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# ***AROUND THE GROUNDS***

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## **6 Lugarno Teams playing Grand Finals!!**

### **Congratulations to:**

12C, 13B, 16B, AAD & AAF – who will all be playing Grand Finals this Saturday  
& AAA(1) who will be playing the following Friday night

Well done players, coaches & managers, and good luck!

### **Grand Finals draw**

Saturday:

- 12C - 8.30am at OKI Jubilee vs Oatley FC
- 13B - 10.55am at Scarborough No 7 vs Scots FC
- 16B - 2.00pm at OKI Jubilee vs Connells Point
- AAD - 2.30pm at Scarborough No 7 vs Forest Rangers
- AAF - 2.30pm at Memorial Park vs Forest Rangers

### **Good Luck to all Lugarno teams**

**If you can, please go and watch a game or two and cheer on our boys!**

### **Results of our other teams who also played finals:**

- AAA (1) Reserves, having led 2-0 against Penshurst West, lost 3-2
- AAA (2) Firsts went down 2-1 in a close game to Sans Souci
- U18A's team conceded a late goal to go down 2-1 to Connells Point
- 14Girls A team playing Bexley North in the final narrowly missed securing a grand final place after they went down 2-1. The team missed a penalty kick with just four minutes left to play

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## Canteen & Field Set Up for next weekend:

Date	Team(s)	Start Time	Finish Time	Duty Required
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	11I	7:30 am		Set Up Midi Field (field must be set up ½ hr before the game, KO 8.30am)
	7B 5			Pull down <b>SSF1 &amp; 2</b> after the game
	11 A			Pull down Midi field after the game
	10B 2	7:30 am	9:30 am	Canteen Set Up. BBQ Duty. Canteen Duty
	6B 1	9:30 am	11:30 am	BBQ Duty. Canteen Duty
	7B 6	11:30 am	1:30 pm	Canteen Duty. BBQ Duty. Clean up Canteen.
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug			No games on our fields	



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## Match Reports:

### 6B 3 v Peshurst West

**POTM:** Jarvis

This game followed a very similar pattern to last week... an early lead, followed by a tougher 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Samuel got us off to a flyer, winning the ball off the kick-off and streaking ahead for an instant 1-0 lead. Great goal and a promising start.

Only moments later Boyley followed up on his mate's goal with some magic of his own, making it 2-0 after what seemed 2 minutes.

The smaller field meant passing and control was important, and Lucian's expanding skill set had him excelling through midfield. He was well supported by Hunter with the 2 linking up for a narrow miss to end the half.

It was great to have Zach L back, with his skill and aggression helping us to stay close to a talented Peshurst team.

Jarvis gave us plenty of involvement, making a number of runs and also some key defensive clearances as well. His outstanding overall game earned him Player of the Week this week!

The small field made it a bit of a stop/start game but the boys did well regardless. Just like last week, we got off to a great start and then tired towards the end. Heading in to our last game of the year, we'll be looking for the boys to have plenty of fun and put in a full 30 minute effort using all the skills they've learnt during the year.



### **8B 1 v Forest Rangers**

**Goal Scorer:** Remi Theophile / Ashton Frawley

**POTM:** Elouise McMahon

Another great game of soccer today, we again played Forest Rangers this week.

Big congratulations to Elouise, our Player of the Match, who was a fantastic allrounder this weekend. A well deserved trophy.

Remi and Ashton were on fire again this week with their brilliant goals and great plays.

Oli played brilliantly again this week, he has had a great season and tried his hardest every single game.

Final Score: Lugarno 2 – Forest Rangers 2



### **9B 3 v Oatley FC**

**Goal Scorers:** Emma / Toddy

**POTM:** Daisy

The game didn't get off to the best start - for starters half the team didn't arrive until 1 minute before kick-off! Plus we actually had a referee for the first time in a long time, and no one actually knew what to do! But we got on with it, and the team eventually made the field.

You would think with such a disjointed warm-up we might be a bit flustered - but no, the kids got on with it from the start, dominating the game in attack and defence.

We passed the ball around well and made some great tackles. Toddy threatened on goal a few times but unfortunately couldn't convert, but it was good to see the build-up play from the team which created those goal-scoring opportunities.



We then got a free kick within goal scoring range, and it was given to Emma to take the shot. The opposition 'parked the bus' by setting up a wall with the entire team in it, but Emma struck it well and it rocketed past the wall and the keeper and into the back of the net. Lugarno were up 1-0 and Emma got her first goal of the season!

We continued the great performance in the first half, and another through ball from the defence sent Toddy on his way, and this time he struck it sweetly into the back of the net - Lugarno were now up 2-0 and we went into half time with big smiles on their faces. The oranges tasted extra sweet today!

The second half was similar to the first, and we created some good chances up front. Matilda had a great shot that hit the post, and Anika also had a good chance which just narrowly missed. They were both pumped from their goals the week before and could sense the opportunities to score. It took a great corner from Emma and a fine strike from Toddy to get our 3rd goal of the match, putting us up 3-0, which is how the game finished in the end. We were strong in both defence and attack, and the scoreline could have been more if it had not been for some very near misses.

The coaches comments for each player:

Anika - has really improved towards the back-end of the season, and played really well again today, narrowly missing her 2nd goal of the season.

Aiden - an even better game than last week, he is continually improving - today's new trick was a great header where he leapt off the ground and showed fantastic technique - someone's been practicing!

Daisy - for an 8:30am game she was fantastic today - very strong in defence and midfield, making some great runs and excellent tackles

Yushra - seems to like the midfield role and is adapting well, she always plays with a smile on her face but she is tough as nails this one!

Jordan - close to scoring his first goal of the season, he had some great chances up front. The second half he went back in goals, and made a couple of great saves

Toddy - had plenty of shots on goal this week - he got 2 goals but could have had more. Expectations are high with Toddy, but for good reason, the kid can play! And he loves when he scores because he gets to do his Ronaldo celebration impersonation!

Emma - she was back this week and didn't miss a beat. Very strong in defence as our sweeper, and so happy that she got her first goal for the season - and what a cracking goal it was! Well done!

Matilda - Nearly added to her goal scoring record, she had a great shot in the second half that hit the post. Also made some good tackles in defence so she is becoming a bit of an all-rounder!

Our player of the match today was Daisy, who woke up extra early and with a fire in her belly! She played out of her skin and made her team proud! Well done!

It was great to get the victory today, which just so happened to be our 3rd win on the trot (and 4th for the season)! We could get used to this winning thing! Last game of the season is next week, so hopefully we can make it 4 on the trot!

Well done 9B3's!



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## **11I v Peakhurst United**

**Goal Scorers:** Nick 2 / Daniel / Peter

**POTM:** Too many to mention

Honorable mentions –

Michael & Patrick for their Goal Keeping clean sheets

Nick for scoring a double plus first goal of the season

Daniel for his first goal of the season (a header)

Anthony for 4 goal assists (amazingly all from corners)

What proud parents we were on Saturday. In what has been an up and down season the lads put on a bit of a masterclass for us against a team who were always threatening to score. Again, well done to our team of defenders, particularly Jono and Cameron, who appear at the right time and get the job done. Michael was outstanding, as he has been a number of times this season at Goalkeeper. Anthony was everywhere and his corners were amazing. Absolutely ecstatic to see all our goals coming from corners with our boys pouncing on half opportunities. Was so happy for Daniel to be rewarded with his first goal of the season after giving so much effort all the time. Peter was Mr Consistent as always and added to his healthy season tally to give us a 2-0 lead at half time.

We held off some determined attack after half time with Patty having his first shot at keeper, which then allowed us the freedom to give our reliable backs a go up front, and didn't Nick Puckeridge relish the opportunity - absolutely nailing a belter into the back of the net from another perfect corner from Anthony! After helping to save so many goals this season at fullback, it was nice to see him score one and then promptly put another one in for his 2<sup>nd</sup> of the match. You little beauty PUCKO!!!

Thanks to some desperate saves from Patty the boys maintained a clean sheet, but what was most impressive was the teamwork, particularly with their passing. Owen was scintillating down the right wing and created a plethora of scoring opportunities for our forwards including Hunter who nearly scored himself a couple of times.

Great job boys, now let's see if we can finish it off in this manner in our final game.

Score Lugarno 4 – Peakhurst Utd 0



## **12C v ASOW**

**Won 3 - 1**

**Semi Final**

**Goal Scorer:** Daniel 2 / Zack

Our second semi had arrived and today was our ticket to the GF if we were good enough. I was a little worried about our boys as I think whilst we were strong the week prior I think the moment and

nerves just got to us a little which, to be honest is normal, I think, as this is our boys first finals series.

Was another early one down at Bicentennial East, we had only played in this area twice over the year but I felt with a generously wide field it did suit our play and I had noticed the conditions the week prior so it gave us some advantage to win the toss today.

We had spent quite some time on positional play and 1 v 1 training through the week so I was hoping today would be our day as ASOW were a strong team up front and very good on the quick break.

As the boys rolled in for warm up, there was an air of excitement but also an air of nervousness which I think should be expected and something we can harness as energy if we can channel it right. I picked the quietest corner away from the gathering crowd, who I felt shared the same nervousness and excitement, as I just wanted the boys to not feel the outside influence of the building excitement.

The boys looked confident in the warm up and I could see they had arrived to play so, with the last few words of direction and encouragement, they took to the field.

It was a good toss to win as we ran up the hill and into the wind. The opening minutes found us defending deep into our half for long periods of time and did not allow for us to push forward on too many occasions. In saying that, Noah and our defending 4 which included Dominic, Alexander, Nathon and Sean, were super as they read each play and defended and cleared well. The opposition won several corners and again we cleared the area well.

Our starting mid field covered a huge area early as we tried to win the ball and push forward but our opposition and conditions made this difficult as Harrison, Gabriel, Tommy and Ross worked both ends of the field with supporting runs for both defense and attack - they don't call it the engine room for nothing!!

Up front we had changed direction a little and had the 2 forwards split with Adam playing under Daniel in the hope to get an extra body into the midfield to support that area as we had lack of opportunities last week to this part of the field. Early on, Adam's role/influence in the mid field area was excellent as we put pressure on the ball carriers early. This did leave Daniel on his own a little up front but I felt this was the way to go.

We defended probably for the first 20 minutes and looked strong, but with a little break in play saw a quick raid that our opponents took advantage and took the first goal 1-Nil. As a coach you quickly take check and, whilst disappointing for the boys, there was still a bounce in their step as we lined up for the kick off.

We had also made some changes and had brought on Zack to support up front, Liam, Daniel C and Tim into the midfield for some fresh legs.

We pushed on and again were strong on the ball. We managed to find an equaliser with a great ball from Daniel C up the side line to find Daniel W at speed who fed the ball to a waiting Zack to finish which took us to the break at 1-1.

Not a whole lot to say at half time as the boys were strong - basic message was to continue to push and stay in the game.

Our second half, based on the score line, sounds like we had run away with it but this was not the case. Our boys worked extremely hard and, with the conditions in our favour, we pushed forward for most of the half and in end won the game 3 -1.

For me the defining moment was the visual tempo lift and effort with 12 minutes to go as they really took the game away from our opponents and pushed hard. Our second goal came from a great finish from Daniel who also converted a penalty to finish the scoring at 3 -1.

As the game was called to a finish there was a sign of relief as we had made our way to the Grand Final - but as I mentioned to the boys that was not luck but effort and was a sign of the improvements we have made throughout the year, and was well deserved.

Bring on the GF.



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**13B v Scots FC**

**Drew 1 - 1**

**Semi Final (5 Aug)**

**Goal Scorer: Saul**

With a strong wind going down and then across the pitch, Lugarno started strongly but still sat back deep in defence, and after losing track of the ball, Scots got through to go ahead in the 5th minute.



The team responded and began to control more of the possession in the midfield, but couldn't find the last pass or shot on goal, while Scots continued to look dangerous when they had space. Just before half time, Saul was about to slip through when the Scots defender brought him down and incurred a yellow card, but we couldn't make use of the free kick just outside the box.

After the break, Lugarno started to stretch Scots more with the width of the pitch, with room perhaps opening up as Scots tired a little - it looks like they'll only have 10 players for their finals campaign as well. In the 40<sup>th</sup> minute, after receiving a pass from Nate on the left, Christian then released Saul once again, who finished nicely to bring the game back onto even terms at 1-all. Although Lugarno pushed hard and had the best of the field position in the remainder of normal time, they weren't able to find the winning goal.

Extra time was much the same, with Josi almost making use of a couple of half chances - with one shot deflecting off traffic and another going straight to the keeper - while Scots never really threatened. They didn't need to, however, as the draw saw them straight through the Grand Final, whereas Lugarno will need play in the Elimination Final against Connells Point, who knocked off the fast finishing Glory FC 3-2 in extra time.

**13B v Scots FC**

**Won 5 - 0**

**Elimination Final**

**Goal Scorers: Josi 3 / Andrei / Ryan D**



A slightly different look this week saw Eric go back into goal keeper with a plantar fascia strain, and regular 'keeper Ryan D join Mitchell as one of our starting subs, with Ryan C unable to make it at all. Our first game against this particular Connells Point side had been a 1 -all draw, while the second was a 4 goals to 2 win.

Connells started strongly, getting the better of the very early stages before Lugarno settled and got the ball into more dangerous positions. Eric was called into action in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute when a long shot from distance took a tricky bounce, but he palmed it away safely. The team adapted well to a reshuffle when Andrei came off with a foot injury, but he was able to return shortly afterwards, and in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute he delivered a good throw in for Josi to run onto; although the Connells keeper came out to try and defuse the situation, pressure from Nate saw him fumble the ball and Josi able to collect it and shoot into the open goal to put us up 1 goal. Connells continued to work hard, but although they won a free kick, Niko and the defence were up to the task. It was Niko's pass from deep in defence that hit Saul, who ran into space and then sent a beautifully weighted pass to Josi, who was able to sidestep the oncoming goal keeper and make it 2-0 just a few minutes before half time.

Lugarno returned from the break looking even sharper than before, and after some half chances, Josi's header in the 34th minute was only just knocked away by the 'keeper: in the resulting scramble, however, one of the Connells players handled the ball. Andrei made no mistake with the penalty to make it 3-0, and although they still had some moments, the Rovers never really threatened. In the space of a few minutes at the 48 minute mark, the Connells 'keeper was forced into a trio of separate saves, and was helpless to do anything about the last when Ryan D was able to slot home a great pass from Josi, which the team celebrated with him. Markus made some great intercepts and runs from right back, and when Saul's arm was pulled as he almost got free, Josi put away a terrific free kick to make it 5-0.

A comprehensive victory in the end and a great way to book a return match against Scots in next week's Grand Final.

### **18A v Connells Point**

**Lost 2 - 1**

**Semi Final**

Unfortunately, our under 18A's conceded a late goal to go down 2-1 to Connells Point, which ended their run in the Finals series. But well done to the boys and coach Claudio for a great season.





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### AAA (1)

**Reserve Grade                      Semi-Final – 12 August 2017 v Penshurst West                      Lost 2 - 3**

**Goal Scorers:** Daniel / Brandon

After ending the regular season in 3<sup>rd</sup> position, we faced Penshurst West in the elimination semi-final. Down on numbers and with 1<sup>st</sup> Grade also involved in the semi-finals, we knew this was going to be a real challenge. To their credit, the team turned up ready to play from the opening whistle. Despite losing Eric early on with an ankle sprain and Nick mid-way through the half with an eye injury, we went ahead after 30 minutes when Daniel scored with a cracking header from a corner. We went to half-time up 1-0.

Our bench was barren as the 2<sup>nd</sup> half commenced, but an early goal to Brandon doubled our lead and gave us hope we could get the win despite the adversity. Understandably, we tired as the half wore on and Penshurst West began to get on top. Midway through the half it was 2-1 and not long after, it was all even at 2-2. Another injury followed when Bill tore his Achilles tendon and needed to be carried from the field. The guys were fighting hard and with extra-time looking likely, the Referee awarded Penshurst West a very dubious penalty only minutes from full-time. They converted from the spot and our season was over.

All in all, this was a most courageous effort from the team to round out a very successful season. With only 4 points after 6 rounds, the thought of even being in the semi-finals seemed optimistic to say the least. But by season's end, the team had proven themselves to be the equal of any other team in the competition. With a little more luck on the injury front, we would surely have been going around again next week. That's football!!

**1st Grade                                      Semi-Final – 12 August 2017 v Rockdale Suns                                      Won 3 - 2**

**Goal Scorers:** Jarrod R 2 / Mitchell

1<sup>st</sup> Grade faced up against Rockdale Suns in the major semi-final. With a few players missing and having been defeated both times by Rockdale during the regular season, we knew it would take a big effort to get a result. After surviving early pressure, we got the lift we needed after 20 minutes when Mitchell scored from close range after great lead-up work from Matt F, Chris & Jarrod R. This goal lifted the team and put Rockdale under pressure. As they pressed forward, we were becoming more dangerous ourselves on the break and our front 3 players were causing their defence all kinds of trouble. Less than 10 minutes later, it was 2-0 Lugarno as Jarrod scored after a great ball from

Chris. An upset was on the cards!! Nearing half-time, it looked as though Rockdale had got a goal back, but Tim pulled off a miraculous save in goals. This was a real turning point as almost immediately afterwards, Jarrod was away at the other end to score his second goal to put us up 3-0 at half-time.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half was always going to be tough, with all our substitutes having already played a full Reserve Grade game. We needed to prevent them scoring early in the half and that is just what the guys did. Despite being under pressure for much of the half, we managed to hang on until around 12 minutes from time when Rockdale scored a cracking goal. Unfortunately, they scored a second goal less than 5 minutes later and we had a tense last 8/10 minutes to survive and get the win. We were all pleased to hear that full-time whistle!!

A great all-round performance from the boys. The team put in for the full 90 minutes, defending stoutly and playing some quality football in attack. Despite the win, nobody was getting carried away and we know it will take another similar effort (plus another 10%) to take the title in 2 weeks' time.

A week off next weekend before the Grand Final against either Rockdale Suns or Sans Souci on Friday evening (August 25<sup>th</sup>) at Kogarah Jubilee.

We look forward to seeing plenty of supporters there on the 25<sup>th</sup> to support the team!!





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**Goal Scorer: Eddy 2**

After last week's disappointing result, the boys were keen to make amends against the other Rangers team. Sticking to what worked in our successful finals run last season, we reverted back to a 4-4-2 formation.

We started the game well in what was a tightly fought first half. After both sides missed some good chances, we opened the scoring midway through the first half. A through ball put Eddy one-on-one with the keeper. His initial shot was saved, but Eddy put away the rebound. Lugarno 1-0.

Our joy didn't last long though as we lost Bernie for the rest of the match after re-injuring his shoulder. That left us with just one substitute on the bench. We went into halftime with a deserved lead.

As expected, Rangers came out for the 2nd half fired up. As the half wore on, Rangers dominated possession and we struggled to get out of our own half. Our defence was hanging on...until the final few minutes of the game. Rangers equalised via an inch perfect header off a corner. That sent the game into extra time with Rangers holding all the momentum.

We regrouped and got the perfect start to extra time. Once again, Eddy ran onto a through ball and coolly finished past the keeper. Now needing to score 2 goals, Rangers pushed their tall timber forward. But as we did all day, we remained solid in defence and worked as a unit. We escaped some close calls and finished 2-1 victors.

It was an exhausting and hard fought win by the boys. A fantastic effort to make our 3rd consecutive GF next week.



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