

President: Hagop Tchamkertenian
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Edition: Grand Finals 2017



AROUND THE GROUNDS



Congratulations:

13B, 16B, AAA (1) & AAD


Grand Final winners

Well done players, coaches & managers for a great season 2017!

Congratulations also to the 12C and AAF teams for being Runners Up for season 2017 – great effort to make the Grand Finals. Well done to you all too.

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Match Reports:

12C v Oatley FC

Lost 1 - 4

GRAND FINAL

Goal Scorer: Daniel

What a moment! Something that the U12C's had worked for all year and had ticked all the boxes necessary to earn their way into the Grand Final for their age and division group - and we were here. This year was to be special, not only for the fact the boys had earned their way to the last game - but also our game had been one of those selected to be played at Jubilee Oval, which really added to the excitement.

I will start by reflecting on the score of 4-1 as we were not successful on the day but in no way did it reflect the effort and energy our boys put into the game and my report today will try and give you an insight to how I saw the boys enjoy their experience and just a brief game report.



Started early after our successful second semi the week prior, as we had booked our ticket to the GF and. from leaving the ground, the text messages and team chatter started – there was a real buzz and anticipation of what was to come. We knew the task ahead, an opponent that had only lost 3 games all year and that had beaten us in the first semi – we are always quietly confident though, as we were one of the teams that had taken one of those wins earlier in the year.

We had two training runs the preceding week, Tuesday and Thursday, and both runs looked strong and there was real focus in the group. A coach's role at this stage is not to redesign play but encourage and reinforce what works for us as a team and just to make sure they are enjoying themselves. You can argue that a Grand Final of this age group should not really worry the boys, but I can say there was heavy anticipation and expectation from the boys, which means they really care about results but, as we have always reinforced, it's about how we play and enjoy it - that is also a true measure of success and this game should be no different. I am not sure who was more excited about the news of playing at Jubilee, the boys, coaches or the parents but either way it was awesome news to the group and really fed the excitement for the game.



With the last of my text messages sent (sorry long and detailed), the day arrived and we were as ready as we could be. We nominated an earlier warm up on the outer area of Jubilee and, even though it was freezing and only 7.30am, the excitement was in the air! Again, whilst I know the boys didn't get much sleep (neither did I) they

seemed quite relaxed and quieter than normal as they knocked the ball around – we had the full playing group there by 7.35am and we ran through our full warm up program.

8.00am we packed up the gear and headed to the players' gate as a team – I wanted the boys to do everything together as a group which started by walking into the stadium and players areas. With a quick wave to the support pack, we entered and made our way through the players tunnel into the change rooms. We made it to the players inner sanctum - wow the boys came alive – my plan was to drop the bags and just go and have a look at the playing surface but the boys just wanted to investigate – if I could only have recorded it as they were buzzing around on cloud nine checking everything out.

Finally, with a little of the excitement out of their system, I gathered the boys and we headed out of the change rooms to the playing field - as we rolled out of the tunnel our support pack erupted and, whilst I was not playing, it gave me a real buzz for our boys, the playing surface was perfect and would certainly not create any issues for the game today. I ran just a couple of drills but to be honest the boys were ready and they just wanted to soak up the atmosphere the stadium created.



Back to the change room for the last instructions – well we found all sorts of cool stuff in there as the boys continued to investigate but again with that done I just rolled a ball out and, like flicking a switch, they turned on – just like on TV we ran a couple of passing drills in the change rooms while we awaited instructions (I promise there was no wall damage!)

We were called to the tunnel and, just like the FA cup, the boys lined up behind the referees for the day and paraded out on to the playing

deck – wow the eruption was unbelievable! The on-field ceremony was great as the boys lined up for a photo and then passed by our opponents and shook hands.

Regarding our game plan, it was quite simple – play forward in their half, dominate the speed of the midfield and hold our side trap strong. These three things had been the back bone of our plays all year and there was no reason to change. Not to ponder on results, I do believe winning the toss today carried a huge advantage and I think that was one of the things that influenced our result in the end, but that being said, our first 25 minutes were outstanding. Our boys played their heart out and took the game away from a very strong opponent - both teams had opportunities but, with some solid defence and one on one saves from Noah, kept them scoreless. On the other we repeatedly pushed forward and attacked which eventually found Daniel in a scoring position to which he rarely misses and, on this stage, he was right on target as he rattled the net, which once again nearly brought the house down and took us to half time 1 nil up.

The half time break was a rest well needed as the group, as fit as they are, were tiring as both the work load and the huge field started to take its toll. The catch up at half time was positive and the boys, whilst visually tired, were ready to go. The wind at this stage had picked right up on the playing surface and we were running into a strong breeze and, as they say, regardless of how good you are you still need a touch of luck and we were not to finding any of that during this half of soccer.

As a coach, I was immensely proud of the boys - as they started to lose grip on the score, they never gave up the contest and pushed all the way till the end. The game was called and we gathered mid pitch and took a breath as the boys were visually upset, I needed to remind them that they needed to lift their heads and absorb the day and the experience - as games will come and go but experiences like this were life experiences that they should remember.



By the time the presentation had come the boys appeared to have processed the score and started to feel the energy of the stadium. I had the pleasure of presenting our boys with their Grand Final medals and that is something that will stay with me as a coach as that medal was not earned at one game but a combination of hard work, training and playing 22 games of soccer over that full year and they absolutely deserved that and the crowd cheer and encouragement that followed.

As I said to my boys, the result of that game will fade but the bonds and experiences of the year will stay and be something they can build on as they grow.

Well done Boys - your Club, Parents and Coaches are proud of you.





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13B v Scots FC

Won 1 - 0

GRAND FINAL

Goal Scorer: Andrei



Minor Premiers Scots FC had travelled through the regular rounds undefeated, with their two draws against Lugarno being their only blemishes: they beat us in the third encounter 3-2, before a 1-all draw with us in the Major Semi Final put them straight into the Grand Final. They did this with only 10 players since the very early part of the season, but with a lot of skill in some of their key players and a solid back four. Lugarno had come close, leading in some games before slipping up, so after our 5-0 demolition of Connells Point in the Elimination Final, the team went into the last game of the season with a lot of belief.

A strong wind from one end of the pitch to the other presented challenges, and in the first half Lugarno ran into its teeth: with the ball at their feet, they almost went ahead after only 2 minutes as the Scots goalkeeper lost control of a good shot from Josi on the end of a nice run, and Jayden's follow up went just wide. Going with the wind didn't seem to be helping Scots' style of play either, as through balls were running and



running out over the baseline, but when the ball bounced up and off Markus' arm, their free kick from half way reached Eric in goals with only the one bounce. Lugarno went up into attack, but almost got caught on the counter as the Scots striker chased a pass from deep in their defence, with Niko in hot pursuit and Zane coming across - the cross from very deep went right across our goals, but none of the other Scots players had managed to follow up that far in pursuit. A moment later, Lugarno fashioned some great passes through the midfield, releasing Josi in a 1-on-1 with the Scots keeper, but the goal was disallowed as he was called for offside. Scots probably had the better of the play in the second 15 minutes of the half, earning a couple of corners and trying some speculative shots from long range, but Eric was rock solid as goal keeper.



With the score still Nil all at half time, the question was whether Lugarno could use the wind more effectively than Scots did in the first half, and it didn't seem that we would: shots from longer range were getting to goal, but not really challenging the Scots keeper, either going straight to him or wide. When we were closer, we weren't finding that last pass or putting the laces through a shot. In the 43rd minute, Niko went down and worryingly stayed down for a little while before recovering to re-take his place, which

heralded a period where Lugarno pressed hard, but Scots proved up for the challenge. With 10 minutes left in regular time, Jayden made a run from deep and managed to get around Scots right back to fire a cross from a very narrow angle, which then bounced off a Scots' defenders arm, conceding a penalty.

Team training on Thursday had actually included a round of penalty spot kicks, with Eric in front of the midi sized goals; scoring and going through to the second rounds were Anthony and Andrei, and responsibility for this was down to one of these two. Having scored a penalty in last week's game, the coach's instructions were for Andrei to step up. From the sidelines, Andrei seemed the picture of calm as he slotted the shot home to put Lugarno up by one.

With only minutes left, Scots didn't seem to be able to find the next gear that they required, with the numbers and the wind working against them. Lugarno



didn't park the bus and neither did the coach send on substitutes just to eat up time, and that steady approach was enough to repel whatever Scots had left and earn their first win against them in the most important game of the year, and claim the U13 B Premiership.

A massive thank you to all of the parents, friends and supporters who turned up on a really cold day to cheer on the team - it's a credit the club and a hugely positive reflection of the community values that Lugarno holds dear.



16B v Connells Point

Won 3 - 1

GRAND FINAL

Goal Scorers: Kane Spiteri 2 / Omar El Debel

POTM: The Whole Team



The preparations for the grand final commenced immediately after Lugarno's 2-0 major semi-final win over Bexley North on Saturday 5 August.

The victory meant the team had secured a week off as they progressed straight into the grand final and subsequent training regimes were tailored to take into account the fact the team would be

playing just one game of football in two weeks. An initial emphasis on fitness evolved into tactical and game day drills.

To maintain a sense of normality no extra training sessions were planned, instead the normal training sessions were conducted and the focus became preparing the team mentally for the grand final game. All possible scenarios were covered - such as how to play the grand final game if the team took the lead, fell behind to an opposition goal or if the game was being drawn.



On grand final day, watching and observing the Lugarno 12C side in an earlier game allowed the coach a better sense into the actual playing surface and conditions of Kogarah Jubilee Oval - insights that became valuable for his team's grand final game.

With no place to warm up inside the stadium, the team showed up as instructed an hour before kick-off to warm up in the park adjacent to the stadium. Half an hour before kick-off the team entered the stadium and headed into the dressing sheds to discuss team formation and game tactics.

Everyone was clearly excited and nervous to have the privilege of playing a grand final at such a historic and iconic ground. Waiting in the players tunnel to be called to enter the playing arena was certainly a new experience for the team and, from the faces of the boys, they loved it. As the teams entered the stadium, the crowd erupted as rival fans expressed their support. The field was set up like an A-league grand final and, with a superb playing surface, the team did not have to worry about the Gannons Park bounce.

For the grand final, Lugarno deployed a 4-1-4-1 formation that saw Will commence in goals. The defence comprised of Harris, Mitchell, Raffi and Mark. Harrison played as a defensive midfielder, Lachlan and Kane played as central midfielders while Peter and Jordan played as attacking midfielders/wingers. Upfront was Omar, while the interchange players included Issac, Stephen, Danish, Alex and Matthew.

Lugarno started positively, taking the attack to Connells Point from kick-off. Despite running against a strong breeze, Lugarno was able to play the ball at Connells Point end, effectively negating the wind advantage that the opposition had. As the half progressed, Connells



Point started to get back into the game and, utilising the strong breeze, started to attack Lugarno's end. Lugarno's defence remained strong and alert and succeeded to frustrate Connells Point's attacks. As soon as the opposition attack was thwarted, Lugarno managed to swiftly launch counter attacking football exploiting the gaps that were becoming available.

In some exciting passages of football, both teams managed to secure a number of corners at both ends of play which were effectively dealt with by the defensive formation of both teams. Lugarno's game focused on delivering the ball to the flanks with Peter and Jordan engaged in numerous incisive runs and the delivery of crosses to support play. The pattern for the first half was well established by the 20th minute of the game with Lugarno time and time again penetrating the Connells Point defence on the flanks and in the process creating numerous goal scoring chances, but some desperate defending from the opposition kept the team from scoring. On the other hand Connells Point, aided by a strong breeze, were trying to get the ball to their pacey attackers using a combination of long balls and high balls to break down Lugarno's defence but Lugarno's defence remained solid and, other than conceding a few corners, did not allow the opposition's attack a shot on goal.

The half-time whistle saw the teams go into the sheds with the scores locked at 0-0. Despite Lugarno running against the strong breeze, the team had managed to create numerous goal scoring opportunities with Peter, Lachlan, Kane, Omar and Jordan all frustratingly going close to scoring. At the half-time break the team was instructed to continue playing expansive football and focus on support play in the final third.

Opening exchanges of the second half saw Lugarno camped into the opposition's half. The early pressure did not yield any goals but, with the opposition struggling to leave their half, Lugarno was able to deploy a compact defence during this period of play. A rare mistimed tackle by Lugarno resulted in a free kick just inside the Lugarno half. Connells Point was provided with an opportunity to launch an attack deep into Lugarno's half. The ball ended up in Lugarno's penalty area and some hesitation by Lugarno gifted Connells Point the game's opening goal ten minutes into the second half. It was a fortunate goal and clearly came against the run of play.

To their credit, Lugarno quickly kicked off to resume the game and went straight onto the attack. Within minutes of conceding the goal, sustained pressure resulted in Peter hitting the cross bar, when a goal looked certain, and Harrison's header from a corner kick narrowly missed the goals. Some tactical changes saw Lugarno finally turn goal scoring opportunities into goals. The team was instructed to shift the focus of attack to the middle of the park and two well timed passes from midfield play helped set Kane free to score two quick goals for Lugarno. On both occasions Kane remained focused and determined to beat both the opposing defenders and goal keeper. Two quality goals helped turn a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 lead for Lugarno.

As Connells Point started pushing players forward to get the equalising goal, Lugarno benefited from the weakening defensive structure and continued to subject the opposition to relentless attacks. Matthew, Kane and Peter came close to scoring but the score remained frustratingly at 2-1 until Omar chased down a Connells Point defensive clearance just outside the penalty area and then produced an outstanding kick that sailed straight into the Connells Point goals to give Lugarno a 3-1 lead five minutes from full time. The goal lifted the Lugarno team and a raft of substitutions were made to give the interchange players more time on the field.

With the countdown to full time being closely observed and Lugarno holding a commanding lead, the celebrations were starting on the sidelines amongst the players and team officials as well as in the grandstands amongst the supporters. When the referee blew the final whistle there was widespread jubilation.

Those moments of joy and excitement will forever be imprinted in our memories and having become the first Lugarno team to win a premiership at the iconic Kogarah Jubilee Stadium made the achievement even more worthwhile and memorable.

The Lugarno under 16's were outstanding in the grand final having produced quality football that impressed all present. Will was alert throughout the game and directed his defence. Harris, Raffi, Mitchell, Mark and Stephen had great defensive games winning headers and most of the 50-50 challenges. Harrison, the team captain, played with passion and determination. Lachlan, Kane, Peter

Jordan, Omar and Matthew took the game to the opposition creating numerous goal scoring opportunities. Alex, Issac and Danish were deployed in different positions during the game and provided outstanding support and tactical play.

Well done team for winning both the minor premiership and premiership. When we first met for training in early February we committed to making this season a special and memorable one. On the basis of what we achieved together on Saturday 19 August 2017 at the historic and iconic Kogarah Jubilee Oval to win Lugarno FC's 110th premiership - your coach Hagop can confidently declare:

Mission Accomplished.

Game stats:

	Lugarno FC	Connells Point
Total shots	16	7
Shots on target	10	2
Goals	3	1
Corners	6	5
Possession	55 per cent	45 per cent



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AAA (1) v Rockdale Suns

Won 2 - 0

GRAND FINAL

Goals Scorer: Jarrod R 2



The Grand Final saw a re-match against the AAA Minor Premiers, Rockdale Suns, at Scarborough Park under lights last Friday night. After beating Rockdale two weeks earlier in the major semi-final (3-2), we knew they would be primed to get revenge. However, with basically our full team available and fresh players on the bench, we were confident of giving the game a mighty shake.

It was important to start the game well as Rockdale always get out of the gates quickly and in both the competition round games, they had scored an early goal against us. But this time we managed to weather the early storm and the 1st half was evenly matched, with very few clear goal-scoring opportunities for either team. We went to half-time at 0-0, but pleased with our position as we expected to come home strong in the 2nd half.

The half-time discussion was very positive, with the focus on maintaining (or even lifting) the intensity for another 45 minutes. The boys started the 2nd half strongly and could have scored in the opening couple of minutes. We totally dominated this phase of the game and for the next 15/20 minutes we were camped in their half, but desperate to get that key opening goal. Chris' free-kick was deflected on to the cross-bar and Jarrod's shot was brilliantly saved by their keeper. Just when it seemed that the goal would never come, pressure from a corner saw the ball fall to our skipper Jarrod's feet, who hammered it towards goal. The keeper could not handle the shot and the crowd erupted as Lugarno had taken the lead. Importantly, the boys did not ease up after the goal and rather than protect the lead, we went looking for a second goal. The pressure was maintained and then with just over 10 minutes to play, we were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area. This time it was Jarrod's turn to take the free kick and he curled the ball brilliantly into the top corner of the net. It was 2-0 Lugarno!! Rockdale Suns threw everything at us for the last 10 minutes, but the team maintained its composure and we ran out most deserved 2-0 winners.

This was great all-round performance by the boys, superior even to our gutsy performance in the semi-final. Every player turned up ready to give 100% and the encouragement the guys gave each other to keep going was very special. In fact, I cannot ever remember as much on-field talk (and it was all positive talk) as we heard in the 2nd half of this game. For many players in the team, this was their first experience in finals football at this level. Most of the players had been through the tough times in Premier League in recent years, where the wins had become few and far between. I think this was a real motivating factor for everyone to make sure we made the most of this opportunity to win a competition. There is no doubt the boys really wanted this one and that was evident in both the post-match celebration at Scarborough Park and later on as the celebrations shifted to Peakhurst Inn, where they continued well into the early morning hours.

Finally, special thanks to all the supporters who came out on a very cool Friday night to cheer the team on. I know the players really appreciated the support of family, friends and people from other Lugarno FC teams. We were all very pleased that we could give you the result that you wanted as well!!

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Goal Scorer: Junior Dos Passos

POTM: Adam Baker

After much reflection and soul searching on how to best report the big dance (especially after still semi feeling the effects of the post-match celebrations 😊), I thought it was fitting to quote one of the stars of the day post-match, sweeper Craig Bain.

“Our defence was like The Wall in Game of Thrones, they weren’t getting through it.”

It is worth mentioning straight up, the conditions did play a massive part in the game’s result. And keeping a clean sheet in the conditions was a massive feat for the lads.

We have played in high winds and the cold before, but the windy conditions on Saturday were next level. Winning the toss was a huge factor in the game. And after actually winning, Lugarno chose to run against the wind in the first half. A bold move orchestrated by Matt Deeks (who filled the managerial role for the day), however one that proved to be a master stroke.

From the get go Lugarno were on the back foot. Forest were ready to play, and were showing intent early with the wind in their sails. Forest had Lugarno’s backline guessing on where the ball was going to end up, and their attack looked up to it. But the defence however held strong and took everything in their stride. As a lot of the play was anchored in Lugarno’s half, moments of brilliance in attack in the first half were few and far between, however through the likes of Matt Findlay and Ciaran Quinn, a couple of opportunities were created on the counter, but nothing turning into a goal.

Forest were held to only a couple of shots from outside the box, as the likes of Craig Bain, David Allan and Adam Baker kept them outside of the danger zone. Confidence grew in the backline as the game went on, and with that confidence “The Wall” was holding strong!!

One of the shots from outside the box ended up in the keeper’s hands, and what was a drop of the ball appeared to be a double handling in the box to the referee – indirect free kick in the box was blown. It was a crucial part of the match given Lugarno were keeping everything that Forest threw at them at bay. The tension was high, however the young Forest players did not know how to handle the pressure and kicked it straight into the wall. Not to long after half time was blown.

0 – 0 at the break.

Going into half time without conceding gave the lads a massive lift. We knew we had goals in us and we knew with the wind behind us Forest would fold like origami (as was the case in the grand final qualifier 2 weeks prior).

From the get go the lads were confident, ensuring that the run of play was in Forest’s half in the second stanza. Opportunities were being created, however the lads were a bit trigger shy and kept trying to get closer and closer to the goals rather than having a crack and see what the wind throws up at the keeper. But with the play in Forest’s half, the pressure was starting to mount.

Forest did throw some counter at the Lugarno defence, however there was a feeling amongst the team that nothing was getting through them today.

As the match entered the last 25mins, something had to give after the constant pressure Junior Dos Passos was putting on the Forest backline. And after a swift movement of the ball through the midfield up front, Junior potted one on the angle. GOALSKI !! Lugarno 1 – 0

The crowd were buzzing now, and the lads could feel the W coming.

It’s in these moments everyone had to dig deep, and it’s fair to say that the hunger in the Lugarno boys was starting to show as they dug in and started to grind, particularly in the conditions.

The closing stages saw Forest try to build something from outside the box, however once again the defence was up to it, particularly Adam Baker with a Man of the Match performance at the back. As the Final whistle was blown, nothing but euphoria amongst the Lugarno lads. The Wall stood strong ...

Lugarno FC AA/D 2017 Premiers



For the record, the lads celebrated as hard as they played during the year. 😊 (Much deserved in this writer's opinion)



After last week's gruelling extra time win, all that stood in our way from defending our title was a well rested, minor premiership winning Forest Rangers team. We were expecting a tough battle ... and that's exactly what we got.

Despite running into a strong breeze, Rangers got on top early and created a number of chances to score. Foti came up with the highlight of the half when he miraculously saved a goal-bound deflection right on the goal line. As the half wore on we gradually got into the game. A few free kicks and long range efforts the closest we came to scoring. Unfortunately, we didn't take advantage of the strong breeze and we went into halftime locked at 0-0.

With the wind at their back, Rangers came out in the second half full of running. They dominated possession as we struggled to get out of our own half. Rangers' dominance finally paid off when they headed in a rebound from a free kick to open the scoring. Defending, on the back foot and running into the wind was taking a toll on us. Midway through the half, Rangers effectively sealed the game when they headed in a second goal from a corner. If it wasn't for some brilliant saves from Foti and some last gasp defending, the damage on the scoreboard could have been more. The full time whistle blew with Rangers coming away with a well deserved 2-0 win.

Although it was a disappointing way to end the season, the AAFs had a great season. Reaching a third consecutive GF isn't bad for a bunch of old blokes!



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And that's the final match reports for Season 2017.

A huge thank you to all who sent in weekly reports and photos over the season. The newsletter is an important forum not only to acknowledge the efforts of players, but also to promote our sponsors. So please support our Sponsors, as they support our Club.

Thanks to the money raised from Sponsors and the Trivia night – we are excited to announce that all players who register to play next year will receive a great looking Lugarno FC jacket - sneak peek here! These jackets will be exclusive to registered and paid up players in Season 2018!

(Pictured is the sample jacket, made exclusively for LFC by Mitre, but the finished product will feature our logo and a few sponsors logos on it as well).



To continue with our theme, there will also be other jackets and much requested hoodies available for purchase. And new Coach & Manager polos... (Again, LFC logos will be added to all merchandise).



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