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Edition: 09/10 August '14



AROUND THE GROUNDS

Congratulations:

AAF (1) who are the first Lugarno FC team to qualify for a Grand Final spot this season – match to be played on Saturday 23rd August.

This weekend's Finals:

Time	AG/Div	Home Team	Away Team	Ground
Saturday				
09:25	U13/B	Connells Point (1)	Lugarno	Bush Pk - Carss Park
11:10	U12/B	Lugarno	Peakhurst United	Beverly Hills Park
12:30	AA/G	Bexley North	Lugarno	Beverly Hills Park
12:30	AA/D	Lugarno	Carss Park	Harold Fraser Park
Sunday				
09:00	U14G/A	Lugarno	Bexley North	Scarborough No 7
09:00	U14G/B	Ramsgate RSL	Lugarno	Bush Pk - Carss Park
09:25	U12G/B	Bexley North	Lugarno	Olds Park
11:50	AAW/A	ASOW	Lugarno	Scarborough No 7
12:45	U18G/G	Lugarno	Carss Park	Ador Avenue
13:20	O35/B	Oatley RSL	Lugarno	Claydon Reserve

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Canteen & Field Set up Duty Roster for next weekend:

Date	Sat Morning Canteen & Field setup 7am – 1pm	Sat Afternoon Canteen & Field pull down 1pm – 3pm	Sunday morning field setup	Sunday field pulldown (& lock up posts)	Fields required
Sat 16th August	8 Fox (till 11am) 6Bee1 (from 11am)	6 Bee 4			SSF & Midi
Sun 17th August			No Games at Gannons		

Match Reports:

6 Bee 1 v Ramsgate RSL

Our 6Bs turned up to a very foggy Gannons Park for their game against Ramsgate and as always they immediately got down to the business of having a tonne of fun! From the time they commenced their warm ups (as you can see in the image) under the watchful eyes of their coaches, James x 2, until the moment the full time whistle blew they smiled and had a ball. However, this week they also left the small crowd feeling very proud of the effort they put in during the game as well as throughout the season.

At half time the Lugarno FC “all girls” B’s had maintained a clean sheet through some wonderful defense and at the end of the game the score finished at 1-0 in favour of their “all boys” opposition. The result doesn’t matter to them but when you consider we started with a little group of girls who had played virtually no soccer before and the fact that they had been on the wrong side of some pretty hefty score lines early on in the season, this game underlined just how



much these girls have improved and more importantly what a great little unit of friends they have become courtesy of the wonderful medium that team sport provides.

Our goal scoring gun Matilda was unable to play this game but passionately took the reigns as “Assistant Coach” at times physically guiding the girls with their goal kicks from the sidelines. Emma was energetic and absolutely fantastic in defense especially in the first half and traded places with Luca Bella at half time who also let her defensive nature shine in the all important roll of “not letting those boys get close to our goals”. Felicity has shown amazing improvement this season and moves herself up and down the field with the flow of the game. She has become one of the side’s best players. Daisy as always muscles herself up to the

opposition but uses her wonderful energy and speedy skills to surprise her opposition. Definitely a player of the future and then there is Annika. "Annie" more often than not, finds herself shooting clear of her opposition, swiftly moving the ball down field with great skill and determination. Was unlucky not to score on Saturday on several different occasions. She is going to score some goals in the future, this young lass.

This report would have read quite differently a few months ago but as you can see we have a lot to cheer about each Saturday morning. With this in mind a big thank you to James and Jimmy for their time and effort in getting the girls to where they are now, as well as Emma for managing not just the girls but us parents as well. It's been a great season and hopefully we can finish off with a couple more games like the one just completed.

7 Bee 2 v Sans Souci

Goal Scorers: Jack 3 / Cooper / Patrick / Max

POTM: William (for good defence)

It was a late match starting at 12.15 pm, played at the beautiful site of Kogarah Bay.

Unfortunately, it was a very small field and there was not a lot of open play and long runs to goals.

Jack opened up the scoring with some strong play, taking possession of the ball from the opposing players and making determined runs at goal. He also ran back in defence and stopped the opposing team from scoring on many occasions. Well played Jack!

Patrick scored a goal and was very unlucky not to have scored many more. The ball often went just wide of the nets by a cat's whisker! He was always busy and always fighting for possession. Patrick has developed more into an attacking player than a defender.

Cooper played up front and scored a goal. Because the field was a bit shorter, he often had the ball passed to him but he had little room to move. He played well and is always disappointed to hear the final whistle.

Clarke made a very good kick at an important part of the match. His fellow team members complimented him on it and you could see him standing a little taller than usual.

Max had some extra family along to watch him play. He did not disappoint. Max is "old reliable" at the back stopping many shots at goal and giving the occasional clearing kick back up field. Just to show that he can attack as well as defend, Max ran up and scored a goal!

Mat said that Will was man of the match because of his great defence. He did not score a goal, but he often fought to regain possession, and his defence was like a brick wall - nobody could get past!

Sans Souci had one outstanding player who could do tricks with the ball, but he did not pass it. Soccer is about team work, we are all part of a team, it does not matter which one scores - we all pass to each other and we are all part of a team!



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8 Fox v Arncliffe Aurora

Our first game at Carss Park this season saw conditions near perfect as the Foxes played their game overlooking the waters of Botany Bay. With the team down one player with Mitchell away, it was always going to be a tough ask for the Foxsters.

The game was scoreless for the first quarter, as the Foxes defended really well with solid tackles by Nick and our everywhere man Hunter. Anthony was solid in the goal mouth in the first half and Hunter in the second, with Lucy making numerous breaks throughout the game was unlucky not to score.



Owen ran hard throughout the match and Grace passed strongly to her team mates. Finlay defended well and with Alexia demonstrating her attacking skills, the Foxes were doing great.

Although Arncliffe scored more goals on the day, the Foxes did their supporters proud.

12 Girls B v Ramsgate RSL

Won 2 - 0

Semi Final

Goal Scorer: Tamar Tchamkertenian / Nadine Younes

POTM: The Entire Team

Scarborough number 7 was the venue for finals football for the team of the year - the 12GB's. The very fact that the girls were playing finals football having overcome all the obstacles during the year is a credit to the coach, players and all parents and supporters concerned.

In a rarity the team even had a substitute for this game. Instructions went out to find a bib, do we actually have one? Having a substitute is indeed a strange and uncommon experience for the team.

With the player punctuality policy working as intended, the majority of the team arrived at the park well before the newly imposed 30 minute before kick-off time regime. Properly warmed up and at the receiving end of game instructions, the girls looked ready for Ramsgate. There was a certain determination in the eyes of every player that took the field.

Madelen put on the gloves and started in goals supported in defence by Alana P, Charlie, Taylah and Taylah M. The midfield comprised of Jasmine, Kiera, Luci and Nadine. The attacking pair comprised of Tamar and Olivia. Alanna wore the interchange bib (dad please don't be late next time).

Kick-off saw Lugarno win control of the ball and push Ramsgate RSL deep into their territory. With their opposition struggling to get out of their own half, Lugarno were entitled to claim land rights having spent much of the first half at Ramsgate's end. Following the sustained pressure Lugarno were rewarded with a goal when Jasmine kicked the ball to Nadine, who took on the defence before unleashing a cross across the Ramsgate goals, Alanna and Olivia both just missed the ball before the ball found Tamar unmarked on the left hand side of the goal post, and without any hesitation Tamar brought the ball under control and kicked the ball into the nets for Lugarno's opening goal in the 17th minute.

Following the goal Ramsgate lifted and started pushing forward. In an attack that started deep in Ramsgate's half, the ball was swept up the field causing the Ramsgate attacker to break away from Lugarno's defensive structure. Some exceptional defending from Taylah M resulted in the Ramsgate attack breaking down as Charlie and Taylah also arrived on the scene.

Before the half time whistle was blown, a couple of other chances fell Lugarno's way but the score remained 1-0 at the break.

The team received a deserved praise from coach Raf as they were encouraged to maintain the focus, continue to be first to the ball and support each other in general play.

Kiera was given the goal keeper gloves for the second half as Madelen was placed in attack.

The second half mirrored the first half with Lugarno spending long periods in their opponent's half, creating chances but failing to deliver that decisive blow by scoring the second goal. With Ramsgate knowing they needed to draw to advance to the preliminary final, they attempted to lift their attacking potency but Lugarno held firm at the back and great defending ensured Kiera in goals was untroubled during the second half.

Some great ball movement from the team resulted in a corner. Olivia delivered another brilliant corner kick helping deliver the ball right into the centre of the penalty box, the ball was weakly cleared by Ramsgate allowing Lugarno to secure the ball and continue the attack. The subsequent cross was met perfectly by Nadine who volleyed the ball into the nets for Lugarno's second goal. With 6 minutes left to play the decisive goal had been delivered.

As Ramsgate brought the ball back to the centre for the mandatory restart it was evident from their body language that Lugarno was now well on top and Ramsgate's fate was decided.

With the referee blowing for full time with no allowance for injury time, the Lugarno players leaped into the air with joy to celebrate a great win. To their credit both the players and officials from Ramsgate were very gracious in defeat as they came over to shake hands and wish Lugarno players and team officials success in the preliminary final.

Once again a wonderful performance was delivered by all the girls. Madelen and Kiera put in a great performance in goals and in attack and defence, Charlie often the last person in defence helped to neutralise emerging threats. Taylah, Alana P and Taylah M displayed great composure and focus in defence. Jasmine with her powerful kicks helped turn defence into attack, while Luci was active with her non-stop running and put in a great team player performance. Nadine showed great pace, ran with determination and scored the decisive goal. Tamar scored the opening goal and constantly terrorised the Ramsgate defence on the left flank. Olivia with her powerful runs and kicks, exceptional corners and crosses into the penalty area proved a constant threat, while Alanna once again showed great determination and versatility, taking on players three times her size.

Girls you should be proud of what you have achieved so far this season. You have progressed this far having overcome some enormous odds. You have played football in your unique style, having fun along the way and enjoying every game irrespective of the final result. Now we wish you all the best for the preliminary final.



13 B v Sans Souci

Won 2 - 1

Semi Final

Goal Scorers: Mark Younes / Alexander Pejovski

POTM: Mitchell Trajkovski

Ador Avenue Reserve was the venue for the semi-final clash against Sans Souci. The conditions were ideal for a great game of football with the sun out following the earlier blanket of fog and the temperature rising before kick-off to provide an almost Spring like conditions. The most pleasing aspect was the state of the field which was totally covered by grass, a rare experience from the dust bowl conditions that the team had played in and endured during the past 6 weeks.

Knowing it was a must win game for Lugarno the team arrived an hour before scheduled kick-off looking keen and focussed.

A 4-4-2 formation saw Will start in goals behind a defensive structure comprising of Harris, Evander, Jonah and Raffi. The four person midfield featured Mitchell, Stephen, Mitchell T and Alex, while Harry and Mark combined upfront in attack. The powerful and versatile interchange bench included Issac, Peter, MJ and Mark Younes from the 12B's. Missing from the team was main striker James who was on a skiing holiday.

Sans Souci, with their big boys, looked intimidating as ever as the teams prepared to kick-off but with a great game plan behind them Lugarno were ready and were not intimidated at all.

After the opening midfield duel, Lugarno started taking control of the game and were able to establish good field position. With Sans Souci's attack limited to counter attacking football, Lugarno was able to create good goal scoring chances for Mark, Harry, Stephen, Alex and Mitchell T.

Poor finishing however was undermining Lugarno's dominance and as the half-way point of the first half arrived the scores were still locked at 0-0. With the heat now becoming an issue, Lugarno engaged in regular interchanges to ensure the boys on the park were fresh and up to the task.

Despite the limited nature of Sans Souci attacks, one counter attacking play almost resulted in an opening goal when the Sans Souci striker broke away on the half-way line. Raffi to his credit appeared from nowhere and employing defensive tactics that any Italian legendary defender would be proud of managed to neutralise the developing threat and the Lugarno defence was not breached.

Following a long distance clearance from Evander, Mark Younes ran onto the ball and crossed from the left side, the initial cross was blocked by a Sans Souci defender resulting in the ball coming straight back to Mark Younes, who then controlled the ball and swung in a more powerful cross. Sans Souci's goal keeper managed to get his hands to the ball but the spin and power behind the shot forced the ball to cross the goal line for Lugarno's opening goal in the 26th minute. The other Mark was on hand to tap the ball in but his intervention was not required. The goal lifted the team and they almost scored another goal before half-time but some hesitant shooting in front of goal saved Sans Souci from further pain.

Pleased with the overall effort of the first half, the team was given instructions to play with increased width as well as raising the defensive effort now that Sans Souci were chasing the game and had to score the equalising goal. While the opposition played with more urgency in the second half, Lugarno's midfield structure ensured that good protection was afforded to the defence. As a result other than some harmless shots at goal, Will in goals was largely untroubled.

At the other end, Lugarno continued to create good goal scoring chances with a number of efforts falling the way of Harry, Mark, Mitchell T, Alex, MJ, Peter and Mitchell. Sustained pressure also resulted in a number of corners being secured during crucial phases of the second half. But despite the overall Lugarno dominance, defending a 1-0 lead is often fraught with danger. Sans Souci only needed an equalising goal to progress to the preliminary final.

Finally the Lugarno pressure paid dividends when a clearance from Jonah found Mitchell T who embarked on his customary strong run before delivering a cross in the penalty area. Alex, who had kept on running in support, was at the receiving end of the cross as it evaded the Sans Souci goal keeper and kicked the ball into the nets for Lugarno's decisive second goal 3 minutes from full-time.

Leading 2-0 wholesale changes were introduced with 2 minutes left to play plus possible injury time. With Sans Souci desperate to score, Lugarno gave a free kick away just outside the penalty area. Despite a Lugarno wall being assembled the Sans Souci free kick taker managed to kick the ball above the assembled wall and into the left upper corner of the goal nets for Sans Souci's opening goal just a minute before full time.

With almost 90 seconds of extra time being played, Lugarno made sure of the game's outcome by keeping possession of the ball and playing the game deep into Sans Souci's half. The final whistle was blown by the referee handing Lugarno a thoroughly deserved yet close 2-1 victory.

Harris, back from a 7 week holiday, was once again superb in defence as were Will, Jonah and Evander who made a number of key ball intercepts. Both Issac and Raffi were solid and very focussed as well in defence.

The midfielders put in a great effort with Mitchell T making decisive runs and delivering countless crosses to his attacking support players. Alex, Peter, Mitchell and MJ were full of determined running proving crucial protection for the defence and were at the end of attacking plays.

Stephen was deployed in different positions throughout the game after initially commencing in midfield.

In attack Mark, Harry and Mark Younes kept up the pressure ensuring the game was being played at the right end of the pitch.

Well done team for having survived the first week of the finals. While the team's focus remains on one game at a time, it is a great achievement that the team now finds itself just one win away from a consecutive grand final appearance.

Game stats:

	Lugarno FC	Sans Souci
Total shots	15	7
On target	7	3
Goals	2	1
Corners	5	0
Possession	55 per cent	45 per cent



14 Girls B v Sans Souci (1)

Won 1 - 0

Semi Final

Goal Scorer: Emily

With the regular season now over, and the reward of a semi-final spot now realised, it was time for our girls to turn it up a notch and see just how far they could make it in this competition. Our opponents today were Sans Souci (1) who we saw as great competition throughout the year, but also a team that we always seemed to have wood over, if only just. Today's game was at a neutral venue, Olds Park, but hopefully, that wouldn't be an issue. Coach Paul gave a well-deserved captain's role to Olivia who led her enthusiastic players on to the pitch.

The game started at a furious pace and one could tell immediately that this was no routine game, there was an added intensity on and off the field, everyone knowing this was do or die for either team. As soon as the ref's whistle blew, we were on the attack and for the first 5 minutes or so, we pretty much made camp in the opposition's half. Coach Paul started the game with a 4-5-1 combination that ensured we had plenty for attack and defence as required. Olivia was mostly on her own up front but still managed to receive plenty of ball from the midfield with Sarah, Emily and Monique all eager to contribute. We managed a few half shots in those opening minutes whilst defenders and attackers were just sorting each other out.



When the need arose, our defenders were keen to make their mark as well. Jessica, again, drew the ball like a magnet and managed plenty of clearing kicks to get us out of trouble. Lucinda chimed in as well with a couple of long chases down the left flank, maintaining the pressure on their runners and always getting the

better of them. Sophia, safe as houses as usual in goal, didn't need to touch the ball often but when she did it was always with the surety we have come to expect.

Coach Paul, ringing in the changes a bit more slowly today, brought Ruby on after about a quarter of the game where she and Alyssa again teamed up to form their usual fortress at the back, nothing much getting through them today as per usual. Great effort and great combination girls. Not long after, Sophie came on to enter the fray giving Toni a well-earned rest. Toni ran plenty of metres during the half and Sophie continued without missing a beat.



As the half wore on, the game turned into a pretty tight contest with neither team willing to give anything away, play starting to be concentrated between the two midfields. Nothing showed this more than when a couple of the Sans Souci girls both went for a header at the same time, resulting in a nasty collision and some time on the sidelines. We were starting to win most of the battles out there and find a bit more space to move when Olivia managed to find Emily unmarked with her signature pass. Emily had just a few metres to run when she managed a great left foot shot at goal leaving

no chance for the goalkeeper whatsoever and hurtling into the back of the net.

The girls all rushed to hug each other and the ground erupted with cheering with everyone knowing just how important it was to open the scoring.

With that goal, the girls were on a bit of a high and started playing full of confidence. We again made most of the running and had a few more opportunities up front, managing to bring off a couple of really good saves from their 'keeper. All of the girls were contributing well and the determination in their eyes was palpable as they fought hard in both attack and defence. Towards the end of the half, Giovanna had her opportunity and made the most of it with some great defence, showing all the skills procured over the season. The ref's whistle blew again to end the half and the girls earned themselves a worthy break, a big drink of water and a one goal lead in the game.

Coach Paul kept the talk simple during the break, emphasising the need for everyone to give one more mighty effort during the half and to work for each other. The girls went on, refreshed and keen again for another big 30 minutes. The opening stanza of the half started slowly with both sides still sorting each other out. As the half progressed we managed a few more opportunities up front but just couldn't find the right area for a shot. A few came in but they were saved or just off the mark. Tia in midfield did really well at the start with plenty of good passes through to the girls up front and enjoying another tussle with her namesake.

If we were to keep our lead, our defence had to be watertight and as the half progressed, it was Sienna who came to the fore. By her own admission she was probably a bit quiet in the first half, but she was everywhere in defence in the second half. The Sans Souci girls knew they had to score but it wasn't going to happen whilst Sienna was in their way. For more times than I can remember, she nullified any attack coming her way and was the thorn in the side of the opposition. On the other side of the field it was Monique and Jessica doing their part. Monique ran herself ragged and helped out in defence and in attack and again used her trademark throw-ins to great effect. Jessica made the most of her ambidexterity with



her feet and even managed a couple of really good headers.

From about the halfway point of the 2nd half, we were camped for long spells deep in opposition territory where Sarah really came into her own. She showed great spirit and determination in every chase and every run and epitomised the effort of the team. Along with the rest of the team, we were winning the one-on-one's with Sarah showing us the way. She also managed to reel off a couple of shots with the closest saved only by the post. Toni and Sophie up front had a few opportunities too, getting the better of their bigger opposition with even bigger heart. (See Photo)

As the half and the game neared completion, our girls continued to work hard to seal the game. The 'game sealer' just wasn't coming but we were confident our defence was strong enough to keep a clean sheet. Sophia again didn't handle much of the ball in goals which meant the defence was doing a great job, but if she did, as usual she exuded confidence and anticipation.

The girls were looking tired toward the end, but with no further addition to the scoreboard, the ref's whistle blew and it was game over. The girls gave themselves a congratulatory and well deserved hug knowing they earned their win today. We lived to play another day ready for the preliminary final next Sunday when we will meet Ramsgate RSL. The girls are in form at the right end of the season so who knows where we can go from here. Good luck girls and very well played.



17 A v ASOW

Won 2 - 0

Goal Scorers: Conor / Rhys

I am so happy to report that after the many tribulations the U17As experienced this season, we ended the season with another good win following last week's 'demolition' of finals bound Sans Souci. We finish the season with a 2-0 win vs ASOW at their ground, in a match controlled by Lugarno boys, showing the same qualities that returned the team to the As: teamwork, good passing and even better defending, topped up by good finishing.

The way the scores went, we managed to avoid the wooden spoon which our Coach engraved and brought to the match to show the boys that we needed the win to avoid that 'trophy'. This meant that our traditional 'enemy' Hurstville Glory came last, so in short a Coach's dream ☺!

Our Coach also brought a special award for the most improved player in 2014 which was won by Sam El Debel.

This season we had to deal with so many issues, which included a couple of boys that decided to have a break from football with half the season to go, a player missing several weeks with an overseas trip, about 4 players impacted with injuries ranging from our goalie with a broken thumb for 2 games to one of our midfielders with hamstring tear (twice) for overall 6 games, a few more boys going on holidays when our numbers were already thin in addition to the more standard couple of suspensions.

Its likely that this was the last match as a team for this group of boys as some may take a break to concentrate on HSC, some may play for AA team and some may play PL.

As a Coach, it has been a pleasure coaching this group for the last 3 years.



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