

Cup battles on offer

The Adelaide Hills Junior Soccer Association matches for 2015 commenced last Saturday with Round 1 of the Cup series.

Strathalbyn White enjoyed a 2-0 victory over Nairne in Under 12 ranks.

Both teams started the game full of energy with plenty of running and enthusiasm on a warm morning.

Strathalbyn created many opportunities with excellent team work, yet were often wide of the mark when attempting to finish.

Strong defence from Nairne left Strathalbyn with a two-goal advantage at half-time.

The second half was very even with both teams creating numerous chances, yet again it was strong defences and great work by the goal keepers which restricted any further addition to the score.

Bridgewater White hosted Murray Bridge Blue at Anembo Park with the White side notching a handy 6-2 win.

Both teams were getting familiar to playing full pitch, and some players on each side new to soccer as well.

Murray Bridge borrowed four players from Under 10 ranks to help make a full team.

Chol Chol, Gerome Dordas, Brianna Drewett, Josh Flood, Kaitlyn Gibbons, goal keeper Sean McDonald, Brayden McPhee, Mohit Mittal, Lual Kuot, Aubrey Maware, Christian Slattery, Angelo Fresiello and Joel Wiencke all played well for Murray Bridge in their first game as a team.

Goal scorers for the Bridge were Maware and Kuot – both Under 10 players helping out – while best players were McDonald, Flood and McPhee.

Hahndorf White Under 12 team launched the new season with a sizeable 7-1 triumph over Torrens Valley.

Playing on their home pitch in beautiful autumn conditions, the Ben Baker-coached team played on a full size pitch without modified rules for the first time.

Any suggestion that the Hahndorf lads would need time to adapt to the changed playing conditions were quickly put to rest as they displayed great play from the offset.

With ever improving skills and co-ordinated team work, the hosts were able to create numerous attacking opportunities.

Torrens Valley tried relentlessly in defence but the pressure from Hahndorf inevitably drew results on the board with Will Anning scoring the first goal of the season.

Xavier Kell and Joey Hutson followed suit and a hat-trick from Hunter Hoy gave Hahndorf a commanding half-time advantage.

As the day heated up, the second half found the pace of the game slowing and more evenly balanced than the first.

As Torrens Valley started to get more of the ball, the work rate of Hahndorf's midfield and defence picked up.

Tyler Weyland led the way with an inspiring captain's effort and was well supported by Oliver Iasiello, Jye Martin, Jackson Doley and Will Monaghan – all of whom worked together in diffusing the Valley attacks.

Hahndorf collected further goals from Tom Baker, Rhys Coles and Simon Pottharst, all created from good passing, improved ball skills and communication between the players.

Late in the game Torrens Valley finally broke through and scored a well-deserved goal, much to the delight of the supporters.

It was end-to-end stuff at Aldgate Oval on a gloriously sunny Saturday morning

as Stirling Districts Blue met Stirling East Blue.

Both teams gave their all with a rush of players pushing forward when in possession and racing back to defend when needed.

Stirling East managed to pull ahead with an initial goal from George Bartley who converted a deflection.

Stirling Districts centre forward Sirak Gehling was given an opportunity to level the score when a penalty was awarded and he managed to drive it past Lachlan Stein despite the 'keeper managing to get a leg to the ball.

Buoyed by this, Gehling then scored a wonderful second goal from open play before half-time.

In the second half Stirling East came out with intent and the District defence was put under pressure by the darting runs of Stirling East forwards Lachlan Mowbray and Darcy Garnett.

However, Stirling Districts defence of Gus Berthold, David Moore, Angus Taylor and captain Max Prior held firm, maintaining disciplined formation and ceaseless tackling.

Tireless running from Stirling Districts midfielders Zen Dejanovic, Jaxon Russell and Lachlan Burke managed to get the ball to the forwards, resulting in another goal as Raphael Schmidt tapped in a poacher's goal at the far post.

Stirling East soon replied with its second goal as a penalty was awarded for handball in the penalty area as Stirling East determinedly pushed forward.

The penalty was powerfully struck into top left corner by William Smith.

However, that was to be the only time the safe hands of Stirling Districts 'keeper Tom Fischle would be beaten in the half as his team fell back to defend the lead for the final five minutes.

Even striker Finn Whitlock defended the goals as Stirling Districts got bodies in the box to hang on for a 3-2 win.

Under 13 girls

The two Hahndorf's Under 13 girls sides started their soccer season with a Cup round match against each other last Saturday.

The teams, which train together, were evenly matched and play initially moved up and down the pitch as many of the girls got used to playing on a full pitch for the first time.

Hahndorf White scored its first goal of the season, working together to push the ball toward goal, and finished off well by Erin Peacock.

Peacock also scored the second goal for the White team soon after, taking the opportunity to make an excellent run from midfield to place the ball soundly into the back of the net.

Molly Kell and Matilda Spanner worked consistently and strongly in defence for the Whites, whilst Lillie Yiatrou and Madelyn Lyall continued to create opportunities for Hahndorf Black to score.

Eliza Stone, Ruby Frangiosa and Julia Dama played well in midfield and defence for the Whites, with Dama creating a scoring opportunity late in the first half.

The teams went to the break with the White team retaining its two-goal lead.

The Black team came out firing after half-time and White goal keeper Francesca Queale was put to the test on a number of occasions early in the half.

At the other end of the pitch, Black defender Cate Goddard did well, intercepting on a number of occasions to send the ball back into attack.

Lyll scored the Black team's first goal with a beautifully timed kick, to make the score 2-1 midway through the second half.

With passing skills across the pitch improving throughout the game, competition continued to be strongly contested.

Charlotte Lyall for the Black team and Freya Roberts of White demonstrated good ball skills throughout the match.

Playing her first game of soccer, Octavia Sayer made a good attempt at goal, then went on to kick the White team's third goal late in the game.

The final score finished 3-1 in favor of Hahndorf White after an entertaining derby clash.

Under 14

Hahndorf's Under 14 boys put on an outstanding performance against Stirling East Blue on Saturday, and were unlucky not to come away with a win.

Hahndorf started with only 10 players, and for much of the game could only field nine players due to injuries.

Compared to Stirling East's ability to rest players by using a number of substitutes, the Hahndorf boys had to play the entire game – which certainly told by the end of the game.

Within the initial five minutes, Hahndorf took the lead with a strong goal by Jack Pollock, and continued to play attacking football in Stirling East's half, even when having to drop to nine men with an injury to goal keeper Bodie Love.

Darcy Mardle took up the gloves for the rest of the first half until Love was able to return to play.

Stirling East took advantage of Hahndorf's reduced squad by pushing forward repeatedly, but Ben Hutson in the centre of defence was strong and foiled a number of attacks.

Nonetheless, Stirling East had some strikes at goal in the first half, but unfortunately slightly high or wide, or able to be fielded by good work from Mardle in goal.

Ari Scott-Cowling was very effective at taking the ball forward for Hahndorf, ultimately earning a penalty kick which could not be converted.

By the end of the first half, Pollock had performed admirably in defence, along with Hutson and Liam Friebe.

The attacking combinations of Damon Anning and Felix Cutting, with support from the midfielders Asher Seiler-Simons and Scott-Cowling, meant that Hahndorf had the majority of the possession and shots.

The second half started with Love back in goal, bringing the Hahndorf squad back up to 10 players.

Hahndorf applied pressure on Stirling East, earning a number of corners and shots on goal, but Stirling East started to push back in force.

After some good saves from Love, eventually Stirling East's attacking approach resulted in a goal to Ben Harris, evening the score at 1-1.

The warm weather started to have its effect on the teams, until Hahndorf burst forward through Cutting and Scott-Cowling, resulting in shots on goal from Anning, Pollock and Cutting.

At the end of the 90 minutes the scores remained drawn at 1-1, so the exhausted teams had to face another two 10-minute periods of extra time.

Hahndorf started extra time with more attacking football from Anning and Cutting, but Stirling East's Harris took advantage from free kick in the Hahndorf goal square to score.

Hahndorf again were on the attack, but the boys' tiredness and reduced

numbers started to have its effect and Stirling East scored another goal against the run of play through a great cross by Lachlan Reuter to Nathaniel Paterson.

At the start of the second half of extra time, Hahndorf trailed 3-1, but somehow were able to keep attacking, earning a corner, which ultimately resulted in a brilliant goal from Naheen Seiler-Simons.

There were further shots on goal, but unfortunately Hahndorf couldn't quite convert and Stirling East finished with a 3-2 win.

The match between Stirling Districts and Bridgewater White commenced in beautiful sunny conditions at Bradbury, with Bridgewater White heading toward the clubhouse end.

Immediately Bridgewater went into attack where two good shots on goal were well saved by Stirling Districts goal keeper Sid Kentish.

Stirling Districts then went forward before Bridgewater's 'keeper Toby Nichols saved a shot on goal from Lachlan Pattullo.

Even play between both sides continued for the next seven minutes before Bridgewater opened the scoring with a strong goal to Harry Anderson.

Good defence from both sides thwarted numerous opportunities on goal before Bridgewater received a penalty in the 32nd minute.

Brennan Cowan coolly converted the penalty, however, the goal was disallowed as another Bridgewater player moved into the penalty box as the penalty was taken.

The retaken penalty was then well saved by the 'keeper, leaving Bridgewater with a 1-0 lead at the interval.

Upon resumption of play Stirling Districts went into attack and a good goal was scored by Pattullo.

Good play from both sides where the ball moved around the pitch resulted in numerous scoring opportunities for both teams with none converted.

In the 18th minute Kael Thomas of Bridgewater broke the deadlock with a quick goal to put his team ahead 2-1.

With both teams starting to feel the warm weather and slowing up a little, Bridgewater's Sanderson scored a penalty goal to make the margin 3-1.

This then opened up the flood gates for Bridgewater with Sanderson scoring again in the 27th and 30th minutes after strong attacking runs.

Strong play from Stirling District's Jack Butler, Pattullo and Brodie White nearly resulted in a couple of goals, but Bridgewater's defence and good goal keeping kept the score at 5-1.

In the 34th minute Bridgewater scored again from a well taken corner by Josh Kidman which rebounded into the back of the net off a Stirling Districts defender, enabling Bridgewater White to stake a 6-1 win and move into the next Cup round.

Murray Bridge Gold secured a 5-3 win over Mt Barker White in an excellent first up game for both sides, played in good spirit.

Warm conditions sapped energy from players and both sides rotated players regularly.

Murray Bridge Gold were in control for the first half, leading 3-1 at the break.

During the second half Mt Barker White scored twice with quick counter attacks to make it 4-3 and the game tightened up before Murray Bridge Gold sealed victory with the closing goal of the match.

Under 16

Hahndorf defeated Stirling Districts Red 5-4 in an exciting contest to launch the season. Both teams adjusted to their positions before Hahndorf scored early after a nice cross from S. Veale and a great finish from J. Miller.

Stirling Districts completed some good passages of play midway through the first half and a free kick just outside the box from went straight to Hahndorf's 'keeper.

A great kick out from P. Lewis at the 28-minute mark found Miller on the wing and he took it all the way to the box, but the ball cleared the goal post.

Stirling Districts Red kept on trying to penetrate Hahndorf's defence but some good saves were preventing any scoring and at half-time Hahndorf led 1-0.

Stirling Districts started the second half with a two great goals two minutes apart and all of a sudden the momentum swung in its favor.

Good saves from Stirling's 'keeper prevented the Hahndorf forwards from equalising early.

A wonderful cross from Stirling's right wing found the head of its forward for a great goal to gain a two-goal break.

It was a fluctuating affair throughout the second half until Hahndorf's Miller crossed onto Lewis with a powered shot to goal.

At the 20-minute mark S. Veale scored from a free kick to even up the match.

Another great shot from Stirling's forward at the 26-minute mark found the back of the net off the 'keeper's hands putting Stirling back in front.

A cracking goal for Hahndorf's Miller came late into the game after another nice cross from Veale.

Once again scores were level and the match appeared destined for extra time, however, it was a wonderful passage of play from Hahndorf's midfield onto Lewis with a great shot on goal to seal the result at the 38-minute mark.

It was a tense game to watch as both teams created many opportunities.

Under 17 girls

Last season's league champion Woodside appeared as a formidable opposition with Hahndorf hoping for the home ground advantage.

The initial few minutes were dominated by Woodside with what seemed to be the pattern for the game set with an attempt at a goal very early on.

However, Hahndorf saved the goal and were spurred on to defend harder but sadly it was not enough.

Woodside's Lilly Hannaford scored the first goal but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of Hahndorf which chased and defended hard, but Woodside shone through with a second goal again by Hannaford.

Woodside continued its assault at the goal with Hahndorf's 'keeper doing a fantastic job of deflecting the attempts.

The first half was concluded with a fantastic last-minute goal by Hahndorf's Jess Shelbourne.

The second half seemed pretty even with both sides trying hard despite the warm conditions.

Buoyed by the goal, Hahndorf attempted two further goals but Woodside's defence put paid to any challenges before Hannaford scored her hat-trick goal for Woodside, courtesy of a good pass from Rose Mason.

There were further attempts by Hahndorf to even up the numbers but the final score was 3-1 to Woodside.

Footballers at war

Australian Rules football has long been associated with our servicemen and the country's military campaigns.

With the centenary Anzac celebrations just over a week away, the Slattery Media Group have made a timely release of a new publication titled *Harder Than Football*.

Australian servicemen have long been renowned for their unflinching courage, sense of mateship and strength of character – values apparent in Australian football.

However, as past St Kilda player Stan Brady conveyed in a letter back home from the Gallipoli battle front in 1915, "It's harder than football here," influencing the book's title.

Harder Than Football echoes Brady's sentiments ... war is a much tougher feat than football.

The book is not only a reminder to honor the promise made to those who have made sacrifices, but an appeal to future generations to avoid war at all costs.

Almost 2500 men who played at least one senior VFL game during the period 1897 through to 1972 are documented in the publication, which includes the Boer War, WW1, WW2, the Korean

and Vietnam conflicts, together with those who did a stint in National Service.

Of the compiled list, 156 players paid the supreme sacrifice for their country.

With a foreword written by National Serviceman and VFL/AFL legend Kevin Sheedy, the book illustrates how football has shaped Australians who have gone to war, and how war has shaped Australia's national game.

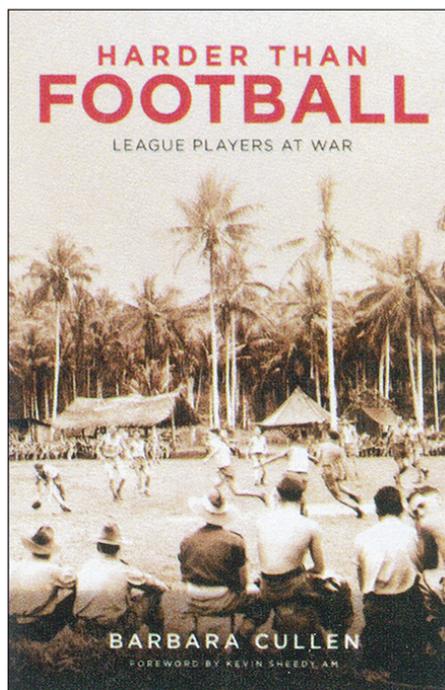
It details stories of courage, resilience and survival, along with acts of bravery and sacrifice – and also a touch of larrikin behavior – which so succinctly display the 'Aussie spirit'.

The fascinating account has been penned by historian Barbara Cullen, who spent some five years of painstaking research towards her first publication.

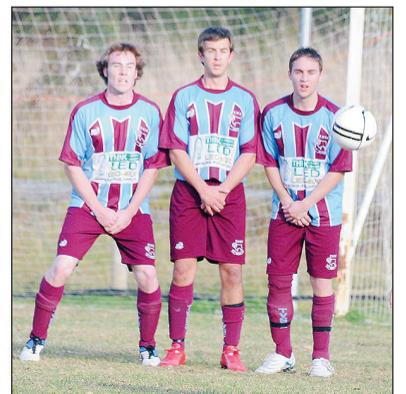
Cullen is currently a curator at both the Sydney Swans and North Melbourne football clubs and was previously the curator at the Essendon club's Hall of Fame.

Released on April 1, *Harder Than Football* is an ideal gift for all football fans and those interested in the mix of sport and military service, and retails at \$49.95, with further information available at www.slatterymedia.com

– Jeff Pistola.



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