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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/B	Lugarno	3	1	Rockdale Suns	AAW/B	Lugarno	2	3	Connells Point
AA/C	Lugarno (2)	1	3	Lugarno (1)	AAW/C	Carss Park (2)	1	0	Lugarno - 18G
AA/D	Lugarno	4	1	Rockdale Suns	O35/B	Forest Rangers	5	0	Lugarno
AA/E	Rockdale Raiders	3	0	Lugarno	PWL/1	Forest Rangers	2	2	Lugarno
AA/F	Lugarno (1)	2	2	Lugarno (2)	U13/Girls	Rockdale Suns (1)	1	3	Lugarno
AA/G	Lugarno	1	3	Oatley RSL	U16G/A	Lugarno	17	0	Forest Rangers (2)
PL1/1	Banksia Tigers	2	0	Lugarno	U16G/C	Lugarno	4	0	Ramsgate RSL
PLR/R	Banksia Tigers	0	1	Lugarno					
U12/B	Rockdale Suns	6	0	Lugarno					
U13/C	Lugarno	0	0	Sans Souci					
U14/C	Lugarno	0	4	Bexley North					
U15/A	Lugarno	1	3	Arncliffe Aurora	Friday				
U17/1 8	Oatley RSL (2)	1	3	Lugarno	O45/A	Lugarno	1	0	Oatley RSL

Match Reports:

6B 3 v Forest Rangers

Goal Scorers: Zachary L 4 / Hunter 2 / Kyla 1

POTM: Zachary L

The team has improved out of sight, with an unbelievable effort this weekend that they should all be proud of.

After a tight start to the game, the friends and family of the U6B3's came to life with our first goal of the season. Thanks to some fantastic lead up work by Zachary B, we pushed forward as a team and Zachary L scored an awesome goal. The team seem to take confidence from that goal, and shortly afterwards Hunter sped away downfield to score a breakaway goal of his own.

Grace played with plenty of energy and her huge kicks made it difficult for Rangers to get into our half. Both Grace and Zachary B's excellent overall game helped the team to plenty of scoring opportunities, and by half time we held a 4-0 advantage.

After looking dangerous all game and narrowly missing over the crossbar in the first half, Kyla was rewarded with a fantastic solo breakaway goal midway through the second half. This was a great reward for a continuing great attitude so far this season.

Zachary L put the finishing touches on a fantastic game, with a few more late goals. We would have been happy with 1 goal, but to score 7 was a great result for all the players. The improvement week to week has been incredible, and most of all they all seem to be very happy with the way the season is going. We look
AROUND THE GROUNDS – 15th/16th/17th April 2016

forward to having both Jarvis and Samuel back on the field next week, who'll most certainly help us continue to improve.

Congratulations to the all the players for their sportsmanship and a great team effort.



7B 6 v Connells Point

POTM: Luca Gerbino

What is it about school holidays that makes everyone slow down?

After a win last week due to a forfeit, this week was a little harder. Our kids were slow to move and lacked enthusiasm.

We faced a very professional Rovers team and were defeated convincingly.

Nonetheless Jake, Felipe, Joshua and Brooklyn didn't give up and kept going.

A huge welcome to our new team mate Luca, who clearly had his Weet Bix in the morning and chased the ball to the last minute.

Well done kids for not giving up.



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8B 1 v Carrs Park

Goal Scorers: Josh 4 / Tristan 4 / Oskar 2 / Piper 2

POTM: Michael

Another sunny day and an early kick off to start the weekend... This time up it was Carrs Park at home!

Again, the stands were packed to cheer on the ever-improving U8B1's... even the Singaporean's had heard about us from across the waters and had sent in some international support (ok, it was Piper's dad Grant, but he had been over there on business; so surely that counts)☺

In the warm-up we looked good, the kids were laughing, passing and their shooting skills seemed to have sky-rocketed to a new level.... it wasn't just Oskar trying to take the keepers head off!



As kick-off drew closer, we started to count how many players the opposition had.... it seemed that Carrs Park only had 4.... So, the U8B1's huddled together and made a team decision that 'Sportsmanship' is best.... so we decided to play 4 v 4 until their other players arrived...

As soon as the whistle blew we drove forward and peppered the Carrs Park goalie, only to be denied on a couple of occasions.... Not to be deterred this only seemed to heighten our want for a goal, which didn't take too long with Tristan opening the scoring...

The scene had been set and it seemed everyone wanted to be part of the action, not to be outdone up stepped both Oskar and Josh to make it 3 nil in a matter of minutes.

We rolled on the substitutes to keep the legs fresh and within minutes both Abbie and Lachie had goal scoring chances as they dinked past the Carrs Park defenders... but couldn't quite sneak it into the net. Lily's tough tackling and dribbling nearly created a goal too!

With the half-time whistle soon approaching we kept pushing forward at every opportunity and the goals kept coming.... With Josh, Tristan, Oskar and Piper adding to the tally!

At half time we regrouped and decided to offer our friends from Carrs Park a couple of our players so we could make it 6 v 6 – (Thank you Abbie, Michael, Lily and Tristan for helping out in the 2nd half)...

As we started the 2nd half, 8 goals to the good didn't seem enough.... With Michael out of the sticks and dribbling forward he wanted to be part of the action... dribbling down the wing at every opportunity!

It wasn't long before Michael assisted Piper and Josh to get on the score sheet again.

Just as the game was coming to a close all the kids wanted more, Josh darted forward and dribbled past the oncoming defence who lifted the ball over the keeper yards out of the box... cracking strike to round off the scoring into the roof of the net!

Whilst we won today, the true winner was our Sportsmanship.... 'Play fair and be good sports is our motto'.... At the end of the game one of their supporters came over to me and thanked us for our friendship and our sportsmanship – well done kids, keep up the great work!

It was so difficult to pick a 'Player of the Week' today as you all played so well, but Michael and his goal-keeping skills in the first half and his dribbling skills in the second half just edged it!



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10I v Ramsgate

Goal Scorers: Anthony Pejovski / Lucy Finn

POTM: Lucy Finn

With Coach Harry and Mitchell away this week, Michelle and Hamish took the lead with coaching against a very strong Ramsgate team. Although we were at home the advantage wasn't enough for us to get up this week.

Our player of the match – Lucy was keeper in the first half saving numerous goals, then moved into attack in the second successfully scoring a great goal for the team.

Anthony also scored through swift passing during an attacking phase in the first half, with Owen, Alex and Daniel providing momentum needed for the strike.

The team ran their hearts out this week chasing everything that moved, with big efforts from Hunter, Nicholas, Emmanuel, Tom and Michael.

Our 'header king' Finlay didn't disappoint with a few big hits in the first half before moving to keeper in the second.

A huge thanks again to Michelle and Hamish for running the training drills on Friday night and coaching the team on Saturday.

A special mention goes to Ref Mario for stepping in and taking charge on a motivated, vocal team this week....thanks Mario.

We are on the road this week for the first time this season, heading off to our match against Carss Park.



11B 2 v Oatley RSL

Saturday morning and mid school holidays - could there be any other place, better than at your home ground first thing with your team to play soccer - I say no!

This week's fixture saw us facing off with Oatley RSL and if history plays any part, this game was going to be close. Once again we were the first game on Gannons Midi with an 8.30 kick off.

It was great to see the boys arriving right on time as we needed to address our slow start last week and it gave a little more time to discuss our

approach to the game and the positioning and structure for the day. The message again was based around this and more emphasis on working the ball from our back line and through the flankers and back through



the middle in our attacking 1/4. Whilst this seems like a simple task, it takes practice and a team approach to ensure your own positioning is in line with your teammates.

The first half was a mixed bag as I could not say we had a slow start but we weren't at our best either, as our opponents took the advantage as we played the first 8 minutes or so in our last defending quarter, we held strong but the weight of possession saw the first goal - 1 - 0 to our opponents.

Whilst this was not the ideal start it certainly



gave the boys the shake up and desire to attack and earn the ball. The next 10 minutes or so was all us, as we swiftly moved the ball around and started to show the structure we had been working on. It allowed us to move the ball quickly but also put our opponents under pressure, as they needed to chase and cover large areas.

Our first goal came from a solid play that started wide and came back through the middle to find Tommy at pace who needed to beat two for a clear shot - 1 - 1 tells the story and a great finish. The pressure continued as their goal keeper needed to save several shots as it looked a little like aerial ping pong but like any good striker, Zack popped up at the right time and finished it to the back of the net to move the score to 2 - 1. As the half closed out we conceded a late goal which in my opinion was against the run of play but nevertheless moved the score sheet to 2 - 2.



The message at half time was more of the same, it was a solid contest but we were wearing them down with our ball movement and I did not think it would be long before we would be on top.

Second half started at twice the speed and saw us on top early, the combination of Tommy and Daniel proved hard to stop as they were running and beating their opponents at pace which fed both Ross and Cody with plenty of ball and in turn pushed us into their half and that's where we wanted to play. Our next goal came with a sole run from Daniel and a great finish to find a well deserved third goal for the day.

To our opponents' credit they still pushed and it was pleasing to see the back line holding well, we have been experimenting with a couple of stoppers and today both Alexander and Jonathan did well as they not only held the defense line but also offered attacking speed in our half which is very important. Today saw Sean back from holidays and paired with Luke as the two outside backs did a great job slowing the play, goal keeper Liam was also called on late in the second half as he worked into the game and protect the line with confidence.

As the game was coming to a close, Cody saw the last opportunity and was well deserved as he took the ball forward and closed out the game with a great hit to finish the score at 4 - 2.

Today's game was a huge contrast to last week, as we met a solid team that gave us a fair contest - was a great day and a great win

Well done U11B2s.



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13C v Sans Souci

Drew 0 - 0

The two undefeated teams after the first two rounds came together, with the team scoring the most goals (Sans Souci, 13) coming up against the team that had conceded the least (Lugarno, 2). After a slight delay while Sans Souci sorted out their player cards, we got under way at Gannons 6 with only 1 sub on the Lugarno bench, with Cooper away and Jaden having hurt his wrist; Josiah came back into the team after his bout of illness.

Sans Souci set up with a very high line across their back 4, looking to catch our forwards off side - their supporters were fully on board with this strategy, helpfully providing the referee with plenty of free advice whenever Logan, Alex or Josi were even remotely offside (and sometimes when they weren't).

Lugarno generally had an upper hand in the midfield, with Andrei, Billy, Spyridon, Jordan and Alex generating the better chances for Josi and Logan: the Sans Souci keeper made a few saves, and at times they were dangerous on the counter, but our rejigged back line of Bailey, Peter, Jake, and Nate covered most things so that Ben only had one or two easy saves to make.

The referee was applying the 25m rule, where the goal keeper was allowed to pass sideways to one of their backs without any pressure from the opposition until that back had touched the ball: Sans Souci weren't really able to generate much play through the midfield with this tactic, as Billy was able to intercept a lot of the next ball that they played and get the ball into dangerous areas, but Sans Souci scrambled well on most occasions to clear the ball. We went to the half time break 0 all in a very close game.

Sans Souci certainly had a physical presence, which Lugarno handled admirably, albeit with some frustrations, and on the resumption and a strong challenge from Alex on the right wing, it was strange to hear the Sans Souci coach call for "revenge with goals", as if we were the ones putting the shoulder in; they put together their most dangerous passage of play shortly thereafter, with their left wing rounding Bailey and making a run towards goal: Bailey's recovery and chase applied enough pressure that the strongly hit shot went straight at Ben, who was able to block it down, before Peter arrived to clear the ball from the line, giving them their very first corner for the game on the 40th minute, which they hit into the side net. Lugarno then came close, with a short corner from Andrei allowed Jake to put in a beautiful cross that Logan met with a solid header, only to see it cannon off the top crossbar. 5 minutes later, Billy rounded the right back, put a cross past Josi to Alex, whose second touch just allowed the defence to arrive and put the ball out wide.

Lugarno continued to apply the pressure, with the keeper saving a low shot from Logan and reaching a high lob from Andrei from a fair way out. Their counter ended in a weak shot that Ben easily saved, before we were in their box once again, with the ball bouncing off Logan's arm in an accidental handball. A skewed shot from Billy went wide on the left, before full time sounded two minutes later.

Overall, it felt like Lugarno had the better of the game, getting the ball into dangerous positions without quite putting together that final shot to stretch the 'keeper: Sans Souci had far fewer chances, but could easily have gone ahead from that one chance: nonetheless, it was a good performance just lacking that last killer blow.

Next week, we play Carss Park, who had a surprise 4-all draw against Ramsgate RSL - it's not entirely clear if they were missing players because of school holidays or if Ramsgate are a better team than their 1-7 loss to Rockdale in Round 2 would indicate, whom Carss Park beat in the 1st round 4-1 to give something of a paper-scissors-rock uncertainty to the division: we remain in 2nd position on the ladder behind Sans Souci, level on 7 points but behind on goal difference.



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13 Girls v Rockdale Suns

Won 3 - 1

Goal Scorers: Tamar Tchamkertenian / Alanna Caracoglia / Anastacia Stamatelatos

POTM: Anastacia Stamatelatos

Round three saw two undefeated teams face each other at Bicentennial Park as grey clouds hung above the ground threatening to dampen the morning with rain.

Lugarno started with a 4-4-2 formation with Charlie deputising in goals. Mia, Anastacia, Nadine and Celine formed the defence, while Stephanie, Monique, Tiana and Tamar formed the midfield. Jade and Taylah formed the attack while Alana P and Alanna comprised the interchange players. Both Madelen, who was on holidays, and Capri, who sustained an injury during the previous game, were not available for this game.

In a slow start to the game, Lugarno allowed the opposition to establish themselves in the Lugarno half from kick-off and some uncharacteristic hesitant defending gifted the opening goal to Rockdale Suns after just three minutes of play.

Conceding an early goal helped to awaken the team and soon they started playing more coherently and with better structure. Slowly the game dynamics changed and Lugarno started dominating both field position and possession deep inside the opposition's half. Stephanie and Tamar started using the flanks effectively to penetrate the opposition's defence and deliver crosses to their support play. Jade and Taylah were at the receiving end of some great attacking play but strong defending from the opposition helped repel Lugarno's attacks.

Sustained pressure finally paid dividends for Lugarno as Stephanie crossed for Tamar just inside the opposition's penalty area. Tamar cut inside a defender and kicked the ball past the Rockdale goal keeper for a deserved Lugarno equaliser.

With the game continuing to be played at Rockdale's end, the opposition were forced to play counter attacking football which was effectively neutralised by the Lugarno defence comprising of Charlie, Mia, Alana P, Anastacia, Nadine and Celine. Both Monique and Tiana were busy in the middle of the park, while Stephanie and Tamar made numerous runs delivering quality ball to Alanna, Jade and Taylah in attack.

Despite Lugarno's dominance of play, the score line frustratingly remained 1-1 at half-time. The team was instructed to be more clinical in front of goals, to provide more options for ball players and maintain better structure in midfield.

Lugarno kept the opposition under pressure in the early exchanges of the second half, succeeding to win consecutive corner kicks in the process and playing most of the game at the opposition's end. An exchange of passes between Mia and Anastacia helped release Stephanie on the right wing, as Stephanie advanced deep into the opposition's end she delivered a perfectly timed cross for Alanna who calmly kicked the ball in to give Lugarno a 2-1 lead with 15 minutes left to play.

Pursuing the decisive third goal scoring chances fell to Jade, Tamar, Alanna, Stephanie, and Taylah as they went close to scoring before a cross from Tamar found Anastacia who advanced the ball forward and, without further hesitation, fired a decisive shot beyond the Rockdale goal keeper to score Lugarno's third goal with eight minutes remaining in the game.

The final phases of the game saw a determined Lugarno defence hold firm as the opposition launched a number of attacks that were dealt with comfortably by second half goal keeper Monique.

While in football terms the game proved to be a bit scrappy the positive aspect was that for the second consecutive game the team came back after conceding an early goal. The composure shown after going behind is an encouraging aspect of the team's play so far this season. Another positive aspect is that the team is creating goal scoring opportunities at regular intervals and succeeding in dominating both field position and possession.

Good start to the season team for making it three out of three.

Thankfully the rain also stayed away!



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15A v Arncliffe Aurora

Lost 1 - 3

Goal Scorer: Kane Spiteri

POTM: Raffi Tchamkertenian

As the team arrived at Gannons Park, the starting line-up was still up in the air as a number of players had to be checked for niggling injuries.

Deploying a 4-4-2 formation, Will was ruled out of the game due to hamstring injury, with Raffi taking his position in goals. Harris, Jonah, David and Harrison made up the defence, while Peter was ruled fit to play despite coming into the game with an injured wrist as he took up his place in midfield alongside Stephen, Mitchell and James. Alex and Omar paired up in attack.

Kane, back from a cruise holiday just hours before, was amongst the interchange players along with Mark and Issac.

From kick off Lugarno pushed forward and in the opening minutes drove Arncliffe Aurora deep into their half. The game's opening effort on goal came by way of Stephen, who narrowly missed the target.

Despite the positive start Lugarno failed to neutralise a counterattack by Arncliffe Aurora which resulted in the opening goal after just four minutes of play.

The opposition lifted their game intensity after scoring the opening goal and they managed to establish good field position in Lugarno's half. A combination of determined defending by Lugarno was followed up by some fine attacking football that saw Lugarno go close to scoring on a number of occasions with scoring chances falling to Omar, Stephen and Kane.

With Lugarno failing to capitalise on scoring chances, Arncliffe Aurora, continuing to rely on rapid counterattacking football, twice caught out the Lugarno defence in the dying minutes of the half, resulting in a 3-0 score line at half time.

Some positional changes were made for the second half as the team was instructed to lift their intensity, play more compact football in defence and move the ball quicker to the flanks. The team was given the objective of winning the second half and not conceding any goals.

In what turned out to be a complete transformation of form Lugarno dominated the second half both in terms of positional play and goal scoring opportunities.

Omar hit the goal post and was denied another scoring opportunity while Stephen, James, Peter and Mitchell all went close to scoring. With Lugarno attacking, the defensive players featuring Harris, Issac, Jonah, David, Mark and Harrison, through some determined and focussed defending, managed to keep Arncliffe Aurora scoreless in the second half.

Some heroic defending by goal keeper Raffi, often putting his body in the line of fire and producing a number of one on one saves, helped earn him the player of the match nomination from the team.

Continued attacking football saw Lugarno score through Kane with five minutes left to play. During the final phase of the game both Peter and Omar created further goal scoring opportunities but the score line did not change finishing 3-1 in favour of Arncliffe Aurora.

In what turned out to be a game of two halves Arncliffe had the upper hand in the first half while Lugarno dominated and won the second half 1-0. Had Lugarno been more clinical in front of goals they could have easily drawn and even won the game based on the number of goal scoring opportunities created in the second half.

The encouraging point coming out of the game is that Lugarno players without exception were clearly disappointed that they failed to convert their chances into goals. They felt that having succeeded in taking the game to the opposition in the second half and having managed to create numerous chances that they should have at least managed to get a positive result out of the game.

Conceding an early goal for the second consecutive week allowed the opposition to establish themselves early and dictate the pattern of play in the first half until Lugarno was able to lift their game and compete more effectively with the opposition.

Finishing on the front foot against Arncliffe Aurora and dominating them to the extent Lugarno did in the second half is a credit to the growing maturity of the team.

Game stats

	Lugarno FC	Arncliffe Aurora
Total shots	15	16
Shots on target	7	9
Goals	1	3
Corners	4	2
Possession	46	54

15 Girls v Ramsgate RSL Won 4 - 0

Goal Scorers: Emily 3 / Olivia

With 3 players away and injured we had just one fresh reserve.

The first 10 mins we were caught a little off guard where we were working hard to win the ball but was giving it away to easy.

Then we kicked into gear and started creating chance after chance.

We did miss quite a few until Emily stepped up and put in 2 nicely taken goals to give us a 2-0 lead at half time.

Then second half we started playing smart football ball and conveyed 2 more goals - Emily with her 3rd and Olivia with a beautiful round the keeper and finish made it 4-0.

Special mentions our back line of Sienna, Alyssa, Monique and Taylah, the four of them really took charge and prevented any Ramsgate attack. Well done.

And Sarah and Tia both had their best games of the season so far and ran the midfield winning balls and passing them to players around them.

Emily and Jasmine did very well out wide, as well as Giovanna and Yasmine worked hard as well.

And Olivia with her usual never stop keep running and hard work policy she has week in week out.

And lastly Sofia our keeper who, in the past 3 games, has touched the ball less than 5 times.

3 wins from 3 games. 17 goals for non against so far.

Let's keep it going.



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AAC (1) v AAC (2)

Won 3 - 1

Goal Scorers: George A / Ton / Hughie

It was the battle of Lugarno on Saturday at Gannons Park with the match between a physical Lugarno 2 side up against the red hot Lugarno 1 team in an unfamiliar white away strip. Due to the late arrival of Lugarno 1 manager Sir Rob Rice, it was left to assistant coach Nathan Dean to mentally prepare the side and have us warmed up and raring to go.

The match started off at a steady pace with both sides trying to find their strides. At the 20th minute mark, the first change was made when Ton Assiouras was brought on to bring some speed into the match. Ton wasted no time when linking up with Bozic to make some darting runs on the left which quickly earned us a foul from approximately 30m out. I asked the first round free kick hero Hugh if I could have a hit and stepped up to the mark to beat the keeper with a curling long range strike.

The 1 goal deficit didn't seem to affect Lugarno 2 who made some strong attacking plays shortly after, leading to a few golden opportunities squandered. However, some positive team communication helped us steady as we gained momentum back for the last 15 minutes of the half. A dominant display by Aaron Fidge saw some dangerous long balls whipped in causing havoc for Lugarno 2's defense, which eventually led to a pass latched onto by Ton Assiouras who slotted it past the keeper to make it 2-0 at the halftime break. A positive halftime team talk echoed the usual instructions of working hard on and off the ball and playing a possession game.

In the second half Lugarno 1 looked very comfortable on the ball and had the majority of chances. The closest being a counter attack long ball by Nathan Dean from near the 18 yard box finding its way over the defense and chased down by Hugh who was denied by the woodwork. Some brilliant holding of the ball by Atu left Lugarno 2 scratching their heads at times and occasionally leading to fouls out of frustration. Nemanja showed his class with good control and strength in the midfield and George Mouyiaris continued to look dangerous up front linking up with goal scoring whiz Justin Dean. Thorpey also got involved, linking up well with both Rice and Atu for some neat passing triangles.

Lugarno 2 began to raise the intensity in the last 20 minutes and were awarded a free kick just outside the 18 yard box. A low strike found the back of the net with the help of a controversial obstruction which didn't allow Redmond to make a save that he would usually make with his eyes closed. This was ignored by the referee and left Nathan Dean questioning the so called new ruling, however play went on and it was up to the men in white to guts out another win. Lugarno 2 elected to try the long balls up the middle but Ray, Nathan and Rice stood tall. A strong challenge by Andrew Mouyiaris late in the match denied what looked to have been a great opportunity for the trailing team. And after a stoppage time counter attack play, Hugh sealed the victory with a low and hard strike making it 3-1 at fulltime.

Team trainer and fitness guru Nick Assiouras was happy with the result but insisted that more ladders and hurdles will equal more victories.

3: Aaron 2: George A 1: George M

Write up by: Mr Free Kick

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