the margin when the ball was given up cheaply deep on our right hand side. The forward skipped past Mark and at the first contact with Bolognese, dove to ground. The senile referee blew for a penalty, to which Ilicic got a hand but could not keep out of the goals. At this stage, our only bad period of the match began. Red Blue Eagles actually nabbed a second goal, when their forward knocked the ball out of Ilicic's hand and tapped it in, but thankfully the referee was hopeless and disallowed it. Then, their captain (a little bald champion who stood about 3 cms taller than Manou's 3 yr old who was watching from the sidelines) decided to punch Dali in the head following a bad tackle from the Croatian wiz. He somehow managed to survive that silly move, though for the 10 seconds before Dali was properly restrained, people on the sidelines were readying themselves to explain the guy's death to the police parked next to Glenunga. Their player was given a yellow card and Dali sent off – however then the ref realised he was an idiot and rescinded Dali's card, changing it to a yellow. A couple of

minutes later, Dali hobbled off injured for Andrew Rossi, who immediately recovered a ball on the right touchline and put in a cross that was turned into his own net by a Red Blue Eagles defender. At 4-1, the game was effectively over, and very little of note happened from there.

The Cs then get their first win of the season, showing some great improvement in just a couple of weeks, especially in defence, where both centrebacks had sensational games. Darcy showed the importance of good finishing, but everyone performed well and is looking forward to backing it up with a first away win for the season.

## Round 4 at Adelaide Uni (3)

2-2

Goals: Ripa, Green

Lineup: Ilicic; Huang (Culshaw), Eldic, Tavella, Earls (Kedem); Lai, M. Bolognese, Rugari; Drazetic (Green), Kari; Ripa

The Adelaide Uni team that lined up against us this week was completely different to the team from last year's equivalent fixture – young, athletic and fit. On a wide pitch, they started the game well by exploiting the large area in central midfield patrolled by Butter, who often found himself outnumbered, with only a few last-ditch tackles by Tav and some poor finishing stopping Adelaide Uni from taking the lead. Conversely, we looked good when attacking, with Branko applying a lot of pressure on the backline, which resulted in us luckily taking the lead when the goalkeeper rolled the ball out to him, and Branko coolly getting past him and slotting into the open net. The lead didn't last long, however, as Uni were playing many channel balls through the heart of our defence and one was finally finished just before the half.

Culshaw came on at centreback after half time, with Tav moving to full back. Unfortunately it wasn't long before Uni took the lead, with a cross from the right being headed in masterfully into the bottom corner. We had been creating chances throughout the match, and now finding ourselves a goal down, committed forward more in an attempt to find an equalizer. Joe had a good chance off a corner, attempting a spectacular overheard which blazed over, and later turning over the bar a ball which had spilt out following a powerful left footed effort from Dali. Ilan and Matt Green both came on to make their C grade debuts for the season, injecting more pace and aggression into our forward thrust. While Uni still looked menacing on the counter, requiring some excellent saves from Ilicic, our attacks continued to fall short at the crucial moment, usually coming up against a flooded defence. However, at the end of the 90 minutes, Darcy was flattened about 35 metres out from goal. He played the free kick out to Kris on the left wing, who cut into the box and squared a ball to Green, who drove it low into the goals from the edge of the 6 yard box. It was a fitting conclusion to a hard fought game between evenly matched teams, and the Cs continue to show good signs for the season ahead, undefeated after 3 rounds.

## Round 5 at Dragon Rangers

13-0

Goals: Ripa 6, Kari 5, Drazetic, Totani

Lineup: Crisci; Earls (Tavella), Lee, Andrawos, Huang; M. Bolognese (S. George), Eldic, Kari, Totani; Drazetic (Culshaw), Ripa.

Without having consulted the record books, the win against Dragon Rangers was surely one of the biggest in the club's history. Against a decidedly lackluster formation (which included four players wearing spectacles on the park at one time, surely a SAASL record), the goals just kept coming from start to finish, and to describe them all would be a struggle. Suffice it to say that Branko's 6 goals were all precise finishes, Darcy's 5 were mainly one-on-ones with the keeper, Dali's was an emphatic piledriver from 6 yards off the developments of a corner, and Totani turned in a header from just outside the goal line.

Branko was even awarded another goal in the first half, but showed good sportsmanship in telling the referee to disallow it, as the ball he'd tapped into the net had not rebounded off the post – as most of us thought – but off the 5 litre tub of water the opposition keeper had stupidly placed right next to the post.

Regardless of the clear technical superiority we enjoyed over Dragon Rangers, it was a good team performance, with all the goals resulting from carefully constructed passing moves. If we approach the next few games, against more competitive opposition, with the same attitude, the team will consolidate its position in the promotion spots on the high end of the ladder.

## Round 6 v Brahma Lodge

5-5

Goals: Kari 2, Totani, Cavuoto, TOG

Lineup: Lissner; Huang (Lee), Andrawos, Tavella, Earls; Lai (Cavuoto), Eldic, Kari, Totani; Drazetic (M. Bolognese), Ripa

The C grade took on the fourth side of Sunday team, Brahma Lodge, the visitors having expanded their club to having a Saturday team as well. We were aware this would be a physical encounter, and the boys were ready for the battle.

The first few minutes were spent attacking, but the final ball was not to be found. Brahma were playing a 12 foot giant up forward, and their moves were spent hoofing it up to him, and having a few runners either side. Mark Andrawos was smart enough to be able to win a couple of headers off him early, but about 5 minutes in, one of the midfielders went for a long run, got through the defence and was able to put the ball past guest 'keeper Bacon at the far post.

This fired the boys up, and 2 goals were scored in quick succession. The first was a good ball over the top, allowing Darcy to run into the box unmarked and had plenty of time to put the ball away. This reporter doesn't recall the manner of the second, but it was surely a nice piece of work, which was finished by John Totani. 2-1.

More to-ing and fro-ing occurred, until a free kick was awarded to Brahma just outside the box. The wall was set, but not far enough to the left, and the Brahma player was able to swing it around the wall. Bacon bravely dived and got his body to it, but it rolled underneath and in the net. 2-2.

The giant took a tumble, and had to be helped off. After some attempt to continue, he was subbed and this brought on their #5, whose sole purpose was to put a few hard bumps in.

Glenn had an exciting 30 seconds; firstly, a foul throw, which he followed up the subsequent Brahma throw, made a great tackle, but hurting his leg. This brought on Andrew Lee to right back.

Another Brahma forward move, and a ball into the box, which the keeper mistimed his run, and an easy goal was put in. 2-3 and still about 5 minutes in the first half. But parity was

restored before the break, with another goal to OISC, this time an own goal. 3-3 at the break. Tavella was given the job of nullifying their #9 at the half, and this worked a treat.

Brahma took the lead again in the 2nd half, after a defensive mishap inside the box. Mark went to play a ball out, stretched for it, and appeared to juggle the ball twice just outside the six yard box. As he went to clear, the Brahma attacker stole the ball, turned Mark and slotted the ball past Bacon to make it 3-4. But this steeled OISC, who pushed back with another goal shortly afterwards, Darcy scoring again.

A few dodgy offside calls from the assistant ref was starting to frustrate the OISC attackers, with both Dali & Branko showing their anger at the calls, with the latter picking up a card.

With about 10 minutes to go, Mark Andrawos played a goal kick long up the right wing, which Davide Cavuoto ran onto, using his pace to beat the larger defenders and putting it past the Brahma keeper. 5-4, and it was looking like the great escape.

But it wasn't to be. About 3 minutes from time, a long ball was played by Brahma, and Bacon made a move for the ball, but an attacker got a lucky loopy header over him, and into the net. The last minute or so, OISC looked for the winner, but it wasn't forthcoming.

Still undefeated, only two points behind Strathalbyn.

## Round 7 at Hazara

3-0\*

Goals: Ripa 2, Drazetic

Lineup: Crisci; Eldic, Lai, Tavella, Earls; Cavuoto, M.

Bolognese, Kari, Totani; Drazetic, Ripa

Subs not used: Huang, Ai Hinai, Ilicic

\* match abandoned in first half after Hazara walked off in protest at what they perceived to be biased refereeing. Result was ultimately annulled as Hazara were removed from the competition.

Hazara's previous results looked ominous, and some warnings prior to the match about their good technique and superior pace meant we approached this fixture with a determined attitude, since the top of the Div 4 table is quite cramped and dropping points can be disastrous. The weather was perfect for a good contest, with a damp pitch and sporadic rain favouring the experience of the Croat Armada. The game proved to be rather evenly matched as far as possession goes, with Hazara favouring wide play and Darcy and Dali effectively orchestrating our attacking moves through the middle, but while our defence was absolutely rock solid, the only thing which prevented Branko from hitting the back of the net from very early in the game were a few dodgy offside calls.

Our first goal came after about 20 minutes, with Branko turning his opponent on the left edge of the box and laying off to Dali, who expertly weaved his way to the 6 yard box before being brought down for a penalty that even Stevie Wonder would've had no doubts on awarding. Branko stepped up confidently, despite the mud-patch that was the penalty spot, and tucked it nicely just inside the keeper's right hand post to give us the lead. Ten minutes passed, and the lead was doubled when a nice long ball from Eldic found Branko again on the left of the box (linesman's flag was up, but thankfully this time the ref correctly waved it down), and from the tightest of angles he squeezed it into the far post for a lovely brace. The Hazara boys were starting to get more angsty, and one of their midfielders kicked out at Darcy one time too many, earning himself a straight red card, which only flared them up even more. So when a hopeful ball from deep in defence from Totani found the run of Dali, who started his run in his own half (flag went straight up regardless, of course), nobody chased him down, and Dali ran (yes, ran!) straight through on goals, easily bamboozling the keeper and making it 3-0. This was all too much for some of the Hazara players, who decided they'd had enough and stopped playing. We couldn't convince them to come back on the ground (though clearly not all of them agreed with such a childish end to the game),

so it will go down as an OISC victory. The win puts us on top of Division 4, still undefeated and with a mouth-watering clash against perennial rivals Flinders at Glenunga next week that gives us a chance to cement top spot as the halfway mark approaches. Though the game only lasted just under 45 minutes, there were excellent signs, with the back 4 looking very solid against a pacey offensive lineup (Hazara did little to trouble Crisci in goals) and the attacking 3, well supported by the midfield, looking likely to bag many more goals as the season draws on. The As are all the rage at the moment, but the Cs too are starting to get some swagger in their style.

## Round 8 v Flinders (2)

4-1

Goals: Kari 2, Eldic, Andrawos

Lineup: Ilicic; Huang, Andrawos, Eldic, Earls (Lee); M. Bolognese (Photakis), Lai, Drazetic (Ventura), Totani; Ripa, Kari

Another crucial game at Fortress Glenunga, with Flinders only a point behind us and only 4 points separating 1st and 7th on the table. We could've slipped to 4th if we drew and 5th if we lost.

Coach Pendes was eager to try a different back four, with Butter moving into the middle of defence next to Eldic and Andrawos starting at right mid. OISC was set on controlling the middle of the park whilst Flinders tried to use their pace out wide to trouble our defence. Our opposition took the lead from a switch from the left which found one of their strikers whose shot was saved by Mike. However their left midfielder was the first to follow up and he scored the rebound with a volley that made him look like he was auditioning for Will Smith's kid in the upcoming karate kid film.

We were on the back foot but didn't drop our heads because we knew that we'd come from behind before. Their #10, who was Flinders' equivalent to Harry O'Brien or Nic Natanui (minus the skill of course), started chatting like a little teenage girl who'd just found out what Facebook was. After what seemed like a 10 minute monologue, the referee had a chat to him and told him to focus on the game and not his next twitter.

Instead of taking our frustration out on little miss chatterbox (believe me, the temptation was there) or ourselves, we channelled our energy and Darcy had an equaliser soon after.

We managed to score a second after a great cross from Totani found Andrawos at the far post. Our resident Egyptian controlled the ball to perfection before beating his marker and poking the ball past the keeper at the far post.

At half time Ivan was pleased that we were in front and encouraged us to keep up our pressure on their ball carriers and put away our chances up front. Darcy didn't let him down, adding to his tally after a goal mouth scramble.

A Flinders corner which slightly brushed Mark's arm was picked up as a penalty and Flinders had a chance to reduce the deficit to 3-2. However the spot kick cannoned into the crossbar

and the follow up shot by their most annoying player was both high and wide, threatening any of the resident wildlife on Windsor Rd.

Manoli, Will Ventura and Andrew Lee came on for Dali, Tom Earls and Mick Bolognese in the second half and continued the good hard work of their team mates. Kristian Eldic snuck up front for a corner late in the game to put Flinders out of their misery with a sensational volley from just outside the box.

A week off to refuel our cars before we head down to the gigantic Strathalbyn pitch the week after.

## Round 9 at Strathalbyn

3-1

Goals: Ripa 3

Lineup: Ilicic; Huang, Eldic, Tavella, Earls (Lee);

Cavuoto, Andrawos, Kari, Totani; Drazetic (M.

Bolognese), Ripa

With Division 4 so tight up the top, this was a game we certainly didn't want to slip up in. Add the fact that driving an hour to get back home sucks worse when you lose, and that Strath are notoriously douches – we certainly had enough motivation for this game. The contest started rather evenly, with OISC seeking to do the damage through the central channels and Strathalbyn looking to hurt us on the flanks, particularly on the right where they had some half decent players. The greater quality and experience of the OISC Croatian brigade shone through though about 25 minutes in, when Tav made a timely interception in defence and laid it off to Kristian, who slipped through Branko and Darcy for some slick passing move I can't exactly remember but which was finished with composure by the captain. The backline held very strong for the rest of the half, despite a couple of occasions when Strath played their way into the box to have two or three lining up in front of a gallant Ilicic, but some desperate defending and a little bit of luck kept the ball out of our net. On the other front, near the end of the half, a long switch was sublimely flicked by Dali with the backheel into the path of Branko, who dribbled everyone and everything in his path about 3 times before tapping it into the net from 5 cm out. An absolute bravado goal, and OISC went into half time with a 2-0 lead and looking solid and comfortable.

Shortly after the break, Lee came on for a fatigued Earls and Bolognese took to the field for Dali, who had time for one last chase nearly resulting in a goal before coming off. With the game getting stretched, a younger Strathalbyn team started applying more pressure, and made the game interesting with about 15 minutes left on the clock by floating in a free kick into the far post. The two goal margin was restored soon after, however, with Mick slipping Branko through on goal to a foregone conclusion (that's right – humiliating a few defenders and the keeper and then a simple finish). We easily controlled the ball for the remaining 10 minutes in a good show of composure, and finished well in what was a tricky fixture against a good side on a large pitch. With results going our way, we now sit 3 points clear on top and with an excellent goal difference, finally giving us a bit of breathing space as we prepare for the second big trip up the freeway to play Hahndorf C2s.

## **Round 10 at Hahndorf C2**

**7-0**

**Goals: Ripa 3, Andrawos 2, Kari, Tavella**

**Lineup: Ilicic; Huang (Ventura), Tavella, Eldic, Lee (Cavuoto); Andrawos, M. Bolognese (Earls), Kari, Totani; Drazetic, Ripa**

No report submitted.

## Round 11 v Greenock Town

2-1

Goals: Drazetic, Totani

Lineup: Ilicic; Lai, Andrawos, Tavella, Earls (Kangas);  
Cavuoto, M. Bolognese (Huang), Kari, Totani; Drazetic,  
Ripa

Greenock Town is the only team to have beaten the Cs this season, and they did it at Glenunga in the Preliminary Cup Round. They also are one of the few teams to have taken points off us in the league, finding a late equaliser up in the Barossa early on in the season. With Ivan's team having really hit their straps after that shaky start, we were in no mood to drop off more points against Greenock – a defensively solid unit – and the motto from the start was “pressure from the front”. Unfortunately we didn't heed the coach's words in a confused beginning to the match, and Greenock's long goal kicks and free kicks (seemingly the only tactic they rely on) were often putting unnecessary pressure on our backline. They deservedly found the lead through one such free kick, with a flick-on header off a long dead ball falling perfectly into the path of an unmarked attacker whose shot could only be touched but not saved by Ilicic.

Earlier in the season, such a poor start would have rattled us, but we went in search of an equaliser with renewed intensity. Andrawos, Bolognese, Kari and Totani all found good openings to shoot from the edge of the box, but sprayed their attempts. However, as a corner was headed clear by one of Greenock's tall, it fell nicely for Dali, whose left footed volley blitzed into the top left corner with swerve, precision and plenty of power. The veteran laughed it off with an “I just stabbed at it”, but it truly was a magnificent goal – only if the ball had been a Jabulani it probably would've ended up somewhere in Parkside, about 3 suburbs over. Though OISC were well and truly the better team on the ball, Greenock's “Championship” style of football still caused us a few problems, however we were able to go into the break one goal ahead, courtesy of another well taken shot (on his weaker foot) by Totani, following some nice work on the right flank to open up the gap to shoot.

The second half was less exciting than the first, and we should probably have increased our lead through one of many chances that our superior possession allowed us to create. Uncharacteristically, Branko failed to convert a direct, two-pass attack up the left flank – he dribbled the only defender, as usual, but could not squeeze the ball past the oncoming keeper. Greenock had a late surge that kept Ivan nervous (thankfully Dan Rossi was nowhere to be seen this time), but thanks to the introduction of Kangas and Glen to solidify

the defence and midfield, their best efforts were fruitless. We maintain our one game advantage over our nearest rivals, next opponents Red Blue Eagles, and look forward to beating those Abruzzese scumbags in 2 weeks' time when Division 4 action resumes.

## Round 12 at Red/Blue Eagles

2-5

Goals: Cavuoto, Kari

Lineup: Ilicic; Lai, K. Eldic, Tavella, Earls (A. Eldic); Cavuoto, Andrawos (M. Bolognese), Drazetic (Huang), Totani; Kari, Ripa

A 1st v 2nd battle loomed for the boys as we travelled to SAASL headquarters to take on Red/Blue Eagles. The pitch looked in good nick and the only weather worry was the gale force wind blowing across the park towards Henley.

The first half was fairly even, with both teams enjoying a fair share of possession. However the crucial final ball through to the strikers from both midfields seemed to be missing. Our opposition scored first after winning a corner. The corner wasn't cleared and fell to an unmarked Eagle. The lack of pressure meant he had time to turn and send a half volley into the top left corner.

We'd come from behind in previous games and therefore didn't drop our heads. Before long we were on the attack and had earned a corner. Davide scurried around the cramped box before losing his marker and meeting the well taken corner with the outside of his boot to get us back on even terms.

1-1 at half time and coach Pendes stressed the need to bridge the gap between defence and attack, farken, as it allowed their ball players too much room to create opportunities, farken.

We took the lead midway through the second half after another set piece. A free kick was curled into the box and although Davide missed his opportunity at scoring another, Darcy made no mistake, scoring at the near post.

Ivan started ringing the changes, with Bolognese, A Eldic and Huang came on for Andrawos, Earls and Drazetic. New Eldic had a chance to make it 3-1 but his chip over the keeper unluckily hit the post.

Tired legs started to set in and the youthful Eagles used their knowledge of the bigger and wider pitch to take full advantage. They squared the ledger via a counter attack down the left and although scores were equal, our heads began to drop. Our midfielders started to press more and more, which left our defence to deal with the opposition counters.

Another attack down the left followed by some missed tackles by our defence ended in disaster after their right midfielder was allowed to waltz in unchallenged to accept a square ball and look up at the goals with only our keeper to beat.

They scored another 2 goals on the counter attack playing quick long balls through to their substituted strikers.

Our first league loss of the season, which will hopefully provide a wake up call with 7 games to go as we are now equal on points with Red Blue Eagles, with Flinders only one point behind.

## Round 13 v Adelaide Uni (3)

8-2

Goals: Ripa 2, Drazetic 2, Cavuoto, Kari, De Rito, TOG

Lineup: Ilicic; Lai, Eldic, Tavella, Totani; Cavuoto

(Culshaw), Kari, M. Bolognese (Ventura), De Rito; Ripa, Drazetic (Lee)

After coming off an incredibly disappointing loss last week to Red/Blue Eagles in a top of the table clash, the C team headed into this weeks match against Adelaide Uni knowing only a win would keep us on top.

Focus is what was needed from the very start, the pitch wasn't in top shape and didn't suit the team's passing game. Early we found Adelaide Uni's pace hard to deal with and they were constantly trying to get in behind our defence on their left. But credit to the team as a whole for some fantastic defending and pressure up the park we were able to adapt to the conditions and the pace of the opposition quickly. We began to carve out some good opportunities but our finishing lacked some finesse.

The first goal came from a cutback ricocheting off the leg of a defender. After the goal the team was able to gain the upperhand and any attacks that Adelaide Uni were beginning to create were snuffed out. After a few more opportunities we finally scored another through a miskick by no other than Mr Assists (Dali), with just the keeper to beat after some shambolic defensive work on Uni's behalf, Mr Assists shot hit the side of his boot, falling to the feet of Branko who coolly finished, giving us a 2 goal cushion.

However, after this we began to take our foot off the gas and sat back, inviting Adelaide Uni to run at us with their pace and we were soon punished, 2 - 1. The next 10 - 15 minutes were once again up and down (mirroring the state of the pitch) we scored a deserved goal but seemingly switched off completely. From the kickoff that Uni were awarded after our third, they casually ran through the spine of our team and scored a "lazy" goal, placing the shot just past Michael's outstretched legs.

After this we began to lose focus, with strong words being said amongst the team on the pitch. Half time came and Ivan told us to regain our composure and after some inspirational words the team took to the pitch once again.

From the way the team played after the break you would have been forgiven for thinking it was a different team on the park, errors that were made in the first half we no longer being

made and after listening to Ivan's instructions at the break we began to play the ball out wide, where the pitch was in better shape and we began to take complete control of the game.

After a nice interchange of passes and a blocked shot, we finally scored after much door knocking. The ball spilled out to the right wing falling to the feet of Davide who turned and shot, sending the ball onto the inside of the top right hand corner post, that then rebounded into the goal off the Uni keeper. We did not drop our intensity after this and were hungry for a bigger win to aid our goal difference. Our passing was accurate, quick and some fancy footwork from Branko added more goals and assists to his name.

A credit to all the boys for focussing in some testing conditions, responding to some errors in a very positive way and "letting the ball do all the talking". Our intensity and pressure on the opposition was sustained until the final whistle. This was an important win and our goal difference will surely help us at the end of the season.

## Round 14 v Dragon Rangers

6-2

Goals: Ripa 3, Kari 2, De Rito

Lineup: Ilicic; Lai, Eldic, Tavella (Huang), Earls; Cavuoto (Andrawos), M. Bolognese, Totani, De Rito; Kari, Ripa

The last time we met it was a goal-fest. However, the mighty morphin dragon rangers had only conceded two goals the week before against Strath and were looking for their second win of the season. The state of our pitch didn't suit our passing game, however with the downpour that night, we were thankful that we played Saturday and not Sunday.

The game was officiated by a ref who we'd never seen before. Before the match he checked our boots and also told us that he wouldn't put up with any dissent because we'd all signed the code of conduct (or so he thought).

We controlled the game from the start but we couldn't penalise our opposition on the scoresheet. We were complacent and seemed to drop to their skill level. Balls weren't finding our targets and it looked like schoolyard football for a while. It took us a good half hour to break through (Kari from a corner), with chances missed and for some reason we were trying to walk the ball into the back of the net rather than test the keeper with shots.

Ripa scored our second goal just before half time after an excellent run and through ball from Eldic at the back.

Even though we were attacking to the swamp end in the second half, we started playing better football and Kari expertly played Branko through twice to complete his hat trick. Totani and Bolognese were busy in the middle of the park collecting and distributing, and it wasn't long before De Rito sent a pile driver past their bamboozled keeper.

Andrawos and Huang came on for Tavella and Lai late in the game when the contest was looking one-sided. However the rangers persisted and were rewarded with two goals late in the game.

Kari was able to add another before the final whistle to make the final score 6-2.

It wasn't our best performance of the year, but we got the win and will look to improve before next week's matchup against Hahndorf, before crunch games in the run home against Brahma Lodge, Flinders and Strath. With Hazara out of the competition, the Red Blue Eagles are 3 points behind with a game in hand but with an inferior goal difference.

## Round 15 at Brahma Lodge

3-0

Goals: Ripa 3

Lineup: Ilicic; Earls (Huang), K. Eldic, Lai, Tavella;  
Cavuoto, Andrawos, A. Eldic (M. Bolognese), Totani (De  
Rito); Ripa, Drazetic

No report submitted.

## **Round 16 v Hazara**

Hazara were withdrawn from the competition and all their results were expunged.

## Round 17 at Flinders (2)

0-4

Lineup: Ilicic; Lai, K. Eldic, Tavella, Huang (Earls); De Rito (Cavuoto), Andrawos, Drazetic (M. Bolognese), Totani; Kari, Ripa

First met third down at Flinders Uni with plenty to play for. A win for us would put us 3 points clear with a game in hand, whereas a Flinders win would see them overtake us on the ladder. After watching the mighty D's overrun their opponents in the latter stages of the second half, we were keen to get on the scoreboard early. However Flinders seemed to dominate the first half as we failed to find our teammates on numerous occasions and relied too heavily on the long ball up to Branko and Dali. Flinders were on the scoreboard halfway into the half as a cross from our right was easily tapped in by an unmarked midfielder sitting on the 6 yard box.

They were soon 2 up after a number of headers back and forth in our box fell to their striker on the far post who squeezed the ball past Mike in goals. Shortly before half time, they made it 3-0 when one of their midfielders was allowed time and space in our box to turn and shoot.

The message at half time was to calm down, start controlling the ball, look up and find feet. We knew that the floodgates would open if we were able to get on the scoreboard, similar to our home encounter with Flinders. Davide came on for Adrian at right mid to provide more speed and he was involved early in the second half with numerous runs down the wing. We started creating more opportunities up front but their keeper was on fire. He managed to save everything, deflections, shots from inside and outside the box, including a 25 yard Totani strike that was heading for the top corner.

Doomsdayer Earls replaced Glen after a 50/50 collision in the middle of the park and Mick came on for the tiring Dali. As we pushed more and more players forward in search of a goal, we were caught on the counter late in the second half and conceded a 4th.

The title is still ours for the taking, however we now need to focus and win 2 of our last 3 games against Brahma Lodge, Strathalbyn and Hahndorf to clinch it, unless Flinders and RedBlue Eagles drop points this weekend.

## Round 18 v Strathalbyn

2-0

Strathalbyn forfeited.

# D GRADE

Coach: David Leach

Captain: Craig Walker

## Awards

Player of the Year: David Leach

Matt Gauro

Player's Player of the Year: David Leach

Leading Goalscorer: David Leach (14)

## Saturday Division Four Reserves

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PT
Old Ignatians (2)	14	12	2	0	67	8	+59	38
Flinders (2)	14	11	1	2	40	13	+27	34
Flinders (3)	14	8	3	3	46	27	+19	27
Adelaide Red/Blue Eagles	14	6	0	8	40	43	-3	18
Greenock Town	14	4	2	8	22	37	-15	14
Strathalbyn	14	4	1	9	22	41	-19	13
Adelaide Uni (3)	14	3	3	8	24	42	-18	12
Old Ignatians (3)	14	1	2	11	22	72	-50	5

## Reserve Cup Preliminary Round at Adelaide Pumas

4-0

Goals: Leach 2, C. Gauro 2

Lineup: Crisci; Tallarida, Walker, Williams, Lee; B. Cosentino (T. Cosentino), Arboit (Durand), Leach, Callaghan, C. Nguyen (Fimiani); C. Gauro

The joys of a random cup draw gave the League Champion D Grade a chance to revisit the ground in which the 2009 title was secured. The team was a little different with over half the side being new although the style of play and tremendous team spirit was unchanged.

The bustling figure of Hawkesy was missing but the agile and nifty Gauro has slotted in well up front. The determined Crisci has shown a lot of ability and has settled well into the goalkeeping role, filling the big shoes of Paul Murray with aplomb.

An even game was broken open after 25 minutes when Leachy drove a low free kick into the box from the right. Gauro took control and drove the ball home from 8 yards. These two lads were involved again when Gauro attempted to hit a cross towards Leachy in the box. The keeper spilt the ball high in the air and what followed was a comedy of personal errors on his behalf. The imposing figure of the coach must have influenced his ability to flap twice at the ball and then basically push the ball into his own net. Perhaps the odd verbal from Leachy during this hilarious act may have helped him fluff his lines.

2-0 up at half time was looking good. Lots of pressure was then absorbed for the first twenty minutes of the second half as Pumas threw everything at OISC. The defence was solid, Craig and Will dominant in the middle with Talla and Andrew Lee keeping the crosses to a minimum.

Gauro was breaking well enjoying dribbling runs which were often halted by blatant fouls. He had one run abruptly halted by Pumas but the referee waved our protests away. Never mind, shortly after another foul sent Gauro crashing and this time we had a spot kick. The keeper attempted some crass move by moving the ball off the spot. Leachy replaced it, composed himself and then found the corner of the net. His call of "if you are looking for the ball keeper it is in the net behind you" was typical of the banter on the day.

OISC was not finished and following the introduction of Mario, Tom Cosi and Brett the fresh legs gave us more impetus. Shortly before the end Brett delivered in a ball that was headed out parallel with the 18 yard box. It fell kindly to Leachy who drove the bouncing ball with

force towards the bottom corner. Another poor effort from the keeper and the 4-0 result was secure. More fun banter followed with calls of us being like Stoke in the way we played, that was fine since they must be Portsmouth. Note to Pumas - being well beaten is not an excuse to attempt futile sledging of an opponent who has just put you to the sword.

Crisci made a top save towards the end of the game and a solid defensive performance with Tavis and Moose dominant in front of the back four enabled a solid foundation on which the goal scoring talent in the line up was allowed to flourish.

## **Round 1 v OISC (3)**

10-0

Goals: Rugari 4, Murray 2, Leach, Kostadinov, Morgan, M. Gauro

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Arboit, Walker, Lee, Trengove; M. Gauro, Kostadinov, Leach, Morgan, C. Gauro; Murray

Rolling Subs: Rugari, Callaghan

No report submitted.

## Round 2 at Greenock Town

5-0

Goals: C. Gauro 2, Leach 2, TOG

Lineup: Crisci; Bollenhagen, Walker, Lee, Trengove; M. Gauro (G. Bolognese), Arboit (Fimiani), Leach, Callaghan, Rugari; C. Gauro

A long journey was well worth it as the lads achieved a comprehensive 5-0 victory. Some tardy travel arrangements by 4 younger members of the team ensured the preparation for the games was not ideal, nonetheless the balance of the team was fine and we were well organised to cater for a number of changes. There was a welcome back for Paul Trengove at left back, Josh from the Hood played at right back whilst Matt Gauro slotted into midfield and some geezer called Rugart or Rugari made his OISC debut.

It was a large field so the energetic running of the midfield would be challenged. They settled into the task at hand well and it was a great break down the left involving Trengove and Rugari that saw the ball work its way into the box and Chris Gauro was on hand to opening the scoring. Another enterprising left sided attack ended with a free kick on the point of the box some twenty yards out. Leachy hit this one well and it flew into the top corner to take us 2-0 up.

Tavis and Moose (celebrating 40 years young) had the midfield secure and the former even managed some rampaging runs into the box which were only halted by lack of composure with his final strike on goal. Matt Gauro was up to his tricks again and his classic step over move saw him glide into the box and drive an effort narrowly wide. We were worth the 2-0 lead at half time.

The second half saw us challenged little. Some solid defending from set pieces saw Andrew Lee and Craig remove any danger which allowed the glamour boys in the line up to sweep forward time after time. There could have been a lot more goals but somehow the ball only found the net three more times. A neat run by Chris Gauro saw him round the keeper and cut the ball back which struck a retreating defender who nicely obliged with an own goal. Some raucous debate followed about whether the cross from Gauro had gone out but a vociferous coach ensured the referee eventually gave the goal.

Ronnie and Matt had a break, the latter needed to find some privacy to continue his hurling and this allowed JD and Mario some run on time. Joe had an impressive debut and was frustrated as a near certain goal beckoned but his strike ballooned over from close

range. Chris Gauro ran on to a nicely weighted through ball from Leachy and his first time finish was a treat to watch. Another goal came when Leachy swung a tempting cross in and everyone including the embarrassed keeper missed it and it nestled in the bottom corner. As with such crosses the appropriate thing to do was keep the celebration humble – note to Panuz, shame you were not there to see that done J

An excellent display all round and the result was testimony to the dominance on the day. Something to build on and competition for starting spots will remain fierce over the weeks to come.

## Round 3 v Red/Blue Eagles

7-0

Goals: M. Gauro 2, C. Nguyen 2, C. Gauro, Leach (pen), TOG

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Bollenhagen (Kantilaftas), Williams, Walker, B. Cosentino; M. Gauro, Arboit (Morgan), Leach, Lee (T. Cosentino), C. Nguyen; C. Gauro

A fine day for football and the boys began brightly. Our opponents were moving the ball well so it was entertaining stuff from the start. We created numerous opportunities in the first half hour but we seemed to fluff our lines as each good chance was wasted. Good thing though was the brand of football, flowing and decisive, it seemed just a matter of time till we scored.

A cross flew into the box and deflected up of a defender to his outstretched arm. The penalty was given and Leachy duly obliged although he was a bit jammy as the ball found its way into the net courtesy of the underside of the cross bar. We found another goal when a long goal kick was neatly controlled by Chris Gauro who then slotted a nice pass in for Chris Nguyen to run on to. His shot was not powerful but it was well placed and we went 2-0 up. The Eagles were mounting a number of forays but it seemed Josh and Ben Cosi had the flanks well covered. Some desperate, strong challenges from Craig and Will kept them at bay. A tough tackle in the box and the referee initially seemed to be pointing at the spot. Leachy and Emmo asked what it was for and when it was described as blocking off it seemed the result must be an indirect free kick since this incident is more like obstruction. The referee then made his instruction clear and the Eagles had an indirect free kick from just 8 yards. We did well to block this chance and we survived.

A quick throw in on the right and the ball was driven in towards the goal. Matt Gauro collected it well and then sent a stinging shot home from 20 yards. We took a 3-0 lead in at half time.

Andrew Lee and Moose were holding firm in the middle of the park which allowed the attacking players confidence to surge forward. Goals started to flow with Chris Gauro rounding the keeping and slotting home, Leachy took a dangerous in-swinging corner which was well headed in by one of their blokes and then Chris Nguyen was on hand to sweep a

cross in from Matt Gauro. There was a welcome back for Adey as he came on and we also had the opportunity to give Tom Cosi and Jake some game time too. Emmo had a top day in goal, his diving save to his right was top drawer and another low shot was expertly shut out too.

The game was finished off by a lovely free kick from Matt Gauro. All sorts of supportive cries from the sideline will be noted as the player coach takes a break from being Stevie G and hopefully does a better job than Rafa Benitez from the sidelines. A nice brand of football, crisp passing and lots of goals built on 3 clean sheets has the season off to a good start. We will strive to maintain this momentum in the games ahead.

## Round 4 at Adelaide Uni (3)

5-0

Goals: M. Gauro 3, Morgan 2

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Bollenhagen (Kedem), Walker, Williams, B. Cosentino; Lee, C. Nguyen, Arboit (Trengove), Morgan, Lee, M. Gauro; C. Gauro (Callaghan)

A superb surface greeted the lads and a fine day for football promised much. The game began in a confident way and the lads were dominant. A number of gilt edged opportunities were created but somehow the final finish would not find the net. A lob over the bar from close range, a shot drilled into the outside of the side netting and the post was struck before things turned around. Leachy cut the figure of the agitated manager on the sidelines. The ball ended up swung in dangerously and Adey was on hand to poke the ball home from close range. Matt Gauro then subsequently delivered a fine in-swinging corner which fell nicely to Adey and he had two before the half was up.

A flashing shot from Andrew Lee blazed narrowly wide and near the change Chris Gauro limped off with a hamstring tweak and some reshuffling saw Tavis take the field. 2-0 was a comfortable lead since Uni threatened only rarely and Emmo was untroubled.

In the second half the lads found a little more composure in front of goal although Adey just missed capping off a fine day with a hat-trick and Craig and Will looked dangerous from set pieces. Further goals were added from direct football. Emmo launched a long bomb and Matt Gauro ran clean threw and slotted the ball past the despairing keeper. Gauro was able to add two more to his tally which interestingly now takes the Gauro brothers to double figures in season 2010. Some excellent play from Chris Nguyen saw him weave across the field and slot a delightfully crafted through ball in behind the Uni defence and Matt Gauro did not let such a brilliant through ball down and finished it well.

Matt even managed a long range free kick which found the net. There are murmurings of him claiming the set piece role from now on based on recent contributions but I have a feeling there could be some arbitrary decision making in store by the management.

A rock solid defence with Ben Cosi often going forward with his long throw potential. Ronnie was dominant in the midfield and we even had the chance to give Paul and Ilan plenty of game time. A cup trip next weekend should see the average age of the team slashed as

Mother's Day commitments rule out many older guys. The team has plenty of depth and being part of the squad is an important ideal for many players who may well get a chance for a good run this week.

## Reserve Cup Round 1 at Para Hills East

0-6

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Lee, Tavella, Arboit, Trengove; M. Gauro, Morgan, Callaghan, Bollenhagen, Durand; C. Gauro

This game was probably decided well before kick off when Croatia forfeited its first round cup versus PHE As, allowing them to give several first team players a run in the resses without cup-tying them.

The Wolves had a good deal of early possession though with Tavella and M Gauro linking well down the right and C Gauro showing his dancing feet and proving a handful for the PHE back four. Tavis was flattened just outside the box. In the absence of Leachy, the resultant free kick didn't trouble the keeper.

PHE's first goal came from a scuffed Iggie clearance which exposed Emo to a one-on-one. The finish was clinical. By the twenty minute mark they had another. A speculative up and under was flicked into the net off the head of one of their better 'ring-ins'.

The defensive shape held well until the break and we went in 2-0.

It was probably inevitable the PHE class would show in the second half. They moved the ball in neat triangles and pushed us deeper and deeper. The Iggies shape was still good though and no-one shirked a tackle. Particularly solid were the older legs of Adey and Ronnie. We were doing a great job defending the heart but, unlike in Saturday Div 4, possession on the flanks against this kind of opposition can be fatal. Despite tireless work from Lee and Trengove PHE always seemed to create space and whipped in a procession of wicked crosses and set pieces. Emo attacked the ball fearlessly but inevitably the pressure told and the score mounted.

With the game stitched up PHE rested three of their stars and to their credit the Iggies started to get some ball at the right end of the park. A cross from C Gauro found Adey's head on the six yard line but his effort skimmed the bar. There was no way back though and the final whistle brought welcome relief on a warm day.

Considering the opposition, the unavailability of some players and the late withdrawal of others, the result could have been a lot worse. All who took the field can hold their heads high. Thanks especially to Andrew Tavella and Brett Durand for answering the call and at

least making sure we could field a team. With the Carling Cup out of the way the team look forward to taking out their frustrations next week against Flinders.

## Round 5 at Flinders (3)

3-3

Goals: Arboit, C. Nguyen, Leach

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Bollenhagen, Walker, Williams, B. Cosentino; Callaghan (Fimiani), Trengove (C. Nguyen), Arboit, Morgan, Leach; M. Gauro

A woeful performance really, not too many of the lads could hold their heads up high. Some good keeping is little excuse for a plethora of chances that were badly wasted. Their ref was insipid and completely lacked control of the game, being able to count to ten seems a very basic element of doing the task.

We were overrun early and a very bad clearance fell invitingly and was duly lashed past Emmo from 18 yards. Tavis and Paul were working hard enough but often they were left too exposed as the midfield failed to track back to cover. Craig and Will looked out of sorts as a partnership and Matt Gauro looked like a Labor cabinet minister as he dined out on chance after chance but not one found a worthy recipient. Adey and Moose were holding their own in the centre whilst Leachy cut a forlorn figure as he created a number of good opportunities that were just spurned.

1-1 at half time as a result of a scramble in their box that Moose was able to sweep home from close range. A change was inevitable at the break and Nguyen came on to give us more attacking flair. This paid dividends during the half when Chris hit a peach of a volley from 20 yards into the net to restore parity after some comical defending gifted them a penalty. We had even more chances to waste and the day of frustration just grew. Mario came on in his resplendent yellow boots and his short corner to Leachy enabled the latter to move unchallenged into their area and rifle a shot home to put us into an undeserved lead.

The remaining time we played seemed to reasonable the books an Underbelly accountant might keep as the number kept moving when we asked. A dangerous corner was netted by them and strangely enough the full time whistle sounded virtually thereafter. No crying over spilt milk though these days are meant to test the character of good sides and we will recover from this. The unbeaten run in the league remains intact so we can be grateful for that.

**Round 6**

Bye

## Round 7 at Hazara

1-1\*

Goal: C. Gauro

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Bollenhagen, Walker (Callaghan), Williams, Photakis; M. Gauro, Arboit, Leach, Morgan, C. Nguyen (Al Hinai); C. Gauro

No report submitted.

\*result annulled following Hazara being removed from the competition.

## Round 8 v Flinders (2)

2-1

Goals: M. Gauro, Leach (pen)

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Bollenhagen (C. Nguyen), Lee, Williams, Trengove; M. Gauro, Arboit, Leach (Callaghan), Morgan, B. Cosentino; C. Gauro

Some games define a season. Playing a fellow unbeaten side we knew it would be difficult even more so if we had lost because that would have ended our campaign to win back to back titles. The game was played in good spirits and Flinders are a fine side.

We had reasonable early chances and like in previous weeks we did not do enough when we had some ascendancy. Matt Gauro was making plenty of good runs with the ball and his brother could not just find the right slot to get a chance converted. There was enough pressure at our end to attend to yet Andrew Lee was filling in well for our absent skipper and a more focussed Will had his touch back again.

The break through came when Leachy swung a quick diagonal ball which Matt Gauro ran on to. He did a little bit of weaving, the odd step over and then dispatched a crossed ball which evaded everyone including their keeper and found the corner of the net. We could have added to this as a neat corner picked out the on rushing Will but his header flew over.

Later in the half the ball found its way into our box and a quick shot found the corner with Emmo having little chance. It was tight from there on until the referee blew for half time.

All to play for. Both Moose and Adey had their work cut out in midfield but they had enough of the ball to again threaten when we went forward. Chris Gauro rushed on to a through ball

and his crafty shot was very well saved. Josh landed awkwardly and required a rest. Chris Nguyen came on and was his usual energetic self. He nearly scored with a scuffed volley and even the clever use of his chest was not enough to squeeze the ball in. Will saw stars after a head clash and then Chis Gauro and Leachy managed to rock the cross bar. Would we ever get the winner?

Less than ten minutes to go and Leachy picked the ball up in the left channel. He was battling to hold off one opponent as another defender closed in at pace. A jumble of legs saw him felled in the box and we had a penalty. Looking a little dazed the coach stepped up and gave us the lead.

There was time at the end for Paul Trengove, Cosi and Tavis all to lash clearances away from our goal and it was a real treat to hear the shriek of the final whistle. The derby game is next so much enjoyment is a certainty.

## Round 9 at Strathalbyn

5-0

Goals: Leach (pen), Walker (pen), Arboit, Lee, Murray

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Tallarida, Walker, Lee, Trengove;

M. Gauro, Arboit, Leach (Callaghan), Murray,

Bollenhagen; Kostadinov

No report submitted.

## Round 10 at OISC (3)

8-0

Goals: C. Gauro 3, R. Arboit 2, M. Gauro, C. Nguyen, Callaghan

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; B. Cosentino, Walker, Williams, Trengove; M. Gauro, Arboit, Leach, Lee, Ricci; C. Gauro

Rolling Subs: Tallarida, Callaghan, C. Nguyen

No report submitted,

## Round 11 v Greenock Town

7-0

Goals: Rugari 3, Kostadinov, Leach (pen), Williams, Walker

Lineup: Crisci; B. Cosentino (Tallarida), Walker, Williams (Mercuri), Trengrove; Murray, Arboit, Leach, Callaghan, Rugari (C. Nguyen); Kostadinov

With the E's piling in the goals the game before, coach Leachy sent out the D's with orders to keep things narrow and direct – to out pace our much older and slower opponents. Even before kickoff Greenock didn't look like a team likely to cause us troubles, starting with only 10 players.

OISC dominated the early running with what seemed like endless corners bouncing across the six yard box and clear chances coming up for comeback duo Murray and Kostadinov. Some wasteful finishing kept the scores level for the first twenty minutes but it was inevitable that OISC will break through. Eventually Greenock were able to field their fair allocation of players but OISC continued their dominance. After a mazy run, fullback Trengrove managed to find himself inside the box only to be upended by a Greenock defender. Clear penalty and Leachy made no mistake from the spot – 1-0 OISC.

Only minutes later, after another OISC corner wasn't quite cleared, a shot from outside the box was deflected by the hand of a defender. The referee once again pointed to the spot, which was enough to push the frustrations of a Greenock defender over the brink. He lost it and shoulder barged the referee who had no choice but to send him off. Walker calmly slotted the penalty to make it 2-0.

In a rare venture inside the opposition half, Grenock mustered a chance from a long ball, only to be denied by a goal-line clearance from Trengrove. OISC continued their dominance and played some wonderful football for the third goal. Murray played a beautiful first time ball out wide to Kostadinov, who slid it across the penalty box giving Rugari a tap in. The fourth goal couldn't have been more different with a Leach goal kick clearing the defence and sending Rugari through on goal. A cool finish made it 4-0 and so it stayed till the break.

The second half started brightly with a wonderful cross-cum-shot from Rugari chipping the keeper perfectly give him his hat-trick and OISC their fifth. OISC kept on pressing trying to add our goal difference and two more goals ensured – Murray rounding the keeper cleverly and dribbling into the empty net and Kostadinov slotting in at the far post after the keeper could only parry another of Murray's shots. Nguyen, Callaghan and Arboit tried their luck from range on numerous occasions but couldn't add to the scoreline.

Seven - nil it ended but it could easily have been much more. The D grade are still unbeaten and now sit top of the Division 6 reserves ladder leading the only other real contenders in this league, Flinders (2), by a point and with a far superior goal difference.

## Round 12 at Red/Blue Eagles

3-2

Goals: Leach 2, Murray

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Tallarida (Bollenhagen), Lee, Williams, Trengove; Kostadinov, Culshaw, Leach, Arboit, C. Nguyen (B. Cosentino); Murray

The emphatic drubbing we achieved in the first round of games over this mob was not a good indication of this game since they had improved significantly and we did play well that day.

It was a large deck down at Grange and the wind was gusting aplenty. Craig had to miss the game with a poor knee so some reshuffling saw both Talla and Chris Nguyen start with Andrew Culshaw playing alongside the skipper for the day in Moose.

Our opponents spent a lot of time in possession in their own half but they began to threaten us with Paul Trengove and Talla being kept busy. We had some set pieces which threatened but nothing came of it. We fell behind when a long central pass was not adequately dealt with and Emmo could do little in the resulting one on one. We were certainly in the game and we found our equaliser when a robust, atypical challenge from Andrew Lee saw the ball out to Leachy who hit a long 40 yard direct ball which Paul Murray chased down and neatly lobbed the advancing keeper. Some further tight play continued until in the shadows of half time someone smiled as the clock was wound back.

The ball broke well for Leachy as he harassed their defence into an error. He closed in on goal and somehow managed to traverse 30 yards without being caught and his cool finish in

the corner was a throw back to his past. The posing as Elvis after the goal was his humorous attempt to reference the good old days. We went off to the break 2-1 up.

There was the odd bit of niggles in the game as both teams seemed desperate to get the win. An absolutely audacious shot from the coach from the half way floated nicely over the keeper but he was robbed by the width of the goal post. Josh and Ben Cossi got game time in the second half as tiredness took its toll. We did score but it was correctly ruled out as Paul Suarez was adjudged to have forced the ball over the line with his arm. The Eagles were attacking with vigour as the game became extremely stretched. It seemed inevitable this pressure would come to something and when Wills was pushed under a ball it fell nicely and the resulting cut back was dispatched past Emmo for their equaliser with only ten minutes left. A pathetic reference to poofers was yelled in our direction and that sort of comment belongs in the tired old lyrics of a Dire Straits hit of the mid 80's, at least be creative when you sledge.

It was probably fitting then that one of the lads who often gets called 'metro' picked up the ball from the right channel from a nice lordy lay off. Leachy then skipped inside, went parallel across the face of the goal before he rifled a left footed drive from twenty metres past their keeper for the winner. We hung on in the final minutes with Culshaw and Moose particularly desperate whilst some foolish elbowing and kicking someone on the ground led to an obvious red for one of theirs. A tremendous determined performance and the ideal of taking it week by week lives on as we remain on top.

## Round 13 v Adelaide Uni (3)

5-1

Goals: Kostadinov 4, Williams

Lineup: Crisci; Bollenhagen, Williams (Tallarida), Walker, Trengove; Kangas, Lee, Leach, Arboit (B. Cosentino), De Simoni; Kostadinov

The Glenunga fortress was showing signs of holding water and hence our ability to thread dangerous passes would be difficult. When the deck is not so good it can often level the game a little in terms of nullifying the skills of the better side.

Nonetheless with the inclusion of Luke and Kangas we knew the side was strengthened even though Paul was away and Emmo had been drafted into the Bs. In the end it was a typical strong performance where many chances were created and we scored enough to have a comfortable win.

The first goal came when Moose threaded the ball to Leachy who then put Kaagas in, a goal mouth scramble occurred once the ball was thrown in there. Luke and lordy combined until a neat swivel finish from the latter thrashed the ball past their keeper. A few dangerous set pieces came after that and it was from one of these that Will managed to bundle the ball home from close range. Another corner from the right and lordy did well moving away from the goal to produce enough power from his header to give us a 3-0 lead. We were rarely threatened and the half time score suggested we could go on with the job.

The second half became a little more challenging when a speculative long range shot beat Crisci and Uni had a tiny thread of a life line. This was snubbed out as the second half

became the lordy show. This was only permeated by some changes to get Cosi and Talla involved and Luke attempting to score via a volley.

lordy added two more goals in the half with the pick being a long throw that he ran on to, turned past a defender and shot left footed past the keeper at the near post. It was another dominant display, with set piece after another just not seeing the ball find the net. The defensive line had things under control and the guidance of Craig was evident as any threat was dealt with. Kangas had many runs at the defence and it was enjoyable to see that even in such difficult pitch conditions we were able to grind out a big win. One must say the song rang out very clearly especially the line where our vanquished opponents appear.

## Round 14 v Flinders (3)

1-1

Goals: Leach

Lineup: Murray; Bollenhagen, Walker, Williams, Trengove; Kangas, Arboit (Morgan), Leach, Lee, Rugari (B. Cosentino); Kostadinov

So we were held at home as much by the sub standard pitch as much as by our opposition on the day. Perhaps we shaded the game but not by enough to grab the three points which following the events of the week would have been handy.

Paul Murray was magnanimous offering to take his turn in goal whilst Emmo's sojourn in the Bs continued. Line up was strong with Kangas a welcome addition and Joe in left midfield gave us plenty of options.

In what has become a routine part of how we play this season chances were created in abundance. There have been a few times this year when this occurred and we buried our opponents. In games against tougher opposition the chances that both Kangas and lordy just failed to convert ended up hurting us.

The opening goal game when Leachy collected the ball in the left channel and drove a shot goalward, it was too hot for the keeper who spilled the ball in front of Joe who was following it in. His effort crashed against the post and fell back to Leachy on the 18 yard box. He then moved past two defenders and drilled the ball past the keeper with his trusted left boot.

A narrow lead at half time was spurned when a lack of diligence from their corner gifted them the equaliser. There was plenty of goalmouth pressure at either end for the rest of the game. Terrific defending by both Josh and Paul was a feature.

lordy had a shot which came back off a post and some other opportunities did not find their way in. A great one handed save by Paul Murray to his right kept the parity in place. There was time to welcome Adey back from his UK trip and some long throws from Ben Cosi were a threat late on.

All to do then, next weeks derby needs to be moved from the Glenunga site which should be renamed swamp Glenunga too.

**Round 15**

Bye

## **Round 16 v Hazara**

Hazara were withdrawn from the competition and all their results were expunged.

## Round 17 at Flinders (2)

4-0

Goals: Williams 2, C. Gauro, Leach

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Bollenhagen (Tallarida), Williams, Walker, Trengove; M. Gauro, Arboit (Lee), Leach, Morgan, Rugari (Kostadinov); C. Gauro

We are the Champions!! (again) - La vittoria è dolce, un onorevole uno ancora migliore

A comprehensive display that delivered the spoils of victory to the D's. Back to back title wins, even more sweet when 16 lads banded together and those that had delivered since April took the opportunity to deliver unaided by others in the shadows of September.

It was always going to be tough for Leachy to fit everyone in on the day but it was pleasing to see 14 players had a least some action. Rather than sit back and achieve a draw Leachy picked a side with tremendous attacking flair, anchored by a resolute defensive line. This team has scored a goal in every game this season and that is testimony to the likes of the Gauros, Rugari, lordy and the coach who all pose a potency in attack.

A tricky beginning as Flinders in white shirts moved the ball around well with slick passing. The D's resplendent in the navy blue kit (no clash of shirts there huh?) were holding strong as we forced Flinders to hold the ball without any real threat. The first half hour was permeated by some rugged tackling that generally went on unabated.

Our breakthrough came when their right back clattered in to Leachy earning a booking and gifted us a good position for a set piece. The ball was swung in and a bevy of Iggies boys threatened the keeper who obliged by allowing the ball to slip through his fingers and drift

goalward. Will has a habit of being the right spot and this time his forehead nudged the ball the remaining 50cm home to take us 1-0 up.

Half time came and we felt confident it was our game to control. In the early part of the second half we were really helped when their right back pillock took a throw in and launched the ball straight at the nearby Gauro. A little word in the referee's ear along the lines of "hey you can't do that" facilitated a booking. Further comment of "have you not already booked him?" led to a check in the notebook and the flash of red looked great against the blue sky.

Flinders were then out of shape and run ragged as Rugari and the Gauros enjoyed taking ball after ball forward. Chris added a second goal when put through one on one by Leachy. Another set piece and there was Will again in the right spot to bag his second of the day. Flinders were being well handled as Craig kept Paul, Josh and Emmo focussed on keeping a clean sheet.

The fourth goal came when the coach took a free kick and it went passed everyone into the corner of the net. Andrew Lee, lordy and Talla all got some game time as we lapped up the remaining minutes.

Much celebration followed the final whistle when we all realised what a great win that was and what a terrific season we had enjoyed. A fantastic group of lads who all want to play in that team and are welcomed very much by the coach to do that. One more game to go and let's finish it off well. In the battle of the club records the D grade has been quietly accumulating many and with stats king Talla nearby the one who laughs last may indeed laugh the longest. This may well need time to read and digest if previous verbose, self indulgent messages sent recently are anything to compete with.

## Round 18 v Strathalbyn

2-0

Strathalbyn forfeited.

# E GRADE

Coach: David Innamorati

Captain: David Innamorati

## Awards

Player of the Year: John Smith

Player's Player of the Year: Thomas Smith

Leading Goalscorer: Dean Ciccarello (21)

## Saturday Division Six

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PT
Torrens Valley	18	15	1	2	52	8	+44	46
Old Ignatians	18	14	0	4	76	16	+60	42
MA Hawks	18	13	1	4	40	14	+26	40
Comets	17	10	1	6	27	14	+13	31
Vipers (C2)	18	9	1	8	28	32	-4	28
Flinders	18	3	6	9	19	36	-17	15
FC Adelaide	18	4	3	11	17	48	-31	15
Southern Breakers	17	4	2	11	30	39	-9	14
Monarchs	18	4	2	12	16	61	-45	14
Mt Barker United	18	4	1	13	25	62	-37	13

\*Comets v Southern Breakers was not played

## Round 1 v Southern Breakers

6-0

Goals: S. George 2, Tharaken, Balestrin, D. Ciccarello,  
TOG

Lineup: Crisci; Reitano, T. Smith, Hurt, G. Bolognese;  
Fimiani, Woods, Mercuri, S. George, Balestrin;  
Tharaken

Rolling Subs: J. Smith, D. Ciccarello, Innamorati

No report submitted.

## Round 2 at Mt Barker

7-0

Goals: Tharaken 3, J. Smith 2, Balestrin, Fimiani

Lineup: Crisci; Reitano, Hurt, T. Smith, G. Bolognese;  
Fimiani, Woods, J. Smith, Mercuri; Tharaken; Balestrin

Rolling Subs: M. Bolognese, Photakis

Without doubt a favourite away fixture of mine, a nice road trip, great pitch and a quality lunch awaits following the game. More significant games were being played out at Glenunga, with a derby and two cup games and the people's team seemed a bit forgotten all the way up the freeway. The Mt Barker pitch was absolutely massive, i'm pretty sure it rivals that in size of Strathalbyn's. That said it was a plush surface and even with the inclement weather from the previous week it was still sure under foot.

We looked to continue our run from the last two weeks and to keep ourselves in the title hunt. Thankfully the game didn't start off as a borefest and some excellent passing moves ensued. Balestrin was an able replacement to Dean as the last man and once again he had a stellar game, slightly like Emil Heskey (although less black and less massive) as he opened up space for Vineeth to exploit as he continued his fine goal scoring rate. John Smith again had a good game and will surely pick up more brownlow votes. The two wingers, Mercuri and Fimiani, lapped up the open acres as well, time and time again they got past their opponents and created opportunities.

There was confidence in defence even after Danzo hobbled off with a dodgy hamstring, perhaps he didn't like the prospect of running the entire half each time we had to clear a long ball. Even though we dominated this game, we still had a sense of pride in defence and didn't want to concede, this was perfectly illustrated first by GD Bolognese and later in the game by Tom Smith both with goal saving, last ditch tackles both amazing pieces of defending. Mick and Manoli provided good skill when they came on and I for one appreciate them helping out. Another great result in a potential banana of a fixture and again we increase our goal difference. Next week we play last season's hoodoo team, Vipers as we look to keep our winning streak going, Torrens Valley have a game up at Southern Breakers, which means they will have to leave home at about 3am if they have any chance of making it on time via their advanced transport method of horse and cart, good luck breakers!

## Round 3 v FC Adelaide

7-0

Goals: S. George 3, T. Smith 2, Balestrin, Tharaken

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; J. Smith, T. Smith, Hurt, Reitano;

D. Ciccarello, Woods, Mercuri, S. George, Balestrin;

Tharaken

Rolling Subs: Sorgini, Innamorati

No report submitted.

## Round 4 at Torrens Valley

2-3

Goals: Tharaken, J. Smith

Lineup: Crisci; Reitano, Hurt, T. Smith, J. Smith; D. Ciccarello, S. George, Woods, Mercuri, Balestrin; Tharaken

Rolling Subs: G. Bolognese, Fimiani, Innamorati

The Glitter train made its first road trip of the year up to Birdwood, to play Torrens Valley who think they're great cos they made some big rocking horse! They also play on their own time up there even though every other Division 6 fixture is played at the normal 11:30am, everyone who goes to Birdwood have to play TV at 3pm. I guess they need to get their farming done in the morning.

After last week's destruction of last season's title winners FC Adelaide, confidence was high. It was even higher after our coach's namesake had masterminded the defeat of Barcelona. Come match day though we had seemingly gone into our shell and whereas last week we stroked the ball around with ease this week we were completely dysfunctional and also somewhat intimidated by the scouse defenders in their team.

We dominated the first 11 minutes as every bit of play was in their half, we lacked that final touch and were made to pay as TV took us apart on the counter attack. The first two goals were carbon copies as mistakes crept into our game and we were punished for them. As stated earlier we were very dysfunctional and struggled to string passes together, got lazy and started pumping it forward, although he is a sexy man, Vineeth is vertically challenged and the prospect of aerial challenges against much bigger defenders was predictably ineffective. Balestrin was working his guts out on the left and Dean was the only one showing any physical grunt. I guess it is pleasing despite the negatives we were able to get one on the scoresheet, it wasn't pretty but John Smith managed to get it into the back of "the ol' onion bag" eventually. We lost concentration and our grasp on the game again, and shortly after TV grabbed that two goal buffer.

The second half was an improvement, we fought harder for the ball and the majority of the play was in the opposition's half. As much as we tried we just couldn't score and I have to commend our opponents for their last ditch defending, even if we were perceived as more technically gifted they ground out this result basically because they wanted it more. The only passion started coming to the fore once Vineeth scored and brought it back to 2-3. If

we can play like we did in the last ten minutes not only will we win more games but we'll feel better about it as well, as it finally felt like we were gelling more as a team. We pushed forward and played to our strengths.

Losing is never fun, but hopefully this will prove a solid wake up call to all involved for the most attractive team at OISC.

## Round 5 at Comets

1-0

Goal: Tharaken

Lineup: Ruciak; Lai, T. Smith, Hurt, Reitano; Woods, S. George, Balestrin, Mercuri, D. Ciccarello; Tharaken

Rolling Subs: Innamorati, J. Smith

Whilst the managers of the world named their preliminary squads for this years World Cup, the population really preferred to know who was lining up for the most stylish team at OISC. Following a punishing win against Southern Breakers last week the team remained mostly the same with Butter slotting in at left back. Darryl also started between the sticks for us and his efforts are applauded as following our game he went up the road and played another game for the Fs, well done.

After stealing the kits that the As wore last week for the memorable win against Ingle Farm, Comets must have thought we rate ourselves quite highly as we warmed up in perfect boot camp style as we lapped the field in two lines, we just missed on the sing along though. Comets are an unknown quantity in this league, and if we judged a book on its cover we could've feared the worst, but as the game started we soon realised that we should take this game by the scruff of the neck. We were on top for much of the first half gaining the majority of possession and Vineeth converted following a trademark throw by Danzo. This would prove to be the winner. Our defence was solid and dealt well with Comets direct approach to attacking, we were lucky not to concede after a collision between Danzo and Butter, it was a warning sign and we needed to switch on and have greater concentration levels. Juno provided good run down the right wing and won free kicks in good areas. Shaun was in a league of his own again as he took the piss time and time again, however he couldn't get himself on the scoresheet. The first half finished with the score the same.

The half time talk was for more of the same, with emphasis on being clinical and taking chances presented, also on ensuring any Comets threat was dealt with further up the pitch. Unfortunately the second half was a sham more reflective of a game of marks up, just end to end long ball. There was no link up play at all and no one really stood up and took control, so in that regard it was quite a disappointment. The resolve though was impressive and we held out well. At the end of the day we deserved to win, the score could've been much different at both ends of the spectrum. This week we're back on our favoured home pitch against the league leaders and the match has already sold out according to venuetix. Don't miss it, it's gonna be a cracker!!

## Round 6 v MA Hawks

1-2

Goal: Tharaken

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Reitano, Hurt, T. Smith, G. Bolognese; D. Ciccarello, Woods, J. Smith, Mercuri, Balestrin; Tharaken

Rolling Subs: Fimiani, Photakis

Innamourinho was unable to make the sidelines this week as he had prior commitments in Madrid.

The key to success is consistency. Following a hard graft win last week against Comets we came crashing back down to earth losing this week against league leaders, MA Hawks.

The first half was a battle for ascendancy, the split of possession was at about 50/50 and neither side capitalised on opportunities presented. The most pleasing aspect of this weeks performance was the effort put in and whilst not putting anything on the scoreboard we snuffed out any Hawks threat well. They had a few quality players and were very efficient and its fair to say they will be near the top at seasons end. The half time score of 0-0 was a fair reflection of the game, an Shaun's half time speech was a good one, leaving no doubt in our minds that the game was there for the taking.

And we came out with a bang! Effort increased and we were more intelligent in controlling the game. We took the lead as well when Vineeth decided he had let it go long enough for this game to score and pounced upon a goal mouth scramble. It was foolish to think that the game was over as Hawks pushed back and it didn't help that we let them and this played into their hands. Unfortunately we couldn't ease the pressure and convert the couple of chances that came our way as a result of the counter attack. MA Hawks basically steam rolled us on their way to victory. They gained momentum as they equalised and we couldn't resist as they scored the winner shortly after. It was unfortunate that even with many experienced players in our realm that not one person could take the reigns and get everyone into line, there was way too much panic whenever we had the ball and we gave it up much too easily.

This one hurt, an opportunity missed big time. The season is far from over though and i'm sure we'll be back into the winners circle soon.

## Round 7 at Monarchs

4-0

Goals: D. Ciccarello 3, Tharaken

Lineup: Crisci; Reitano, Hurt, T. Smith, G. Bolognese; Balestrin, Woods, J. Smith, Fimiani; D. Ciccarello, Tharaken

Rolling Sub: Mercuri

Last weeks loss to MA Hawks was a complete downer, knocked the wind from our sails and hurt us on the table. We currently sit third on the table but by no means is this accurate as there isn't a lineup with the amount of games played across the league. The only undefeated team remaining are Torrens Valley, speaking of only....TV have only one team in the Amateur league, and there is a feeling of David vs Goliath as we'd love to knock them off their perch. Division 6 is going to be interesting to say the least, and this team is far from dead...watch out!

Glittermorati's team travelled to Grange this week to play against lowly Monarchs on the search for another win and a boost in confidence. Grange is a big pitch and the wind is a big factor making the conditions tricky. Monarchs kicked with the wind in the first half and it meant our concentration levels needed to be at a maximum so that we didn't concede any silly goals like we had become prone to doing this season. We switched from our normal formation to a 4-4-2, the game on the whole was fairly scrappy and we failed to create space and time on occasion. Vineth was playing a more withheld role and he obviously enjoyed this as he broke forward and beat two defenders to score a great individual effort. As expected we had to deal with a lot of long high balls kicked forward by their keeper, but composure and a good understanding at the back helped with us coping. Tom Smith is definitely an asset to the team in this regard. The other Smith went forward with drive and purpose, but as a familiar tale we didn't convert as many chances as were created. A corner was in the lead up to the next goal as a ball from the left struck a Monarchs player on the hand and the ref correctly awarded a penalty, which was left to Deano to convert and in turn give us a 2-0 lead going into the half.

The half time instruction was for more of the same and make sure we put the result beyond doubt early on. We pretty much dominated the whole second half, and score two more goals, but it could have been more. Dean was again on the end of some incisive forward play and his positional sense gave him the reward of a hatrick. On the whole it was a good

performance and got us back on the winning train, which is what we need as we have a tough game at home this week against Flinders. We need to make sure our preparation is good in the lead up as that's what hurt us in the two losses this season.

## Round 8 v Flinders

9-0

Goals: J. Smith 3, D. Ciccarello 2, Balestrin 2, Tharaken, TOG

Lineup: Crisci; Reitano, Woods, Hurt, G. Bolognese; Innamorati, J. Smith, Balestrin, Fimiani; Tharaken, D. Ciccarello

Rolling Subs: Mercuri, T. Smith

The first weekend of winter and another quintuple header at the superdome. Flinders were an unknown quantity, currently sitting 5th after the initial thought was they had withdrawn from the competition. It was expected to be one of our harder games of the year and this was the most focused we have been this year pre-game.

What ensued was complete domination. Concentration levels were at a premium, defensively we were solid preventing Flinders from having any opportunities on the counter attack. At the other end of the pitch we carved out opportunity after opportunity and everyone was on top of their game. Balestrin had arguably his best performance yet, some say he was fired up after learning the Cynical Hack didn't make the printers, others say he was fired up after Federer was shipped out of the French Open this week, whatever it was he certainly set the standard at a high. John Smith was also supreme with his supply and also getting on the end of play to score his hat trick.

The most impressive facet of this week's game was everything we tried paid off, even the small things like overlapping runs from the full backs. Vineeth continued his goal a game record, he seemingly has a knack of being in the right place at the right time and has great composure in front of goal. It also seems that we have added something to our play with Dean becoming more of a focal point up front, he provides excellent run and is always an example to follow when trying to win the ball.

An excellent win and definitely sends a message to the rest of the league. Torrens Valley only just managed to scrape a win against Vipers this week, it must've been that earlier kick off, let's see how those big babies go next week.

## Round 9 at Vipers C2

**2-0**

Goals: Balestrin, D. Ciccarello

Lineup: Crisci; Reitano, T. Smith, Woods, Pannunzio;  
Mercuri, Innamorati, J. Smith, Balestrin; D. Ciccarello,  
Tharaken

Rolling Subs: Dujmovic, Sorgini

No reports submitted.

## Round 10 at Southern Breakers

3-2

Goals: Tharaken 2, D. Ciccarello

Lineup: Arboit; Tallarida, J. Smith, Reitano, Sorgini;  
Mercuri, Innamorati, T. Smith, Balestrin; D. Ciccarello,  
Tharaken

Rolling Subs: Fimiani, Al Hinai

No report submitted.

## Round 11 v Mt Barker United

14-1

Goals: D. Ciccarello 5, Tharaken 3, Balestrin 2, J. Smith 2, T. Smith 2

Lineup: Ruciak; Tallarida, Reitano, T. Smith, Sorgini; Fimiani, Mercuri, J. Smith, Balestrin; D. Ciccarello, Tharaken

Rolling Subs: Pannunzio, G. Bolognese

The E train rolled on as we managed to scrape a win last week against the struggling Southern Breakers and we were back on home turf this week to play Mt Barker.

I'll tell you the truth even though I "watched" this one from the sidelines and I saw the ball go in the back of the net I can only remember the buildup on few occasions. As the scoreline suggests we dominated this contest from the first and probably could have won by more. Not to sound arrogant but skillwise we were superior and that's all we needed today. However we need to be aware that much more will be required when we face much harder opposition in the weeks to come, including a tricky away trip to FC Adelaide.

What's pleasing is that even with new people in the team and others playing out of position we still managed to turn on the style. Another good factor is the goal scoring run of our attackers and this will be crucial in the run if they can perform like today in all remaining fixtures.

This has been a pleasing run and we haven't dropped points since we lost to MA Hawks, a week off is well deserved. Well done all.

## Round 12 at FC Adelaide

6-1

Goals: D. Ciccarello 4, Balestrin, J Smith (pen)

Lineup: Crisci; Sorgini, Woods, Hurt, G, Bolognese; J. Smith, Fimiani, De Simoni; Tharaken, D. Ciccarello, Balestrin

Rolling Subs: T. Smith, Innamorati

The E grade returned to league action after a week off due to the Cup round. Innamourinho's men flew back into Adelaide after their training camp at Real Madrid and once again got aboard the Glitter train to do battle against the Greek titans in FC Adelaide.

Upon entering the change rooms Innamourinho was in a mood (snapping necks and cashing cheques with only 2 hours sleep was taking its toll), he stressed that regardless of our previous result against Achilles heir's (7-0) we must not be complacent but perform our roles, work hard, press the defence and shoot with confidence. Importantly, Dave wanted us to work on things this week that would hold us in good stead against Torrens Valley in the following. The team was slightly tweaked into a more attacking formation where the message was to hit FC early with Vineeth and Balestrin partnering Dean in a three pronged attack. Inna also had Luke De Simoni at his disposable and from there it was business as usual.

The game commenced and it was OISC who placed FC Adelaide under immense pressure and in truth the goals seemed inevitable. Nevertheless we had not yet converted so Dave made a tactical change by putting Balestrin and Vineeth back on their preferred sides and unshackled John Smith. Immediately we got out reward and Dean struck true to give us the lead. Furthermore in a move starting with John Smith saw Woods play the ball through to the supporting Balestrin who picked his spot and unleashed the cannon to score. This seemed to crush FC Adelaide's spirit, only the refs half time whistle provided some respite.

At halftime Dave applauded our efforts and wanted to continue adding to the goal difference but importantly Innamourinho demanded concentration, intensity, work rate and our passing game, for this is our key against Torrens Valley.

Dean turned on bulldoze mode and went about scoring 3 more, his shot on an acute angle that went from right to left was a peach. John Smith son of Dermott was also among the

goals and he converted a lovely taken penalty by sending the keeper the wrong way and slotted it left.

Coach Innamourinho has always prided himself on instilling discipline into the E train but unfortunately someone forgot to send Woods the memo. The OISC hard man was rightly peeved at the harsh treatment directed towards John Smith and received a yellow for his troubles but the ref gave him another yellow gift of death when Woodsey decided to continue his Mascherano tirade. The man was off (FC Adelaide's player was sent to Hades too) and there was a danger the send-off would rattle us but credit to the lads, we stuck to our jobs and looked for more goals. Admittedly we could have scored more goals but none would say we weren't deserving of our 6-1 victory. If anything the way FC Adelaide got a consolation goal should remind us that we need to maintain our focus especially against Torrens Valley because a crappy scrambled goal could decide the match. Thankfully, some discussions with the referee after the match saw the red card to Woodsy rescinded.

These next run of fixtures starting with the fated rematch against Torrens Valley is our true test, I believe we have the talent and bottle to do it. SO LETS F\*\*\*ING AVE IT!

## Round 13 v Torrens Valley

2-1

Goals: Balestrin, D. Ciccarello

Lineup: Crisci; Sorgini, Hurt, T. Smith, G. Bolognese; Fimiani, Innamorati, Woods; Tharaken, D. Ciccarello, Balestrin

Rolling Subs: Dujmovic

Well, this was it, time to ride the preverbal rocking horse! Anything less than a win and it was basically title challenge over. There was plenty of build up for this game, it was the biggest most of us had played in before and it was a slugfest on a very muddy pitch (there were foot marks from ducks in the middle of the ground).

The beginning was reminiscent of the last time we played Torrens Valley, disorganised. No coach until ten minutes before the game, but as a team we came together and attempted to switch on. Well, fuck that, what a woeful start, conceding after 20 seconds. Thankfully though it didn't happen again. This was a tough game, the conditions were tough and the opposition made us earn everything. There were on pitch battles and there were verbal battles, which included something about the war....how irrelevant, didn't know Wikipedia had made it up to the hills area yet. We had little time on the ball and hard to work hard to create space, with about 30 minutes on the clock, Captain, Coach, Life Member and Player Innamorati played a perfect through ball to Balestrin who received pristine advice from the sidelines and punched the ball into the net. Back on level terms, but that wasn't enough.

Minus that first 20 seconds were switched on, and gave as good as we got. Our commitment to the cause was commendable. Tom Smith was a rock at the back, won everything in the air and mopped up brilliantly, it sure is a boost to the confidence with the type of protection he offers (cue the puns!). Sorgini was a monster, he gave everything and then some, truly inspiring. I mean, that kid can spin some shit but here's a true fact for you, he was on. A good example for every player at the club, he defended like his life depended on it, if he made a mistake he charged on attempting to make up for it.

At the half, the score was 1-1. Dave changed it up to a 4-4-2 and Mario went to the right (the glory position) and Vineeth joined Deano up front. The half time message was for more of the same, and we concentrated 200% at the start of the second stanza. Torrens Valley ball movement was very good and hard to track, the game was a midfield battle and the breakthrough would take something special, and it was. DC took a majestic corner, Balley

put some kind of magic ninja spell down and the ball ended up in the net!!! 20 Minutes left to go. Let me tell you, it wasn't pretty and probably not the most intelligent way to defend a lead. We gave possession back way to easily, but it truly was backs to the wall for the rest of the game. As much as they tried, they didn't get past us... and that rocking horse on the sidelines got bigger and bigger. What felt like 180 minutes finally ended and we sang that song loud and proud. A great win and much needed. 6 games to go and this one will go down to the wire.

## Round 14 v Comets

1-3

Goal: Balestrin

Lineup: Crisci; Sorgini, Woods, Hurt, G. Bolognese; C. Nguyen, Innamorati, J. Smith, Balestrin; D. Ciccarello, Fimiani

Rolling Subs: Callaghan, Mercuri

Following the previous weeks euphoria against Torrens Valley, the seasoning defining win, we dropped the ashes. Comets came to Glenunga which is now a mudbath, and put us in our place.

We weren't incisive enough, lacked passion and hoped this game would get handed on a platter. The reality is, this 3-game period should have been taken more on merit, rather than winning one game against the top team and thinking it was good enough. Hopefully we can lift again against MA Hawks or this season could end as a sham, when last week it looked as though it was going to be completely different.

While last match report I lavished praise on everyone, no one deserves it based on this performance, and if anyone thinks they played "well", forget it. People played well below their ability, ability which they gladly lived up to against TV.

It was terribly disappointing, as you can obviously tell. We were dysfunctional and lacking any fluency across the park. They say you need luck to win a title, we could have used it this game, unfortunately it wasn't there. Instead we received a sha-lacking, that came at the worst time of the season, we couldn't afford any slip ups, this removes the majority of our chances of winning Div 6 for 2010.

This weeks game will be a true test of character, a much needed one. In my opinion MA Hawks are a better team than TV, and we will be up against it, lose this and we lose second spot. Let's do this!

## Round 15 at MA Hawks

2-1

Goals: Ciano, D. Ciccarello

Lineup: Crisci; Sorgini, Hurt, T. Smith, Huang; Mercuri, Kangas, T. Smith, Balestrin; Tharaken, D. Ciccarello

Rolling Subs: Woods, Ciano, Fimiani

Another week another tough game, thankfully we had a week off following the loss to Comets to re-group. We were met with blustery conditions at Hawks' ground, but their pitch had held up very well indeed, and coming off the mud heap that is Glenunga this felt like walking on clouds.

As is the normal script we conceded very early in the piece, a fortunate goal, one which hit the post and landed at their players feet, but a goal nonetheless. The fightback was admirable though, and we were all over them for the rest of the half. Dean was exceptional up front, battled for everything, unfortunately his last touch and support from midfield to finish one of his numerous runs was lacking. Thus the score remained the same for the half.

It was stressed that we had to take our chances in the second half and let our dominance tell, we had the wind to our advantage so we wanted to make it count. We opened the scoring from a set piece, yet another well delivered corner from Dean landed on Ciano's head as the big lad duly put it in the ol onion bag and restored parity. We cracked on in search of the winner, the wind affected our game as there were many over-hit passes and play was disjointed. Balestrin managed to open play and then switch to Dean on the edge of the area who coolly shrugged off his defender and placed the ball into the corner of the net, 2-1!

What followed was what I call, parking the bus. Hawks were unlucky not to equalise as we let them attack and continually gave possession up cheaply, our mind was to the task though and we kept them at bay.

Yay.

## Round 16 v Monarchs

2-0

Monarchs forfeited.

## Round 17 at Flinders

6-0

Goals: D. Ciccarello 2, Balestrin, Mercuri, Fimiani, S. George

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; Sorgini, T. Smith, Woods, G. Bolognese; Fimiani, Mercuri, J. Smith, Balestrin; Tharaken, D. Ciccarello

Rolling Subs: Innamorati; S, George

The Mighty Es set sail towards Flinders on a windy Saturday morning, confident of a victory that would keep the Div 6 title race open.

Innamourinho asked his troops to show the same commitment that he showed hours earlier fighting off hordes of angry poms at the Vic, even demonstrating how to knee someone in the spine whilst simultaneously kicking them in the head. Possibly due to these bizarre instructions, the team started off slowly. So slowly in fact, Innamourinho was heard on the sidelines threatening to sack the whole team.

Despite Flinders providing little to no threat, we struggled to string any passes together and were too hasty in trying to get the ball forward early and as a result isolated the strikers up front. Most of the early threat came from Ciccarello's corners which the Smith brothers were taking turns at narrowly missing. Finally the breakthrough came in the 30th minute with goal scoring extraordinaire Ciccarello racking up his 20th goal of the season with a neat turn and shot at the near post.

Half time came and Innamourinho's mental health was dangerously close to the edge with a slender 1-0 lead against a team we previously thumped 9-0 (or 11-1?). Informing us that we looked an absolute shambles and embarrassment to football, the team responded with a much improved performance in the second half. S George returned from his 3 month absence with a deflected long range goal to start the second half and the team clicked from here on to please our Eternal Leader Innamourinho. An excellent pitch length kick from keeper Emo found a running Juno who expertly chipped their keeper with his first touch. The Es were back to the beautiful football that every team in the club aspires to match.

Flinders battled valiantly but it was one way traffic now. Dean converted a penalty after performing a Jedi mind trick on the keeper and fooling him into going left. Mario converted a close range header after some good work from J Smith - possibly ending the 'drop J Smith'

campaign started by his brother. The pick of the bunch came from the recently converted left back, R Balley Ballstorm, beating his man down the left and hammering the ball into the top corner from 15 yards.

Overall it was a fairly sedate performance but the 6-0 result ensures that Torrens Valley will be pushed to the very end for the title. We later found out that Torrens Valley lost to Vipers 1-0 in a shock result meaning if they drop one of out their remaining three games (providing we win next week) we can still get top spot.

## Round 18 v Vipers C2

1-2

Goal: Tharaken

Lineup: E. Ciccarello; T. Smith, Woods, Hurt; Sorgini, Ciano, J. Smith, S. George, G. Bolognese; Fimiani, Tharaken

Rolling Subs: Balestrin, Innamorati, D. Ciccarello, Mercuri

This match was scheduled for the Saturday but inclement weather and a supposed conspiracy meant it was shifted to Thursday under lights at Grange, a spectacle that only the E Grade deserve. What a rollercoaster of a season it has been, a win here was all we could do to throw the pressure back on Torrens Valley to determine the winner of Division 6, the most important division in the SAASL and the most important division in life really.

It was the perfect start and we hit the lead with about 5 minutes on the clock, Vineeth pounced on a rebound from a ferocious Ciano drive that the keeper couldn't handle. The conditions were making the game very "un-pretty" even though some English bloke was refereeing like his life depended on it. We lined up with a stacked midfield in an attempt to minimise the effect of a larger pitch. Truthfully it just led to confusion and a diabolical team performance. I remember the first half of the year when we tore teams apart with great passing and off the ball movement, but the last few games have been mostly lazy and made up of kick and run, and we deserve to lose considering we seemed like this game was expected to be handed to us on a platter. This has been the mindset since we beat Torrens Valley in what seems like an eternity ago, and quite frankly it has been our downfall.

Despite the negatives we matched it with a very strong Vipers outfit who have gone the second half of the season undefeated and were never going to be a walkover. Unfortunately those half chances that came our way weren't capitalised upon.

Well done to Torrens Valley, I'm glad you won a "C" league with your only team. You've made it in life. To the glitter train, there have been some highlights, and for a bit there it looked like we were going to win the championship with a hefty Goals For tally but we really fell away in the latter half of the year, coincidentally where the majority of low lights occur.

# F GRADE

Coach:

Marc Lissner

Captain:

Michael Pannunzio

## Awards

Player of the Year:

Tom Cosentino

Player's Player of the Year:

Andrew Kitching

Leading Goalscorer:

Matthew Hawkes (5)

## Saturday Division Four Reserves

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PT
Old Ignatians (2)	14	12	2	0	67	8	+59	38
Flinders (2)	14	11	1	2	40	13	+27	34
Flinders (3)	14	8	3	3	46	27	+19	27
Adelaide Red/Blue Eagles	14	6	0	8	40	43	-3	18
Greenock Town	14	4	2	8	22	37	-15	14
Strathalbyn	14	4	1	9	22	41	-19	13
Adelaide Uni (3)	14	3	3	8	24	42	-18	12
Old Ignatians (3)	14	1	2	11	22	72	-50	5

## Round 1 at OISC (2)

0-10

Lineup: Ruciak; D. Moseley, A. Kitching, Pannunzio, McKibbin; Al Hinai, Dujmovic, Lissner, T. Cosentino, Kantilaftas; Hawkes

Rolling Subs: T. Moseley, Merullo, H. Nguyen, Mark SJ, Angley

No report submitted.

**Round 2**

Bye

## Round 3 at Hazara

1 -6\*

Goals: Kedem (pen)

Lineup: Ruciak; N. Nguyen (Lissner), Angley, G.

Bolognese, H. Nguyen; Merullo (Caeran), Dujmovic,

Kedem, Pannunzio, Ranse; Durand

\* Result was ultimately annulled as Hazara were removed from the competition.

The Fs travelled down Torrens Road to the new Afghani club Hazara for their first competitive encounter for the season. Plans were almost thrown into chaos with Alex and Ilan not showing up until 5 minutes before the game by somehow not managing to read google maps properly, but we started with 11.

The match got off to a poor start with Nathaniel Nguyen trying to outdo Bucky's record of injuries in a season, limping off after 5 minutes with a quad strain, and that moment pretty much summed up the day's performance. By half time we were 3-0 down, with most of the goals coming from individual mistakes and a lack of decisiveness defensively. The only real highlight of the first half was a cracking first time volley by captain Michael "Netball Bibs" Pannunzio from just inside the box only narrowly missing the top corner.

Come the second half we changed from the OISC favourite 4-2-3-1 to a traditional 4-4-2. However, the brilliant improvisation of the previously mentioned captain to play on the wrong side of midfield for the first 10 minutes left us with 2 right wingers and no-one on the left. It was quite ironic, then, that our only goal did come from a Pannunzio cross which the Hazara player quite clearly stuck his arm out to stop. Ilan converted the penalty, and we thought there may have been hope. However, the fitness and work rate of the Hazara players meant that they were simply able to run over the top of us by the end of the second half, and it culminated in a 6-1 defeat.

We did manage to do some things right on the day, but it is important to note that the F's are playing in the Division 4B reserves league, so good results will be hard to come by throughout the season, but so long as we keep putting in the effort we may be able to help the D's reclaim their title.

## **Round 4 v Flinders (2)**

Lineup: Ruciak; Ranse, A. Kitching, Angley, H. Nguyen; Dujmovic, Kantilaftas, Merullo, Sorgini, Pannunzio; T. Cosentino

Rolling Subs: Lissner, Fantasia, Durand

Think of the worst game you've ever watched. This one was probably worse than that. The F Grade came up against Flinders (2) in the Saturday Division 4 B for the first time this season, and it wasn't a good performance by any stretch of the imagination. Flinders were a lot taller and physically stronger than all of our players, and we were muscled off the ball time and time again.

Up against the tactic of "Their goalkeeper gets the ball and throws it over halfway to land on the head of an 8ft tall giant called Peaches," we were unable to deal with their continual dominance of possession. After 4 minutes a sloppy goal was conceded, but to the credit of the lads we were able to remain in the contest for the rest of the game. There were no real highlights of note, with the only real chance being Jake Kantilaftis' driving shot on the counter attack that forced their keeper into a save. The standout players had to be Rob Fantasia, who in his typical animal fashion put in a stellar performance whether being played in central midfield or defense, and also Andrew Kitching, who adjusted his Friday Night schedule with a later kickoff than he was previously used to in the E's last season. Individually most of the players had decent performances, Tom Cosentino had a tough role playing up front, and James Dujmovic and Alex Merullo performed admirably, but we just didn't seem to click as a team. Passes going astray, conceding possession too often, and the a lack of talk (and listening in some cases) which really needs to be addressed by all the players. The game was further tarnished by the poor standard of refereeing, with all respect for the officials being lost after about 50 minutes, but this was mainly due to player frustrations by both sides. It was an improvement defensively, (the first 4 minutes aside), but we still have a lot of work to do in order to get our first points of the season.

## Round 5 v Strathalbyn

2-2

Goals: T. Cosentino, Photakis

Lineup: Ruciak; Pannunzio, Angley, G. Bolognese,

Ranse; Sorgini, Photakis, Fantasia, Dujmovic; T.

Cosentino, Kantilaftas

Rolling Subs: Lissner

Upon arriving at the Glenunga fortress, OISC F's were considerably outnumbered by the travelling Strathalbyn faithful. We were unsure whether coach Bacon would have to go in goals, but luckily 2 minutes before kickoff Daryl was able to make it from the E-grade game.

The match started very positively, with the grace, finesse, and untamed power of Manoli Photakis's hair in the centre of midfield. The "Leach 4-2-3-1" was abandoned to good effect, with a more traditional 4-4-2 with a diamond midfield proving to be very successful. Jake Kantilaftis tore things up with his left foot, and some of his long range efforts nearly paid off. The best early chance, though, came to Manoli's hair, with a lashing shot from the top of the box being deflected off the keeper, onto the post, and back onto the keeper. Our pressure paid off, with a Kantilaftis corner causing Greg Angley to create a mockery of the Strathalbyn defense. Tom Cosentino (T-Cos) bundled home the scraps to make it 1-0.

Shortly before half-time though, we conceded with a long ball over the top not being dealt with, and their striker smartly finishing in the far stanchion.

The second half brought a few changes, most notably on the sidelines, where the crocodile hunter had taken the assistant's flag, and Strathalbyn coach Robert De Niro was become more vocal. Strathalbyn were pulling changes here, there, and everywhere, with 20 substitutions for the match. The second half was by far our best half of football defensively and offensively this season, with pressure on the ball from our midfield and attackers being a highlight. Michael Sorgini was tireless with his pressure down the right hand side, and James Dusmanovic was brilliant in the holding midfield role. We had a few good shots through Jake Kantilaftis and T-Cos, whilst captain Pannunz may have wished he was playing in netball bibs with 2 shots going well over the bar.

Our pressure paid off with 20 minutes to go, when Manoli's Hair got a deflected shot past the Strathalbyn, and we seemed to be cruising to our first victory. However, a cheap free-kick 25 yards from goal was conceded, and a mistake by Daryl in goals allowed Strath to pull

one back with 10 minutes to go. We piled on the pressure, while Strathalbyn kept on making rolling substitutions to rival that of the Crows. J.D. was left narrating his life on the sidelines after being cynically hacked towards the end, and we kept the pressure up. Unfortunately, though, the winning goal did not arrive.

A great all-round performance, and the improvement in the side since a disastrous round 1 has been huge. Perhaps this is the new coach, or the boot-camp style coaching of Innamourinho during trainings, but our first victory is not far away if we produce performances like that.

## Round 6 v Flinders (3)

3-6

Goals: C. Gauro, Photakis, Lissner

Lineup: Ruciak; Pannunzio, Angley, Caeran, Lissner;  
Ranse, Dujmovic, C. Gauro, Kantilaftas; T. Cosentino,  
Durand

Rolling Subs: Fantasia, Merullo, Photakis, Woods

No report submitted.

## Round 7 v Greenock Town

2-8

Goals: Fantasia, Pannunzio

Lineup: Lissner; Merullo, Angley, Kostadinov, Caeran; Ranse, T. Moseley, Pannunzio, Dujmovic; D. Moseley, Durand

Rolling Subs: Fantasia, Sorgini, H. Nguyen

An isolated feeling surrounded the F's, with the only match at Glenunga this week against a solid Greenock Town outfit visiting.

We were confident before the game, but Brett Durand's decision to not get us to warm up until 10 minutes before kickoff proved fatal. 3 Goals against in the first 15 minutes set the tone for the day. Their goalkeeper was booting the ball over our defenders who should be used to the Glenunga slope. It was about this time that The Animal arrived during the game. In the first half we were pretty weak up forward, with not many chances being created.

Special mention to the 3 first-timers this week. Mr. Squiggle made his long awaited return following more than a year out with a knee reconstruction, along with the new set of brothers, Tristan and x? setting a new standard of lookalikes, only matched by the E-graders Tom/John Smith, who all showed great displays.

The highlight of the first half was a burst of pace by Sorge, running the entire length of the field (10 metres) with the ball before shooting just wide.

It was 0-4 by half time and any real contest was over. Bacon was dominant in the second half in goals, with a couple of saves that would have Pim Verbeek questioning whether he should've taken 5 goalies in the provisional Soccerroos squad. We conceded a couple more soft goals, and were 8-0 down.

Then, all of a sudden, a resurgence! A Mr. Squiggle put in "Not a good corner, but still turned in, brilliantly by [Zola](#)" as The Animal showed the work of a magician. The Glenunga Fortress and its 3 spectators were pumping after this masterpiece of a goal, and it lifted the home side. Immediate pressure from the kickoff and a quick and intelligent free-kick which was choreographed by Mr. Squiggle/Robin Gibb gave Netball Bib's Pannunz his first competitive goal for the club, with a deft header over the onrushing keeper.

A poor performance, but a great finish, which had spirits held high and almost felt like a win. Which was great considering it was a 6 goal loss.

2 Weeks until the D's vs F's match, and the eagerly anticipated matchup between Netball Bibs Pannunz's beard, and David Leach's blonde tipped hairs. Expect a Claudio Gentile vs Maradona performance from today's second goalscorer.

## Round 8 at Red/Blue Eagles

1-9

Goal: Al Hinai

Lineup: Nathan; Sorgini, Angley, Lissner, McKibbin;  
Merullo, T. Cosentino, Kantilaftas, Dujmovic; Al Hinai,  
Durand

The cold journey to Headquarters was going to be a tough day when 50% of the Friday morning squad having already pulled out, and the remaining substitute falling sick less than an hour before kick-off, meaning we would be in for a tough encounter. Fitness has always been an issue, especially for coach Bacon, and playing with the bare minimum would take it out of the lads.

We were relegated to the rear pitch, but memories of the B's Cup semi final last year hoped for some more pleasant memories at this ground. We were working against the wind in the first half; it was blowing a gale to the North, and not across the pitch as expected.

The past 2 weeks the lads have started with some defensive lapses, and unfortunately it was the same again against Red/Blue Eagles. We had kick off but lost the ball quickly, and RBE were able to push forward a score within the first 2 minutes. Our keeper Custard Guts was unable to stop a lot of the onslaught, and given his first game in outdoor goals in 5 years, was unsure of the rules. An indirect free kick inside the box after 5 minutes was luckily miskicked and put out. But the attacking continuing, and OISC were 4 goals down after 20 mins, and really up against it. Jake was moved into Centre Back to put a bit of pace back there, given the good diagonal balls that RBE were putting past the lads, with Bacon moving onto the left wing. This appeared to slow RBE down a bit.

A few more attacking moves by OISC came from this, however three times we were called offside when clearly it was on. Zee decided, the next time attacking he would just take them all on himself, and take the linesman out of the equation. A nice ball into the middle, and Zee called on Allah to keep to ball at his feet passing 4 defenders, and somehow putting the ball in the net. But a 5th from RBE shortly before the break took the wind out of our sails.

A nice chat from the ref, telling Zee he needs to pass the ball occasionally and we can beat these guys. A few positional changes, with Sorg switching to right back for Alex M, and Bacon going upfront trying to recapture his goal-scoring form, and James Duj covering the middle of the defence with Angley, and Cosi dropping into the DM spot. But RBE continued to play the ball wherever they liked. Nathan pulled off a few good saves, but the high

number of shots meant a few were going to go in. Bacon came back into defence, switching with James Kitching.

A few late attacking moves from OISC gave hope of a 2nd, but the final whistle couldn't come quick enough for the brave 11 lads. 9-1 in the end, and a disappointing end to a game where it was felt something could be taken from it.

The derby awaits next week, and hopefully this game can be a defining moment for the F's.

## Round 9 v Adelaide Uni (3)

4-4

Goals: Durand 2, T. Cosentino, Kantilaftas

Lineup: Ruciak; D. Mosely, Fantasia, Caeran, McKibbin; Merullo, T. Cosentino, T. Moseley, Kantilaftas; Durand, Lissner

Rolling Subs: Tharaken, Woods, Dujmovic

The bottom of the table clash with Adelaide Uni gave the F's hope of getting their first victory of the season. Was the dog t\*rd in the southern 6 yard box an omen of the day to come?

The loss of 3 F grade regulars to the E's, and Chief getting a late work callup meant a bit of a change in personnel for the defence, with Adrian & Animal pairing up in the middle of defence & David M taking the right back spot.

First chance of the game came in the first 2 minutes with Brett making a deep run in the box, and crossing the ball but Bacon was 2 steps behind and the keeper mopped it up easily.

Uni had the ball in the net after about 6 minutes, when a corner was swung into the 6 yard box, and one of the 6 blokes they had over 6'4 appeared to chest the ball in, but both he and the ref called it hand ball.

The defence was holding strong, but after about 10 mins, a switching ball across the back four was miskicked after sticking in the mud, and the Uni attacker intercepted and ran into the box for a 1 on 1 with Daryl, and the striker slotted the ball in to go 1-0 up.

OISC fired up and attacked from the kick off, and equalised about 2 minutes later, when Tom Cosentino put a lovely through ball into Brett's path and he had an easy path to the goals.

The game to and fro'd for another 10 mins or so, until Uni won another corner, and the ball was beautifully headed into the top corner, for 2-1. The lack of Chief & Greg's height was going to make defending corners difficult today.

Woodsy had made the trek from the E's, with Duj & Sorg to give us more options. Woods went into CB for Adey, and Sorg & Duj took midfield spots from Tristan & Cheech.

Uni went 3-1 up after 35 mins when a shot from outside the box curled into the top left corner, which if he took that shot another 50 times, it wouldn't go in. One out of his arŞe.

But the boys dug in, and with about 2 to go in the half, Tom followed up a shot at the keeper when he fumbled, and Tom got his body in between the keeper and the ball, held it at his feet and the keeper tried to jump all over him, giving the ref no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Tom capitalised on his good work, scoring from the spot.

3-2 at the half, and we knew we could go on with this. The only real chances they were having were easily mopped up by Daryl, who was really commanding the area.

Not long into the 2nd half, and we were level. Brett won the ball near the edge of the centre circle, took on the defence and slotted it home. Vintage Brett goal there!

Jake put us in front around the 60 minute mark, with a great shot from the left.

Uni equalised with about 10 to go, after a ball was cleared by the defence but smacked into the attacker, and missed all the defenders and landed at the feet of the allegedly offside attacker, who had enough time to score.

We continued to attack, with Zee & Sorg both having chances to get that 5th goal, but it proved to be elusive.

The fact we didn't give up and took the lead from 2 goals down was the most impressive aspect of the game, and that first win isn't too far away.

A month's break now for the F's to recuperate (unless there's a friendly in a fortnight) & build on the improvements we have made in the last 8 rounds.

## Round 10 v OISC (2)

0-8

Lineup: Ruciak; Ranse, A. Kitching, Dujmovic, McKibbin;  
Al Hinai, Pannunzio, Angley, Kantilaftas; Durand, T.

Cosentino

Rolling Subs: Lissner, Merullo, Sorgini, Fantasia, H.

Nguyen

It was a big day at Glenunga, with the derby providing a great curtain raiser to the epic A's cup match. Unfortunately for the F's, it was a sign for Australia's poor efforts against Germany the following night.

It started quite sprightly, with the F's being able to maintain composure in the first half, with a much improved defensive effort, which saw us only 3-0 down by half time. The best chance of the half (and the match) was a driving shot by Sorge that Emerson just managed to push out for a corner.

Our spirit was high, although ultimately we knew we weren't ever going to get anything from the game, but our work rate was top notch. We were able to maintain the poor man's Gauro (Matt) to a solitary effort, whilst Chris missed numerous efforts under pressure, whilst gaining a hat trick.

Back on our side, special mentions have to go to Sorge, who runs with the pace of a steam train, Jake who's driving left foot will be a force to be reckoned with for the epic clash that will be the battle for the bottom with Adelaide Uni Div 4B clash. Let's hope the crowd improves on the last F's exclusive of a poultry 3.

**Round 11**

Bye

## **Round 12 v Hazara**

Hazara were withdrawn from the competition and all their results were expunged.

## Round 13 at Flinders (2)

0-3

Lineup: D. Moseley; Huang, A. Kitching, Angley, McKibbin; C. Nguyen, Callaghan, Lissner, Kantilaftas; Durand, T. Cosentino

Rolling Subs: Pannunzio, Merullo, H. Nguyen

This week was the beginning of a double-quintuple header at the Glenunga Fortress, but unfortunately for the Fs, duty called up South Road.

The pregame warmup was highlighted by Bacon's decision to wear his shorts as high as possible, providing a horrible sight to those still recovering from the earlier night's exploits.

On the field, we once again came face to face with the mythical Flinders giant that is Peaches. No-one really knows what he is, but an apt description is, "half man, half bear, half pig." Peaches was the main source of Flinders' attacks, with his 7ft frame immovable by centre-backs Chief and Greg "James Kitching" Angley. We were able to hold out for about 15 minutes before a defensive blunder at the back allowed Flinder's favourite fruit to slot the ball past one of the Moseley boys in goal. A second came not long after, and Flinders were by far the better team, somehow missing a chance 2 yards out amongst other opportunities. The only OISC highlight for the first half was a Tavis volley which just missed the outside of the post.

The second half was much better for us, although that may have something to do with Peaches going off injured, which will surely help the Ds secure their title. Glen impressed at Right Back, Tom worked ever hard on the left, whilst Brett Durand got his compulsory yellow card after some meaningless backchat. Tom and Jake ran all day, and Huy will get a mention for his effort if nothing else. Our third goal was a comedy of errors. A harmless long ball wasn't dealt with, and landed right in the middle of Cheif, Pannunz, and Tavis, with noone going for the header, leaving a striker to nod on and finish.

We are definately improving as a team, and have come a long way since our first match, but ultimately we just lack some killer instinct up front and a bit of communication all around the park.

## Round 14 at Strathalbyn

0-3

Lineup: Lissner; Pannunzio, A. Kitching, Angley, McKibbin; Merullo, H. Nguyen, Mark SJ, Al Hinai; Durand, D. Moseley

Rolling Subs: T. Moseley

The long and windy road to Strathalbyn seemed to be an appropriate metaphor for the F's season so far. It dragged on forever, with the end never really in sight. Upon reaching the Polo pitch, however, things brightened. Strathalbyn are the only side we have got a point off this season (aside from Hazara forfeits) so we went into the game quite confident.

The match got off to a horrible start, with the Strath referee giving a penalty for shirt pulling for their first corner. Karma prevailed, and Bacon was able to put off the penalty taker enough to send his shot wide. After 15 minutes the proper referee showed up, and we made the mistake of assuming the quality of officiating would improve. In what has to be the worst decision seen in amateur league history, the referee gave a second penalty against Michael Pannunzio for being kicked in the back of the legs whilst on the ground. Utter bemusement super seeded any anger from the OISC contingent, and Strath went 1-0 up.

In the buildup to the second goal, we realised that the linesmen were in fact on the wrong side, so the Strath linesman called their player onside as he went clean through and slotted the one-on-one. Our best chance of the half came when a promising Z run down the left channel was cut back to Brett Durand, who forced a brilliant save from the Strath goalie.

Our performance though, was very very encouraging. "Mark SJ" was by far and away our best weapon going forward, with wonderful skill on the ball. Z was also very tricky on the ball, but his return to full fitness cannot come too soon. As a similar story to most of the season, we just lacked that finisher up front, and after 15 minutes of the second half, any possibility of our main striker Durand being that finisher ended when he brazenly requested the referee sent off, instead of subbing himself off to allow Cheech to come back on the field.

Going down to 10 men lifted our spirits and efforts, though. We created multiple chances that just couldn't be put away. Huy had a surging run through the central channel, and was brought down to earn a penalty. Bacon ran 3/4 of the way of huge Strath pitch (from goals) only to be denied taking the penalty by Z, whose tame effort was saved by the Strath

keeper. In the last 10 minutes we were overrun, and multiple times were left open at the back, eventually conceding a third.

All in all a good performance, with decent defending, its just a shame that we spent the last half an hour on the biggest pitch in the SAASL a man down for something so petulant. Had this not occurred, we may have gotten something from the match.

## Round 15 at Flinders (3)

3-10

Goals: Al Hinai 2, Mark SJ

Lineup: Ruciak; McKibbin, A. Kitching, Pannunzio, Dujmovic; Merullo, Mark SJ, Durand, E. Ciccarello; Hawkes, Al Hinai

Rolling Subs: Lissner, Angley, D. Moseley

Whilst some OISC sides were winning championships, for the 2nd time in 4 weeks, the mighty F grade made the long trip up South Road to face Flinders. This time, it was Flinders (3), who are competing with the D grade for the Div 4 Reserves title.

Greeting us at the large university sporting grounds was a pitch reminiscent of Pakistan given their recent floods. Surface water was aplenty on one wing, with any proper ref calling the game off. It was a testament to the players on both sides who wanted to play.

Continuing with the Pakistan analogy, our defending was as generous as the foreign aid likely to come their way, with some poor man marking throughout.

We went 2-0 down early, before Z was able to latch onto a Darryl Ruciak punt downfield to make it 2-1, beating the opposing goalkeeper to the ball. No sooner were we 4-1 down and it was half time. But then, when all seemed lost, a spark, a glimmer of hope. Mark "Pele" went on a run straight from the kickoff, taking on the whole side, before the ball fell to a plucky Z who finished nicely, before celebrating by praising Macca's. A few minutes later Pele hit a brilliant shot from the right hand side, cutting in on his left foot to finish beautifully in the top corner, to make it 4-3. We had a game on our hands.

Unfortunately, though, Cheech's vuvuzuela couldn't inspire us in the latter part of the second half, as our defense crumbled again. Conceding 3 goals in the last 5 minutes isn't a record we want, but the 10-3 scoreline reflected Flinders' dominance.

## Round 16 at Greenock Town

1-2

Goal: Hawkes

Lineup: D. Moseley; McKibbin, Woods, A. Kitching, Angley; Lissner, M. Bolognese, Dujmovic, Durand; Al Hinai, Hawkes

Rolling Subs: Balestrin, Fantasia

Beautiful day to go out to the Barossa, and the convoy made their way through the Gourmet Weekend to the town of Greenock. A few F grade regulars were unavailable, so a few new faces appeared this week.

Greenock took the lead after about 10 mins, when their left midfielder made a good run down the wing, outpacing Bacon and some neat passes around the top of the box allowed a shot past David in goals.

Some more attacking moves from Iggies followed though, with Zee & Balley working with some great footwork. We equalised after 35 mins when a nicely taken free kick from Mick was headed into goals by Hawkesy, who finally opened his goalscoring account in Round 16!!!

Second half took a different look, with Bacon returning into the same goalmouth that he stood for the opening round of the season, and David moving out onto the right midfield.

Iggies were unlucky not to take the lead when Balley took a run into the box, and seemed to round the keeper, only for the kid to bounce up and pounce at Balley's feet. We had the better of the chances in the start of the second half, with Bacon left with little to do.

This changed in the 75th minute, a ball was lobbed over the defence, and what appeared to be an offside striker went to control the ball with his leg, and it bobbed over an advancing Bacon and into the goal. The referee, who earlier called an offside and said "He has to trust the linesman from that distance", ignored the flag and gave the goal. Must say, it's nice to have the advantage of the coach refereeing the match.

Iggies pushed forward looking for the equaliser again, but after some argie-bargie in the 85th minute, the killer ball never came.

We worked hard, and probably should've gotten the 3 points, as we were the more attacking side, but it just wasn't to be.

## Round 17 v Red/Blue Eagles

2-4

Goals: Al Hinai, Hawkes (pen)

Lineup: D. Moseley; Fantasia, A. Kitching, Angley, McKibbin; T. Cosentino, Dujmovic, Pele SJ, Kantilaftas; Hawkes, Al Hinai

Rolling Subs: H. Nguyen, Merullo

With coach Bacon away making sure he didn't lose his watch to Jeff Fenech, the F's were left in Hawkesy's hands, ably assisted by Hawkesy Jr. It certainly was a mis match of styles with Hawkesy's usual blood and guts routine being added to by Jr telling him off for swearing too much.

It was instilled into us about making sure we were dominant and switched on from the start and to make sure we took the game to R/B Eagles (who incidentally play in red/blue) in the first 20 minutes. Unfortunately we got off to the worst possible start and were soon 1-0 down, closely followed by 2-0 but that scoreline flattered the opposition. We had the domination but a mixture of poor finishing and great goalkeeping protected their goal from being breached before half time. Hawkesy Jr led the team talk by telling the whole team "I think you're all playing really well".

Iggies started the second half in a gut busting way, with effort being put in across the board which ultimately led to Hawkesy being brought down in the box by the keeper. Despite protestations from Pele, who insisted in informing everyone how he hadn't missed at training the week before, no one was getting the ball from Hawkesy's grasp and he coolly slotted into the bottom left corner. This led to some upmost domination from the F's,

Hawkesy created a golden opportunity for Zee but he unfortunately could not convert the simple chance but he more than made amends with his superb strike into the top left and being played in with a channel ball...

It was at this point that Iggies could have really taken the game away from R/B with some great movement across the whole pitch where Cheech managed to hit the bar and had a good effort with a header denied after more good work down the attacking players. The defence stood strong ably led by Dave in nets and Greg and Chief winning their battles in the middle. With 10 minutes to go we looked the most likely to grab a result but the curse happened as a R/B Eagles player was brought down in the box and the ref (Romano) had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and it was subsequently converted quickly followed by their 4th.

All up a really good performance from the F's, a team that lost 9-1 previously to this team nearly got a result and one they would have deserved but it was not to be. This team should be commended for their attitude this season, they have tried and tried and never given up. The defence have stood strong, the midfield have run hard and the strikers have put themselves about.

Every player left the pitch with their head held high and but for some luck in front of goals should have taken a point away.

## Round 18 at Adelaide Uni (3)

4-2

Goals: Hawkes 3, Walker

Lineup: Lissner; H. Nguyen, Walker, Fantasia, Pannunzio; A. Kitching, Kantilaftas, Kostadinov, E. Ciccarello; Al Hinai, Hawkes

Rolling Subs: ngley, T. Cosentino, McKibbin, Dujmovic

Alas, the day had arrived. Earmarked weeks away as the F grade's best chance of getting a win this season, we traveled to Adelaide Uni to take on the 2nd from bottom Blacks.

We sported a couple of returning faces, including Jordan Kostadinov and Craig Walker, providing a great mixture of youth at the front, with experience at the back.

The game started well early, with our first real attack resulting in a goal, with Mr. Squiggle drawing a perfect picture between midfield and attack, sending M. Hawkes through to open the account. The lead didn't last long though, as a mis-queued clearance from Pannunzio went 10 metres in the air and 5 metres closer to goal, allowing a Uni player to take a shot which Bacon saved, only for the rebound to be tapped in.

Jordan and Jake Kantilaftis continued to tear it up down the wings, and our tireless efforts were rewarded when M. Hawkes added a second before half time, with a rasping finish into the top left corner.

Pleasing efforts were made by all, with Huy closing down the opposition well, who seemed to be targeting him at left back, but he withstood the challenges brilliantly.

The second half started well, and we were denying the opposition any real chance of getting back into the game. We got our third when Craig Walker survived a bout of altitude sickness to rise up from a corner and nod home off the post.

At 3-1, nerves may have crept in when Jordan went down with cramp, but the inspired philosopher that is Bacon decided to put Pannunzio at the now vacant right wing, who thanks to Tom Cosentino playing him in, was able to set up M Hawkes for his hat trick, and seemingly putting the game beyond doubt.

A few nerves crept in though, when an errant goal kick allowed Adelaide Uni to sneak back to 4-2 with 5 minutes to play, but our defense proved more solid than Manchester United's on the weekend, and we were able to hold the 2-goal lead until the end.

Finally getting a win was a great reward for a very tough season, and much improvement has been seen amongst many of the players.