

President: John Taylor  
Secretary: Hagop Tchamkertenian  
Treasurer: David Attard  
Edition: The Grand Final edition



# ***AROUND THE GROUNDS***

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**Congratulations to our Grand Final winners for Season 2015:**

**16 Girls A's    16 Girls B's    17B's    AAC 1's**

**And also to the runners up:**

**13A's    AAG (2)'s    AAW B's    AAW D's**



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## **Match Reports:**

### **13A v Connells Point**

**Lost 1 - 5**

After an outstanding season, the boys fell just one game short of the title as they went down to the current State Champions side. Lugarno were overwhelmed in the opening 10 mins of the game as the opposition took a commanding lead.

The second half was more even with chances being created by both teams, which was reflected in the second half score of 1-1.

Well done to the team for such a successful season and credit goes to coach Zen and manager Tatiana for a memorable season.





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**16 Girls A v Connells Point Drew 0 - 0 (Win)**

The unbeaten run of the 16A girls continues as they took out the title for the second consecutive year, after a tense nil all draw.

Lugarno dominated possession and field position but, with the score locked at 0-0 after normal time, 10mins of extra time was not sufficient to separate the teams as the game ended in a draw.

The draw delivered the title to Lugarno as they had finished the regular season as Minor Premiers.

Well done to the team, coach Bill and manager Rob for remaining focussed until the final game of the competition.

The team now goes on to represent St George Association in the statewide 'Champion of Champions' tournament. Good luck girls!





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## **16 Girls B v Oatley RSL**

**Won 1 - 0**

**Goal Scorer:** Stefanie Lynch

The 16 Girls B took out the Premiership after a narrow 1-0 win over Oatley RSL on Friday night at Scarborough North. The Lugarno side showed their superiority in the first half, grabbing a crucial goal and going close on a number of other occasions.

In the second half, the game was more evenly balanced as both sides created numerous goal scoring opportunities. Solid defending by Lugarno in the second half helped them to close out the game.

Credit to both teams – the game was played in good spirits with both teams displaying exceptional sportsmanship.

Well done coach Tony, manager David and all the girls for such an outstanding season.



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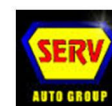
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**17B v Forest Rangers (2)****Final Score 0 - 0****Win on Penalties 4 - 3****Penalties:** James / Matthew E / Kosta / Dimi

There was excitement to see that the team was playing at the Illinden Sport Centre where Rockdale City Suns played their FFA cup game earlier in the year. Manager went to buy the final bag of snakes for the season and some spare bottles of water and Gatorade in case the day was hot. On the way to the shops, I hear the song "We are the Champions" by Queen came on. Stay calm. Don't think about it lest it will jinx the team. Next morning, walked on the balcony to have breakfast to see the Pig Face (succulent) had bright orange flowers out. An omen????

Anthony was first to the field (after being late to the previous semi). The team turned up almost ALL on time. Billy turns up smiling after completing an HSC exam (one that he would have gladly missed if at the same time as this match, not that his mum would have let him). The spectators seemed more nervous than the players. Mrs Lewis (Ryan's mum) was in the same clothes she wore for the Grand Final in baseball that saw Sean and her husband's team victorious. Orange crowd controller jackets were on but not to worry as it is a really the local derby.



With quick thinking John and Irish take the boys into the Home dressing room to make sure everyone is ready and to give the final team talk for the most important game of the season. Suffice to say that the message was received and all hoped would transfer to the field. I give final instructions for the reserves and what happens if a draw. Quick warm up until the previous game is concluded then the trudge to the other side of the

field with the kit and bags. Pleased to see that the referee we are getting for the game is one of the best of ones we have had this season which calms the team considerably. One less thing to worry about. All 16 who have got the team this far will be contributing today.

First 11 on the field for the start of the game. The first 15 minutes saw neither team with the advantage until Lugarno decided that it was time to have some shots at goal with Anthony and Dimi teaming up to deliver a good ball for Billy but out to the left. Dion then big kick but it just didn't bounce high enough to go over the goalie. Mat L, our goalie, calmly took an early ball. James's kick went into the side of the goal then Dylan (Forest), chased by Kosta, saw Mat L with a good save. Thankfully coach Stephen (AAE1 goalie) was helping Mat L out to keep the ball out and get his defenders where they needed to be. Penalty from James landed for Lachlan to head it towards the goal but the goalie caught it. (See photo). Forest on a break but Jayden wasn't going to let him get by. This was indicative of what the defenders Lachlan, Jayden, Kosta, Nathan and Andoni were to do all game. They were determined not to give them chances and was helped that Forest was playing with only 1 striker to the 4 Lugarno played throughout the game (Anthony, Dimi, James and Billy). The midfielders (Matthew E, Blake, Ryan, Christian, and Luca) had a torrid time with solid tackles coming in but were quickly moving the ball they won away from the defenders. End of first half 0-0. Well done and continue with what you are doing is the way the half time talk went.

Second half saw that Lugarno was here to win the game and took every opportunity to push forward with numerous shots at goal even though most were speculators. Ryan sprinted up one sideline and crossing to James or Dimi. Anthony was having one of his best games going up the other sideline. He was heavily marked but still won the ball more times than not. Luca, Andoni, Christian and Blake frustrated Forest as they were determined not to let the ball get past, or weaved their way up past them, or passed AROUND THE GROUNDS – Grand Finals 2015



the ball amongst themselves until they could send it forward. When Forest tried to get to their goal, Lachlan marshalled the defenders so that Kosta, Jayden and Nathan covered for each other if need to come out of position or called back when needed. Right to the dying minutes, the team tried for that elusive goal but the corner kick was defended away. Full time 0-0.

Now for 1st Extra Time. James's shot just kicked away, Matt E's caught by goalie, Anthony just out LHS. Desperate defending, ball consistently being moved around. 2nd Extra Time: Dimi shot, Mat L knocks ball over top, Blake shot, Kosta cross for Billy but just past him, Blake again. Then the final whistle. 0-0 after 110mins of play. All boys from both teams are absolutely exhausted and collapsing on the ground. What no one wanted: Penalty shoot out.

Lugarno:	Dion - Saved	Forest:	Goal	(0 - 1)
	James - Goal		Miss	(1 - 1)
	Matt E - Goal		Goal	(2 - 2)
	Kosta - Saved but had to be retaken as goalie came forward from mark			
	Kosta - Goal		Goal	(3 - 3)
	Dimi - Goal		Miss	(4 - 3)

Not the way they wanted to win but the team who played the best on the day did win. It was great to see that the boys from both teams were hugging and acknowledging each others' effort. It had been mate against mate. After a season which had a number of boys off sick, coming back from injury (surgery, broken wrist in trial game and dislocated knee in a game), the team came together both mentally and physically for all to play their part in contributing to this Grand Final win. With the Presidents of both Lugarno and Forest Rangers having their sons in these teams, it led to a strong friendly rivalry. Then it was not president, not coach but proud dad watching his son raise the trophy.



Thanks goes to Coach Stephen who took the unfit boys at the beginning of the season and got them up to match fitness by the end. Thanks to Paul (Irish) who helped the team throughout the year when Stephen couldn't make it due to work and was with them through all final games. Thanks to John for being the match coach and getting them through the season and especially mentally prepared for this final game.



And special thanks to all the supporters who sat through all that the match had to offer - the highs and lows. Being over the other side with the boys, I can say that the vocal encouragement did reach that far and helped.

And finally, apologies to the Lugarno AAC1 who had to wait almost an hour to start and win their Grand Final.



## **AAW B v ASOW**

**Lost 1 - 3**

**Goal Scorer:** Nicola Jersek

The final Grand Final game saw the AAW B side take on ASOW. In a strong opening 20mins, Lugarno dominated the game, hitting the post and crossbar as well as having two other great goal scoring opportunities.

Against the run of play, ASOW scored a goal which helped to lift them for the rest of the half, and they scored another goal again from a counter attack.

Lugarno started the second half strongly and had chances to score in the opening 10mins, but they could not capitalise during the period of domination and a third goal was conceded half way through the second half when a defensive mix up gifted ASOW their 3<sup>rd</sup> goal.

With 7 mins remaining, Nicola scored a superb goal to make it 3-1 but a miracle comeback did not materialise despite the girls creating 2 more scoring chances.

Great season team for finishing Minor Premiers and GF runners up. Well done to coach Ivan and Manager Sue. No doubt you can go one better next year.



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## **AAW D v ASOW**

**Lost 1 - 3**

The AAW D team also took on ASOW. In a bright start, Lugarno scored the opening goal within minutes of kick off. The game dynamics changed soon after as the rain started pouring down, allowing the opposition back into the game.

With the wet weather playing havoc, Lugarno conceded some soft goals and when a controversial penalty was awarded to ASOW, the game was effectively over as Lugarno went down 3-1.

Unlucky team for playing the Grand Final game in the torrential rain but as Minor Premiers and runners-up you have had a great season.

Credit goes to all the girls, coach Michael and manager Sue.



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**AAC 1 v Banksia Tigers****Won 4 - 1**

The AAC 1 side totally outclassed their opponents. The final result could have easily been more as Lugarno dominated the game from kick off. Well done team for going on with the job after finishing Minor Premiers.

**AAG (2) v Penshurst West****Lost 2 - 4**

**Goal Scorers:** Eddy / Jeremy



The stage was set for the season finale on the pristine synthetic field at Kareela. Following a stellar season with only one loss, we unfortunately went down in extra time against Penshurst West; a team that we defeated twice during the regular season and overcame in week 1 of the finals.

It was a game that will be remembered for our many missed opportunities. After trailing 1-0 at halftime, we sent the game into extra time after Eddy's 2nd half equaliser.

PW scored 2 early goals in extra time, before Jeremy pulled one back to give us hope. But the game was summed up in a passage of play with just minutes remaining. After being awarded a penalty, our resultant spot kick rattled the crossbar. It just wasn't meant to be. PW immediately counter-attacked to seal the game 4-2.

Despite falling at the last hurdle, all 16 guys can be proud of their performance and effort. A special thank you to Hagop for his support during our finals campaign.

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