

PENNANT HILLS FOOTBALL CLUB Heartbeat

'OLD BOYS' EDITION
NEWSLETTER JUNE 2014

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS;

PHIL HARE



Welcome to our last Heartbeat for 2014, I am sure Alex Pinker (writer, editor, printer and distributor) will be happy, but thank you Alex for putting these exceptional newsletters together in 2014. We welcome North Shore and Mac Uni to our home for the final home and away game of the season. This is a special day with Matt Carey playing his 150th game, Aaron Crisfield his 100th and Paul Randazzo his 100th game. Well timed boys! We are also playing North Shore in a Sydney AFL first – a game of Netball at 12 noon. As a taste of country footy in the city, we welcome the North Shore girls and hope this could be part of a tradition between the clubs.

As the home and away season concludes we start what all footballs clubs strive for – to play finals and ideally to ultimately win a premiership. But in looking back over the last 18 weeks, success at a club level is so much more than finals and finals success. Our club continues to be an environment that every player and supporter feels proud to be a part of. It has been a pleasure to watch many of last years Under 18s embed themselves as part of the successful Premier and Division 1 teams while blooding many new faces that will form another powerful Under 19 team in 2015. Our Division 3 side have surprised many with their promotion to Division 3 and subsequent appearance in the finals series – best of luck for Sunday and we would love to see a large supporter base at Gibbs Road for their 12.55pm Elimination Final.

Division 1 are back on track after a strong win last week and regardless of today's result will play finals next week. The Division 1 competition is the most even competition in the Sydney AFL structure and it is not only with a sense of accomplishment that Jason leads his team into the finals series but a belief that they can go deep into the finals series. Finally, our Premier Division team have had another great year and we wish them the best through the final campaign. With second position assured, though we know that coach Chris Yard only takes it one game at a time, we all hope that this one game at a time analogy goes takes them right through to the end of the finals series.

Off field I hope you notice the new bar and merchandise area. A thank you must go Alexander Huggins for not only this work on this, but also the work he did on the shipping container. As you would see from the quality of the workmanship Alex is a builder you would want doing work at your home.

To all players, supporters, members and the wider Penno family – grab a coffee, a tea, a beer or a wine, watch the footy (and netball), chat with new and old friends and enjoy being part of this great club as we celebrate the year and look forward to the finals.

ON THE PENNO RADAR;

AUGUST

LADIES DAY, SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST

Last week was an important day for the club where we celebrated the contribution made by mothers, sisters, wives & girlfriends of Pennant Hills. The day was in support of the Breast Cancer Council. Hopefully with a little bit more support next year we can make this an unmissable day on the Penno calendar. A big thank you to all of those who were involved!

PAUL RANDAZZO 100TH GAME, SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST

Pauly played his junior career at the Westbrook Bulldogs, the highlight going the year undefeated and winning the flag in U16s with fellow future Demons in King Carey, Mitch Aitken, Scoota Myers and Drew Bilbe.

Paul was a part of the 2003 Penno U18s Grand Final winning side, and also played in the 2004 U18 and 2007 Reserve Grade Grand Finals, which Penno both lost by 1 point. Paul then played in the 2008 and 2013 Division 3 Grand Final winning teams. This season Paul is assistant coach of the Division 3 team and is the only player to play all 18 home and away games.

Paul says Barnaby Howarth and Anthony Brawn are the best Penno players he has watched, and rates Evan Danillo as the biggest pest at the club.

All at the club wish Pauly the best for his 100th game and look forward to seeing him for another 100 more.



AARON CRISFIELD 100TH GAME, SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST

Aaron played his junior footy at Westbrook, making numerous representative sides throughout his junior career. Aaron also played for the Sydney Redbacks which was an Under 16 representative side, playing in the Under 18 competition. After starting 2007 in the Under 18 side for Pennant Hills, Aaron was not only awarded best local first year player, but won the Sydney AFL NAB Rising Star award, and was also named in the inaugural Sydney AFL Team of the Year.



Aaron was an important part of the Demon's defence playing in the 2008 Premiership side. Aaron has also made the Sydney AFL Under 23 Development side on a number of occasions, and was Pennant Hills 2013 Best Finals Player (which he shared with James Dunn).

Aaron is renowned as one of the toughest and most feared players in the competition. Having been so highly thought of at the club, he was this year named as part of the 2014 Premier Division leadership group.

Congratulations on 100 great games and welcome back to Premier Division!

MATTHEW CAREY'S 150TH GAME, SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST

Matthew first played with East Gambier Bulldogs, and after transferring to Sydney played with Westbrook Juniors, represented North West several times during his junior career. Matthew joined Penno in 2003 and played 2 seasons with the Under 18s. During his underage career he played 2 Reserves games in 2003 and 1 Senior game in 2004. He has since been a regular member of the Premier Division team since 2005 and was a member of the successful 2006 and 2008 Demons premiership winning teams.

Matthew has been a member of Sydney representative teams in seasons 2006 - 2009 and 2012 - 2014, being captain in 2013. He was the leading goal kicker in the Under 18 competition in season 2004, kicking 126 goals, in one game he kicked 21 goals 4 behinds.

His ability to read the game and pace are the main attributes of his play. His raking left foot kicking and agility is the key to him being an uncompromising competitor. He has been co Co-Captain of the club since season 2011, won the Club Best & Fairest in 2008 with Alex Goodall, and was named Footballer of the Year in seasons 2008 and 2012.

Matthew says Barnaby Howarth is the best Penno player he has seen, and rates dinner and talking with Kevin Sheedy as a highlight of his football career.

On behalf of everyone at Pennant Hills we extend our congratulations on this achievement.

SPECIAL MENTION

JORDAN RENE'S INVOLVEMENT IN FIDA'S 2014 NATIONAL INCLUSION CARNIVAL

The Football Integration Development Association (FIDA) is an AFL program based in Victoria for people with intellectual disabilities, providing them with environment that promotes fitness, fun, friendship and a rare sense of belonging. A few months ago, FIDA held the 2014 National Inclusion Carnival where those participating were given the opportunity to play at half time during the Melbourne vs. North Melbourne match at the MCG.

An incredibly humbling and rewarding experience for all of those involved, our very own **Jordan Rene** did Penno proud in his support and participation is such an important event for the AFL community. After winning the NSW best player trophy, in his acceptance speech, Jordy made it clear that the trophy in fact belonged not to him but to everyone. In a touching event that was truly about inclusion at all levels, we are reminded of what this great game is all about.



THE SEASON IN REVIEW;

The story so far

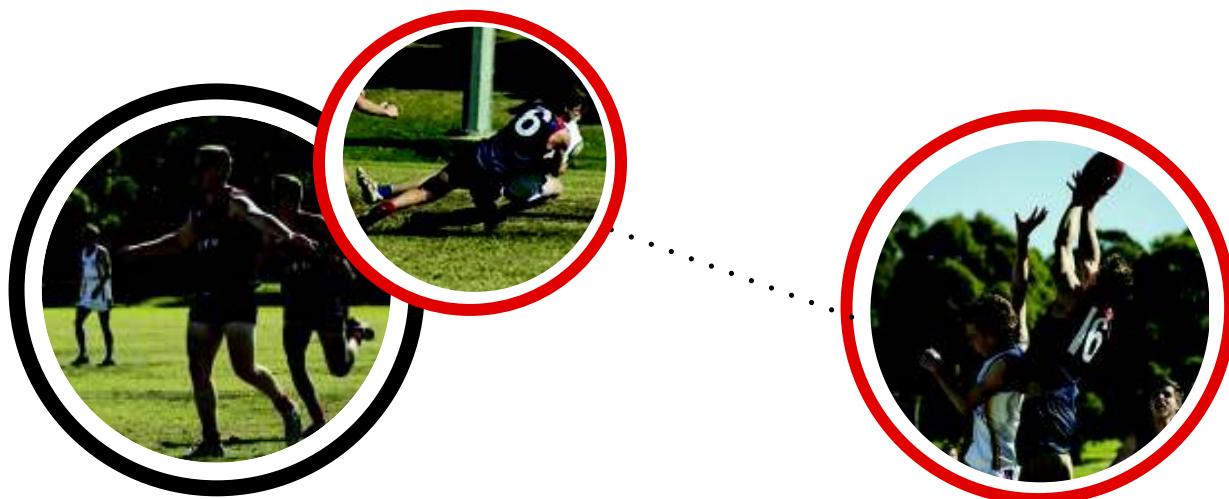
UNDER 19s.

In what has been a very disjointed and ultimately disappointing year in terms of playing finals, we finish our season this weekend against North Shore. With Manly having the bye this weekend we were relying on East Coast to knock them off last Saturday night (big ask, I know!) and for us to beat North Shore today to make finals. In all honesty, we shouldn't have got ourselves into this position.

In terms of giving new boys and younger players from our junior clubs exposure to Under 19s football, I think we have laid a good foundation for the future.

Thirteen boys have made their debut this season in a year where we have played a total of 38 boys. We had actually already used 36 players by round 7, which was only our fifth game of the year. I think we only lose nine boys who move to senior footy next year and the quality of boys coming from our junior clubs looks very exciting for next year and beyond.

With four sessions of the new Academy under our belts this season, I hope we can grow this initiative next year and offer players from 14s to 17s some additional coaching and opportunity to learn and grow as footballers. We also had 14 boys play senior footy this year, with nine playing Premier Division, of which six made their debut.



It's very easy to look at the negatives around a season where you don't play finals, but we've shown in the last three weeks that our best footy is the equal, if not better, than the rest of the competition. A few people have said over the last couple of weeks that for the sides in the finals it would be a huge sigh of relief that we're not there, which is of little comfort.

We could probably look at five quarters across the 14 games played so far that have cost us a finals berth and we only needed to win one of those to get there. As Chrissy Amphlett put it, "it's a fine line between pleasure and pain". Congratulations to all the boys who pulled on the red and blue in the Under 19s this year.

Good luck to the three senior sides in each of their finals campaigns. I'm sure the Under 19s will get around 'em.

Go Penno!

DIVISION 3.

After lifting the cup in 2013, Penno 3rds were this year promoted to Division 3, and swiftly given no chance of success – predicted, I believe, to finish 8th. Therefore it was with some hesitancy that I took on the coaching role again, much more keen to safely dominate Division 4, but with no choice in the matter, we set about getting a side together in March.

Luckily, there have been heaps of new players, ex-players, and transfers from other clubs that have bolstered the playing group and added to the talent that continued on from last year.

Our boom recruits of Luke Bilbe and Ryan McLelland were added to by the classy Carter and wise Donny from Mac Uni (thanks Phil), Jimmy, Strongy and Lukey from Hills Eagles, the return of Bozo, Mike Baglin and Big Joel, and last but not least the great Leo from Melbourne (now leading the Division 1 forward line with aplomb!)

It's also been great to see last year's Division 3 crop of Riley, Gunner and Tabbot taking pivotal roles in Division 1's resurgence to finals contender, along with Darchy and Josh Mott at different times.

The standout player in the competition has again been Alex Huggins who must be an unbackable favourite for Best and Fairest in the competition, going back to back. He is looking forward to the very large Monday night celebration already.

After finishing 4th on the ladder (only a game behind 3rd), we embark on our first final this Sunday against Sydney Uni, an elimination game of 4th vs. 5th.

I look back on a home and away season which saw us only lose to top 3 sides, with a sense of pride at the accomplishments already achieved, but also a quiet optimism that we can push deeper into the finals series and be a real headache for whoever we play. We have shown in each loss we can match it with the best sides for large parts of games, giving us belief that if we are on, we can beat any of them.



It will take 4 straight wins from here to lift the cup again and we are under no illusions – that is a big ask! However with commitment to the contest, courage to move the ball quickly, and a little bit of luck, who knows what could happen??

DIVISION 1.

The season for Reserve Grade can only be described as one of two distinct halves.



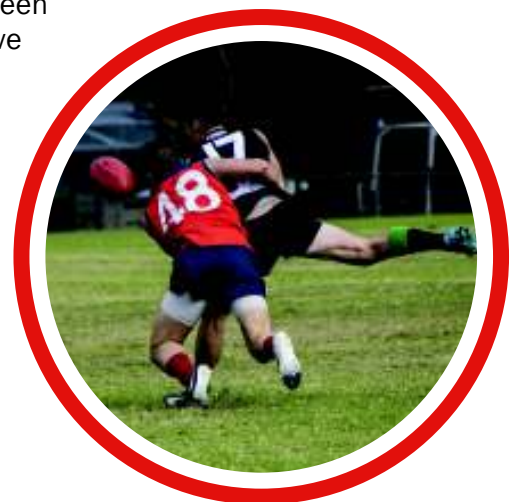
Having turned the halfway mark of the at 9-1 and sitting at top of the ladder confidence about the playing group was at an all-time high, the Coach was carrying on as if the flag was in the bag, finals beckoned and a top 3 finish looked a certainty. Alas the second half of the season provide to far more challenging than expected as Club injuries, holidays and a general loss of form took its toll. The next 4 weeks were a harrowing period for the 2's as the wheels had seemingly fell off with a narrow loss against Parramatta, a football lesson by favourites Balmain, convincing loss to UTS and a single figure defeat by St George.

The St George game proved to be the final straw for Coach Clarke as the team felt the wrath of his now customary yearly tirade (apologies once again must go out to Giddy). Following the $\frac{3}{4}$ time blast the boys seemingly kicked into gear, kicking 3 goals to none in the last quarter and whilst they eventually went down by only 7 points the signs were finally there that the team could be rediscovering its' early season form. The next week saw a heart wrenching draw to UNSW (a win would have sealed a finals spot) however despite the result, the effort was markedly improved from previous weeks and things were looking positive.

In some programming genius by the SFL a 6pm Saturday night game saw us down in Wollongong playing a much improved Lions. Despite putting in their best performance for 5 weeks the boys went down yet again, poor disposal and a raft of injuries were the deciding factor. The alarm bells were ringing as this loss created a situation where next week saw a must win game against Southern Power, put simply a win would seal a finals berth a loss would see the Demons all but out of the top 5.

The improvement over the two previous weeks had certainly been there and it all clicked into place in the 1st Q v the Power. A five goal to nil quarter set up an emphatic the victory, the first in 6 weeks, but more importantly it had sealed the 2's first finals berth since 2009.

With this improved form, and the return of key players from holidays and injury the confidence certainly has been restored in the team and are looking at giving finals a decent shake. In what is probably the most even competition in years the race for the Reserve Grade flag is wide open and the 2's certainly are not going into the Finals series thinking that we are simply there to make up the numbers...Bring on September!!

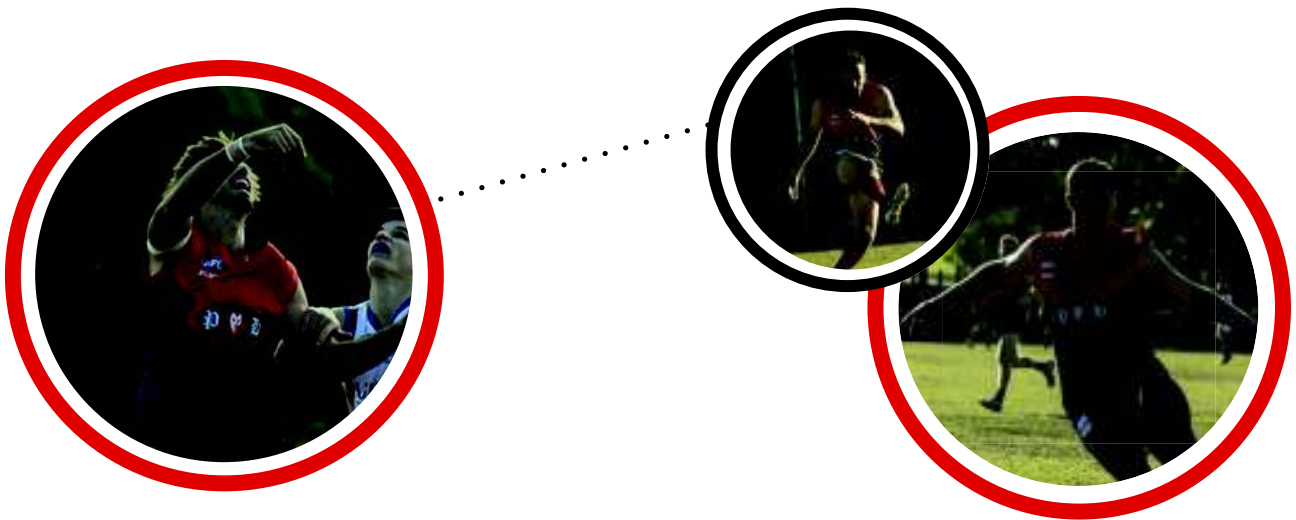


PREMIER DIVISION.

The team have been training hard over the last four weeks and with large numbers in attendance, the guys are really looking forward to the 2014 final series. In saying that, all are aware the finals go to new levels in intensity, skills, speed and toughness and the team are preparing themselves accordingly.

Chris Yard and selection committee will have to make some very tough selection decisions leading up to the first Qualifying Final to be played at Blacktown on Saturday 30 August at 3.30 pm due to nearly a 'full list' to select from.

As you would expect , after 17 rounds of football there are a few players with minor injuries and these players have been given the odd week off in preparation for the Qualifying final.



Round 18, the final game of the 2014 season, to be completed this weekend, will see the Premier Division team improve upon its 15 wins and 2 losses. With 5 wins in a row the team are looking to make that 6 by defeating North Shore this Saturday.

With uncertainty on who we will be playing in the first Qualifying final, either St George or Wests, we ask all family, friends, sponsors, members, past players & supporters to be at Blacktown on the Saturday 30 August. The boys all certainly enjoy the noise that is generated by the 'Penno' crowd.

PLAYER PROFILES;

PETER BARNES; **Premier Division**

Nickname/s: Pete, Barnesy, P-Bar, Wolf of Wall St, Sex Panther

From: Neutral Bay

Day job: Shep's assistant at Forum Group

Why Penno? Cause Dad said so and no other club would have me.

What has been the highlight of the 2014 season? Only getting dropped twice.

Career highlight: 16th in the U14s B&F at Penno Juniors.

Finals prediction: 2nd will play 3rd, 4th will play 5th, 1st will have the weekend off. Stay tuned.

If I wasn't playing footy, I'd spend my Saturdays... Washing Pinks' Audi or helping Cheese fix current projects.

TOMMY EDMONDS; **Premier Division**

Nickname/s: Legmonds, Leggos, Fat Legs

From: Kellyville

Day job: Student and Personal Trainer

Why Penno? Basically, East Coast didn't offer me enough money. And Penno is a great club, with the best atmosphere. It really can't get better than playing footy with your best mates every week.

What has been the highlight of the 2014 season? My five minutes in the spotlight at Penno Talent Night, singing my chart topping single 'Penno Man'.

Career highlight: U18 B&F in my debut year, haven't done much since.

Finals prediction: Penno 1s, 2s and 3s to clean sweep and win the flag.

If I wasn't playing footy, I'd spend my Saturdays... Probably doing Harry Angel's club duties that he never bothers showing up for.

FRASER NIXON; **Division 2**

Nickname/s: The Frog

From: Rough streets of Chatswood

Day job: Full time student

Why Penno? Was my local club when I moved up from Geelong in 2006. Used to ply my trade at Bell Park Football Club (notable past players include Jimmy Bartel). Attended Geelong College with plenty of current and past AFL talent – the footy factory!

What has been the highlight of the 2014 season? After starting the season 9 and 1, finally being able to scrape home another win and guarantee a finals spot for reserves. Chris Baglin kicking a goal from the center circle at UNSW another highlight.

Career highlight: Kicked 3 goals in final 3 minutes to win a game back in Geelong.

Finals prediction: Like our odds to get through one game, after that anything can happen. As long as Balmain don't win, it is a win for the footy community!

If I wasn't playing footy, I'd spend my Saturdays: I would say going for a run, but no one would believe that... Probably watching the NBA and whipping my brother on the Xbox.

