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AROUND THE GROUNDS

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Match Results:

Saturday					Sunday				
AG/Div	Home Team	H	A	Away Team	AG/Div	Home Team	H	A	Away Team
AA/E	Lugarno (2)	3	4	Dolls Point	PW/AAW/A	Forest Rangers	3	4	Lugarno
AA/G	Penshurst West	1	4	Lugarno (2)	AAW/B	Lugarno	4	0	Kogarah Waratah (2)
AA/G	Connells Point (2)	1	0	Lugarno (1)	AAW/D	Hurstville Glory	1	3	Lugarno
AA/D	Lugarno	1	6	ASOW	O35/C	Rockdale City Suns	1	7	Lugarno
AA/C1	Banksia Tigers	3	0	Lugarno	U12Girls	Lugarno	0	2	Bexley North
AA/C2	Hurstville City Minotaurs	1	0	Lugarno	U14Girls	Connells Point (2)	2	1	Lugarno
AA/E	Lugarno (1)	5	2	Oatley RSL	U16G/A	Lugarno	0	0	Connells Point
PL1/1	Carlton Rovers	3	1	Lugarno					
PLR/R	Carlton Rovers	1	2	Lugarno					
U13/A	Sans Souci	2	3	Lugarno					
U13/C	Oatley RSL	2	4	Lugarno					
U14/B	Bexley North (1)	1	5	Lugarno					
U15/B	Banksia Tigers	5	2	Lugarno					
U16/A	Lugarno	3	0	Sans Souci (1)	Friday				
U17/B	Lugarno	5	1	Oatley RSL (1)	O45/A	Lugarno	5	0	Oatley RSL



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Match Reports:

6 Bee 3 v Rockdale Suns

Goal scorers: Michael Nicholson 2 / Catherine Kaniouris

POTM: Charlie Arandale

Wow, what a game it was this week! Our opponents this week were a tough side.

Our player of the match, Charlie, had a great game. He had some great runs with the ball, and defending our goal.

Lots of close goals this week, Mikey nearly had a hat trick!

Catherine had another great game this week, scoring one of our goals, and whizzing up and down the field.

Our oranges were a hit in the break, thanks Mich.

Miles, Emma, Oli and Pip all had a great game too this week - well done kids. Final score Win 4-2.

Only 3 weeks to go until the end of the season.



7 Bee 2 v Sans Souci

Goal scorers: Josh / Sam / Chris / Lucas

POTM: Sam



It was a brilliant precursor to spring on Saturday with warm and sunny conditions for our home game against Sans Souci. The sudden appearance of our opposition was settling that management had the correct venue and we kicked off eager as always.

In the first half Chris delivered a number of nice crosses to Josh who was in the centre to receive. Lucas made some great runs around the pack to get the ball up front, Chris however led the scoring. Sam showed great enthusiasm to be in good positions for the side kicks. Olivia was so, so close to scoring and was also behind some fantastic passing when attacking in front of goal. Sam also scored in the first half with a very nice finish and we went to half time with a comfortable lead.

The second half saw an energised Sans Souci score two quick goals, however we were up to the challenge and it was game on. Liani provided a great ball which Chris delivered to the back of the net, fantastic goal assist Liani. Late in the second half Sam, lurking in the centre, finished a very nice pass from the wing. You should be all so proud, great soccer and fair play team.

End result: 6-2 win.



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8 Bee 2 v Arncliffe Aurora

POTM: Zac

Another convincing win by Lugarno U8's. We scored 6 goals to their 1 and we dominated the entire match. On the occasion that Arncliffe was on the attack, some of our key players, Max, Jack and Alek, were there to defend and stop them scoring.

As we often say, soccer is in two parts, the first is defence, and the second is attack. Some of our fastest runners are attackers and some other players are good at defence, but the all round player is the one that can attack and defend. Senior officials from the Lugarno soccer club were looking at our games at the gala day to identify the best **all round** players.

We should ask ourselves the question, What kind of player am I? Am I a defender who stops the opposition from scoring and gives long clearing kicks?

Or am I a fast attacker, always waiting for a long ball from a defender and then having a shot at goals?

Or am I both an attacker and a defender and a person who passes the ball to one of my players in the clear?

If you say yes to this kind of player then you are a top player!

Now to scoring. Cooper was always waiting up the front of the play waiting for an opportunity. He was rewarded with 2 goals. Max was his usual energiser bunny self and also got 2 goals and was also very handy as goalkeeper for 10 minutes.



Alek had a busy game and scored a very good goal, well done Alek! Patrick also scored a great goal and made some super saves as goalkeeper. Well done Patrick! Rex also had a tour of duty in the goalkeeper jersey and today I think it seemed to fit him. He made a few good saves and is a crowd favourite! He made a brave defensive tackle on a much larger attacker who came off second best! He always seems happy on the field and the odd cartwheel is not unexpected! Jack had a big game in defence and made some great attacking runs.

Lachy, Zac and Clarke, our newer players, are improving every game. This was Zac's last game for the season before he and his family go on an extended holiday. We wish them well and a safe return.

One last message from our coach: when we have a set play (that is, when we have a corner kick, a throw in or a free kick) we must find an opposition player and stand next to him. That is called "marking a player".

Well done boys, 3 more games to go, all at Gannons Park.

8 Bee 3 v Sans Souci

POTM: Emilyn

With all players on deck, coach and manager on the sideline for the first time in over a month, the 8 Bee 3's were ready to play!

It was a very evenly matched game, with lots of opportunities at goal for both teams, but Michael opened up the scoring the minute he ran on to the field with a fantastic individual goal.

Our team worked very well together. Special mention to Vinnie, who was trying his best to utilise what he has been practicing at training – passing to his team mates. I noticed he was thinking about where to pass the ball, which is great!

As usual, Diana was strong in defence, along with Emilyn who deserved her player of the match award because she never gave up, almost scoring a goal at one point. Jamie had a great first half in goals and was unlucky to let one through. Goalie is a difficult position, Jamie is learning to use his hands to pick up the ball and is showing great confidence.

Linden scored a great goal to take our tally to 2. Linden never gives up and tries very hard in every game. Ryah was very unlucky not to score, she always gives 100%!

Olivia, Vas and Noah were all very strong in the mid field and did a great job keeping Sans Souci to only 2 goals. Michael had a great second half in goals. We were very happy with the result.



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9 Bee v Ramsgate RSL

Goal Scorers: Anthony 2

POTM: Everyone



We've been lucky this season with some games, and this one was no exception. Both teams were evenly matched (ok, our goal keeper might have been a bit taller than theirs), but apart from that, both teams covered the field nicely and made some great plays. We were still missing a few players due to holidays, but a squad of 7 was enough to make a full team, just no reserves.

In true 9B style, everyone put in a super effort. It was difficult to single out a

'Player of the Match' this week, as everyone did such a great job, so this week it's a team award!

Anthony scored both our goals this week. His first goal came from an opposition goal kick, which went straight to Anthony. Anthony answered with a cracker kick which lobbed up in the air, soared over the keeper's head, and dipped in just under the crossbar. It was a brilliant goal, and brought a huge applause from the sidelines.

Just as important as scoring goals is defense, and the 9Bs did a brilliant job. At the back, Cameron and Willis were marvellous in goal, and Callum and Bailey stopped most attackers before they got too close. Emily and Peri are proving a great attacking combination, and both were fabulous. It was great to see some nice passing, calling for the ball, and looking around for open players. It's nice to see those things transfer from practice sessions into the games, and makes those cold evenings at Gannons worthwhile. Great job team, another fantastic team effort.

9 Fox 1 v Kogarah Waratahs

Goal Scorers: Mitchell Woods / Anthony Pejovski

POTM: Mitchell Woods

Gannons turned on a sensational day this week, with near perfect conditions for the Foxes to take on Kogarah Waratahs.

Finlay and Emmanuel were out this week, which enabled Coach Harry to increase the sub rotations and provide a high energy game.

From the kick off, Daniel and Owen kicked strong putting the Foxes in good field position. Lucy was in goals for the first half reading the game well to keep scoring to a minimum. Nick and Michael defended well up the back ensuring the attack and passing from Hunter and Thomas was on song. Anthony was in fine form scoring 3 of our 4 goals.

While our Man of the Match Mitchell not only scored a goal, he was evasive in attack and doubled back in defence. Great game Foxes!!!

A HUGE thanks to parents for turning up to support the team and Coach Harry for producing the winning game plan.



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10 Bee 2 v Penshurst West

Our little 10B2s' task today was Penshurst West down at our beloved Gannons Midi. We finished well behind in our earlier encounter and we were out to right the ledger.

We were the first game of the day down at Gannons and the boys rolled in 30 minute prior for the usual warm up. They looked good but we were short two troops today that left our bench free, so it was going to be a tough task.

With all of the pre-game requirements done, the Ref called the contest on – the first 10 minutes were at a frantic pace as it was end to end stuff and what was clear early was the control of our opponents, both in the tight areas but also on the break.

With our first early raids came a corner and a couple of solid runs from Zack but we were unable to find the net. Equally as strong were our opponents who put our defence under huge pressure and, if not for some last second tackles, and solid work in goals from Cody, it could have affected the score.

As the first half rolled on it was still a see-sawing affair but the difference between the two teams was accuracy, as our opponents found the net twice. The ref called the first half to an end to leave the score sheet 2 – Nil.



Jeremy's message to the boys was to work on holding the ball and string a couple more passes together and just keep trying. With a good drink break and a shuffle in positions, the boys charged on for the second half.

The second half started a lot like the first and did see a couple of combinations appear as the ball was fed through our lines, and often found the forwards feet, but again not paid due to some solid defence and goal keeping from our opponents.

This was the recipe for the rest of the game, but again our opponents got lucky with two more goals that could be questioned regarding "off side" plays, but either way the score sheet finished at 4 – Nil.

The score line does not reflect the effort of the boys today as they worked very hard on their one on one plays and tackles and did start to really hold and protect the ball - this gives the boys something to work on going forward.

Well done boys and can't wait to see you again next week!



13C v Oatley RSL

Won 4 - 2

Goals Scorer: Jayden Montoya 2 / Billy Finn / Michael Crimmins

Round 15 was played at 'The Green' and it was good to see the boys put on a fine display with a convincing win over Oatley RSL.

Lugarno held most of the possession and controlled the game from the start. The boys found their rhythm early and put two quick goals on Oatley. The first was at the 7th minute, where Michael put a powerhouse kick from about 30 metres out, forcing the opposition goalie to punch the ball out, fortunately for Lugarno it lands at Jayden's feet who swiftly puts it into the net. The next goal sees Alexander and Anthony play out the centres making their way to find Billy inside the goal area, who goes around one player to score.

Oatley not giving up, put a nice play together to put one back to make the score line 2-1. Not long after, Lugarno hit back again, this time Michael scores off the back of a corner to put us in a commanding lead of 3-1 heading in half time.

The second half begins and Lugarno puts Oatley under continual pressure, narrowly missing a few opportunities. On one occasion, Oatley put on a counter attack catching us off guard which saw them increase their tally, it's now 3-2. Lugarno kept their cool, and at the 48th minute mark we crafted a play out of the centres lead by Michael who swiftly passes to Jayden who manages to avoid the opposition defence to score his second goal for the match. The game finishes 4-2 Lugarno.

The defensive line and our goalie had a great game holding their ground well; they fended off the majority of the opposition attacks ensuring the score line was kept in check.

A good team display, from defence through to our attacking line. Thanks to Nicholas Kladis for assisting on the day.



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14B v Bexley North (1)

Won 5 - 1

Goals Scorer: Mitchell Frost / Mitchell Trajkovski / Kane Spiteri / Peter Katsoulas / Will Simmons

POTM: Mitchell Frost

Lugarno faced the second Bexley North side with the knowledge that a win would secure them the minor premiership. As kick-off was delayed due to the opposition side going to the wrong ground, Lugarno patiently waited as an understrength Bexley North side finally showed up for play.

Lugarno opted for a 4-4-2 formation with Raffi starting in goals, Peter, Mark, Issac and Stephen in the defensive formation. Peter K, Mitchell, Jonah and Mitchell T were assigned to the midfield roles, while Omar and Kane formed the attack. The interchange players for this game comprised of Evander, Will, Alex and Harris. Harry was not available for this fixture as he was serving a one game suspension and instead took up the linesperson duties.

Facing an understrength opponent is always awkward and this game was no different as the Lugarno players initially thought just turning up would win them the game. Despite a mountain of possession and numerous attempts on goal in the first ten minutes, poor execution was preventing the ball from crossing into the nets. The opposition was content to simply defend and frustrate the Lugarno attack as waves after waves of attack were launched at the Bexley North end. During this phase of total dominance by Lugarno goal scoring opportunities fell to Kane, Mitchell T, Peter K, Mitchell, Jonah and Omar.

Just as the mood of frustration was setting in Lugarno secured yet another corner from yet another attacking raid. A brilliant delivery saw Mitchell T find the other Mitchell who managed to perfectly control a very awkward bouncing ball before blasting a powerful shot past the Bexley North goal keeper to give Lugarno the opening goal in the 18th minute. The goal settled down the team and further attacks followed as Lugarno continued to play the game in the opposition's half. A free kick awarded to Lugarno in the 26th minute after an attacking raid saw Mitchell T step up to take the free kick just outside the penalty area. The opposition formed a wall but it was to no avail as Mitchell T brilliantly placed his shot in the right hand bottom corner for Lugarno's second goal.

At half-time the team was urged to play with greater width and to pass the ball around to create gaps for attackers to penetrate through. In a superior start to the second half a through ball by Jonah found Kane who used his speed to get to the ball first and coolly place the ball beyond the advancing Bexley North goal keeper to give Lugarno a 3-0 lead two minutes into the second half. From kick-off Lugarno secured the ball and immediately launched an attack that involved Peter and Peter K. A clever ball by Peter released Peter K on the right flank. Peter K advanced to the opposition's penalty area, cut inside the defender and fired a shot past the Bexley North goal keeper for Lugarno's fourth goal, less than four minutes into the second half. Two goals in less than four minutes - that was more like Lugarno!



Unfortunately while Lugarno continued to dominate possession in the second half, some poor finishing kept the score line respectable for the opposition. To their credit Bexley North, having secured their only corner of the game, in the 44 minute scored a goal after some hesitant near post defending by Lugarno allowed the opposition to kick the ball in from close distance. The goal helped Lugarno re-focus and within two minutes Will, who found himself in the opposition's penalty area, was credited with Lugarno's fifth goal some 17 minutes into the second half.

In the remaining minutes of the game Lugarno came close to adding to the score line through efforts by Omar, Evander, Alex, Mitchell, Peter K, Mitchell T and Stephen. The final game score of 5-1 to

Lugarno helped to crown the team as champions for season 2015 with still one week of the normal competition remaining.

This game witnessed a number of positional changes as coach Hagop decided to experiment by deploying a number of different combinations ahead of the finals campaign. Raffi in goals showed great courage putting his body in the line of fire when Bexley North launched one of their rare attacks in the second half. Mark, Stephen, Harris, Issac, Peter all put in a solid and competent defensive performance throughout the game. The midfield players of Peter, Mitchell, Jonah, Mitchell T, and Evander were full of determined running ensuring the game was played in the opposition's end. They also dropped back and defended as required. Omar, Kane, Alex and Will combined well in attack, using their pace to press the opposition and constantly drive them back.

There are some areas to focus and improve on but overall one cannot be too critical of a team that has either been outright first or equal first for the entire season with the exception of just eight days. Lugarno's performance during the season to date clearly has made them the benchmark team of the competition. While the team now deserves to enjoy what they have achieved so far this season they will need to remain focussed for the task ahead - competing at their potential during finals football.

Game stats

	Lugarno FC	Bexley North(1)
Total shots	26	4
Shots on target	14	3
Goals	5	1
Corners	9	1
Possession	70 per cent	30 per cent

14 Girls v Connells Point Loss 1 - 2

Goal Scorer: Olivia Margan

Very disappointing game.

Apart from Olivia Margan and Jasmine Thompson who tried hard and gave it their all, the rest of our team didn't turn up.

We were missing 2 of our main players who were both away which really affected our defending and go forward. We did try but we didn't play our game.

It's time for our girls to get their fighting spirit back and play like we know they can. Too many excuses and distractions from on and off the field that is hurting how we play and how we have been playing all year. It's all about the girls now and it's time to take control of our own destiny and win games that we are expected to win. Not lose games to teams that are in the bottom half of the ladder.

Time to wake up girls as you are a very special hard working team that can win this, but we need to do it the way we have been doing it all year with nothing getting in our way.



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AAG (1) v Connells Point (2) Lost 0 - 1

Second last match in the rounds and Connells were 4 points behind on the table, now 1 point behind! Both teams knocked the ball around well and had chances that they didn't take. Unfortunately Connells made a break just before half time and put the ball up over the keeper. With the help of the wind, it went into the net and we were 1-0 down.

Second half we were confident that running downhill on Gannons 4 and with the wind behind us we were a good chance. Despite many chances, Connells defenders seemed to get a knee or back in the way of every shot and the game degenerated into the ball being kicked into the wilderness to waste time.

We still have a 1 point lead on the 5th place team so the final round against Forest Rangers is vital. Come on the Finals, where anything can happen!

AAG (2) v Penshurst West Won 4 - 1

Goal Scorers: Eddy 2 / Jeremy / Zoran

It was the top-of-the-table clash against 2nd placed Penshurst West. The boys were fired up for this contest - knowing victory would secure us the minor premiership.

Moments before kick-off, Jehad (aka WD, aka Zoolander) gathered the team in a huddle on the dirt paddock that was Olds Park. In a moment that will live long in the memory, Je delivered a pre-game speech that rivalled Mel Gibson's declamation in 'Braveheart'. His inspiring words brought a tear to Zok's eye. We were never going to lose from here!

Penshurst tried to stamp their authority early on, but our defence held firm. It wasn't long before we opened the scoring. After a bit of a scramble in the penalty box, the ball fell to Jeremy who converted from close range. LFC 1-0.

With our midfield clicking into gear, we doubled our advantage before halftime. After some good lead up play, Eddy created some space in the penalty area before he coolly slid the ball past the keeper with his left foot. Halftime: LFC 2-0.

In the 2nd half, our midfield continued to work tirelessly and used our subs effectively. After some near misses, we scored the crucial third goal. A shot from just inside the box was saved by the Penshurst keeper... but Zok was quick to pounce on the rebound to put away his first goal of the season. LFC 3-0.

Penshurst continued to press and they pulled a goal back via a long through ball. LFC 3-1. Despite that, our back three, marshalled by Foti, kept their skilful strikers in check. Some opposition players continued to audition for an Oscar award, but thankfully the Ref wasn't impressed!

The Ref though was amused by Jehad's comical explanation after he was penalised for a handball. His "I was protecting my face" defence was one of day's highlights! In between that and another steam train impersonation from Yare, we finished the game off with a fourth goal. Eddy's low shot/cross from a tight angle beat the keeper at his near post after taking a deflection off a defender.

Full time: Lugarno 4-1

An excellent team performance by the boys and a great way to seal top spot leading into the finals.

The laughs continued later on at the trivia night... but that deserves a newsletter of its own!

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