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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS ROUND 1 NEWSLETTER 2008

SENIORS

Wollongong Lions 11.9 (75)
Western Suburbs 16.17 (113)

Probably the less said about the weekend's performance the better. We went out in front of the rest of the competition and played miles below our best. The fact that we were only beaten by 6 goals is a minor miracle but at least shows that we should have no problem kicking a winning score this year. Unfortunately our defensive pressure and skill by both hand and foot wasn't good enough to beat any side, let alone one we've only beaten once in the last 3 years. There were enough disappointed faces at the Builders Club to suggest that this weekend will be a very different story. If we can get back to playing the football we played all pre-season we'll be back on track in no time with our worst football well and truly behind us.

On the positive side, there were some solid contributions from Brad Patterson and Graeme Batty who had limited opportunities to impress during the pre-season. Shane Davis and Clinton Wells were the only players to really get on top of their opponents, showing everyone else how to go and win the footy. Backline errors really

killed us, as did a lack of physical pressure in the midfield where we were smashed in the clearances. However, more communication and aggression at the football should fix that problem.

Special thanks to everyone who made the trip up to Henson Park, especially the reserve grade players who helped run water and clean up the sheds.

Sydney Uni was very impressive in getting over the line by a similar margin to the one we achieved in beating Balmain 3 weeks ago. I think the weekend proved how much we rely on everyone turning up mentally to win games of football. That shouldn't be a problem, particularly at North Dalton Park where the extra space is going to hurt any team who isn't prepared to pressure us for 4 quarters.

Hope to see everyone at our first home game for 2008. Go you Lions.

RESERVES COACH ANNOUNCED

Whilst we were all devastated for Sam Lewis when he tore his ACL against Ainslie two weekends ago, at least it solved the pending coaching crisis in reserve grade. To the relief of



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Michael Love, the club would like to announce that Sam will take the reins as Reserve Grade Coach for 2008 (as well as official BBQ cooker – a role which he performed with aplomb last Thursday night). Sam will be assisted by Doug Sweeney and the ever reliable ‘man in green’ Justin Johns. With a squad that is at least Top 4 material on paper, Sam should have no trouble getting off to a winning start against Sydney Uni.

WORKING BEE A SUCCESS

A pre-season working bee was held on Sunday 24th March in order to get the facilities ready for Ainslie the following week, but more importantly Sydney Uni this weekend. A special thanks to Ian Ferguson and Clinton Wells who erected all of the sponsors signs around the boundary line, Brad Patterson for stacking the canteen as well as being Col Bartlett’s labourer and Troy and Guy Bartlett for turning up late (hahaha, they did re-organise the uniform cupboard). **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK, REMEMBER THAT!**

ALL FEES WERE due prior to Round 1. A previous poor record of getting fees paid on time has forced the committee to crack down on serial offenders. Consequences for un-financial players will now be addressed via the weekly award eligibility rules. Basically, if you haven’t paid yet it means two things. Firstly, you won’t receive any club uniform until you do pay. Secondly, any money won via the weekly awards will be with held to pay off the debt you have to

the club. The bottom line: **PAY NOW**. A draw will be held at The Builders Club after this weekend’s game against Sydney Uni. The winner will receive a **50% refund** on their registration fee. Only those who have already paid registration will be eligible for the draw.

UNIFORM & EXPECTATIONS

All players are required to adhere to both the league and club player code of conduct. Whenever you’re dressed in club uniform, be that on the field or off it, you must represent the club in the best possible manner.

On **GAME DAY** all players are required to wear the club polo, long black pants and black shoes to and from the ground. For the cooler months **club jackets** can be purchased off Michael Love, so there are no excuses to front up on game day in your favourite Hang Ten jumper.

POST MATCH, all players are asked to wear their club polo shirts to The Builders Club. If you are going to kick on afterwards simply chuck your going out flanno over the top of your club polo and make plans to leave it at a friends place or in the car. The more people we have in club shirts on the night the better.

GAME DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

This weekend is the first test to our new policy regarding the contribution of players to the running of match days. This should ensure that the **workload is spread evenly** across the club,



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rather than being concentrated in the hands of committee members. On Saturday, players are required to:

- 1) Put out/bring in goal post pads and bench seats.
- 2) Attend to the scoreboard for all grades.
- 3) Boundary line and goal umpiring for the U18's and Reserves.
- 4) Time keeping for the U18's and Reserves.
- 5) Cleaning out change rooms after games.
- 6) Clean up ground and grandstand at the end of the day.
- 7) Assist with the running of match day raffles.
- 8) Assist in the canteen.
- 9) Run water for other grades.

If players take it upon themselves to contribute in some small way on game day, even if it's filling up some drink bottles or running the boundary for a quarter, a vast mountain of work will be turned into a molehill. In addition, **U18's are encouraged to stick around for the reserves and seniors.** This is a great way to feel a part of the club, get a feel for senior footy and meet the non-playing members of the club.

- 2) **You will not be able to bring alcohol into the ground** that has not been acquired under our licence. This is also inconsistent with one of the club's revenue streams. If you are found with alcohol not acquired on the premises you will be asked to remove it from the grounds. Buying a few beers from the canteen, rather than bringing a few thousand from home is just another way you can support the footy club.
- 3) The committee have had some requests to consider discounted prices for Uni students. A trial period is planned to see how it goes, with the discount limited to one drink purchase per Uni ID card presented in person to the canteen staff. After the first few home games we will assess whether to persist with the policy for the rest of the season. Like any system of privilege, you abuse it and you lose it! (Note: a limited range of pre-mixed drinks is being trialled at the canteen at a competitive price, so get involved).

NOTE: Watch this space for the first player profile with H-BOMB in next week's addition.

ALCOHOL POLICY

- 1) Due to a change in NDP licensing arrangements on game day, the committee is asking for any players with valid RSA's to help out in the canteen. Your assistance is appreciated.



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