**GREAT DAY AT HOME FOR ‘THE PORT’ & ‘THE STORM’**

The ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ was at home to the Brighton Football Club last Saturday in what was predicted to be three fiercely contested matches.

The Southern Storm boys were keen to kick the day off on a positive note. In perfect football conditions, both sides were quick to try to get the distinct advantage over the other. After a close first term, the Storm led by 8 points. The second term was more of the same, with the Storm’s ruck-man doing a great job against a pretty big and physical Brighton boy to give the Storm on-ballers plenty of the football out of the middle. However, Brighton would not be denied and closed the gap to only 2 points at the long break. Matty Brereton encouraged the boy’s to play a fast play on brand of foot-ball, and after the break this enabled the Storm boys to gain a slight advantage over the Brighton players to lead by 14 points, heading into a final term that promised to be a beauty, with the game far from over. In the final quarter, the game see-sawed on the scoreboard with the supporters of both teams providing plenty of encouragement. In a thrilling finish, the Storm boys held on in the final term showing plenty of determination, team-work and spirit to win by a solitary goal in a great match. Better players in an excellent team effort were Elijah Reardon who played a great game while Brandon Lane was physical all day and hard at the ball. Jake Dance provided plenty of run, and Nathan Duggan, Paddy O’Neill and Jack Bester gave the Storm plenty of drive. Paddy’s run from the back-line to the forward flank, including a ‘Dustin Martin fend off’ was well worth seeing! Joe Direen was a real focal point for the side and finished the game with 3 goals ably supported by a dangerous Jake Dance near goal. Peter O’Neill kicked 2 goals while Elijah Reardon and Jake Munnings both finished the day with one each. Great effort boys!

The Reserves were looking to make up for their poor showing against Claremont the week before, and hit the ground with plenty of enthusiasm. They welcomed former Channel player Dean Dawe into the side and to the Club. The game got off to a brisk start with both sides tackling hard and applying plenty of pressure. At the first break, the Brighton side held an 8 point lead. The second term started the same way as the first, but the Brighton team were playing a slightly cleaner brand of football with some very solid and tall forward targets enabling them to kick away to lead by 27 points and a handy half-time lead. Sticks revved the boys up for a big third term, but the Port were struggling to bridge the half-time lead on the score-board, and still trailed by 34 points heading into the final term. The Port were still in the game, but needed a big lift from their on-ballers who appeared to be tiring allowing the Robins to kick right away, whilst holding the Port scoreless for the second-half to run out big winners by 71 points. In saying that, the Port boys never stopped trying and fought the game out till the very end. Better players included Paddy Wilcox back from the seniors and Josh Wilcox who again showed plenty of experience and aggression. Reece Polley played a great game and Tom Slevin continued his good form in the back-line. Returnee Joe Shields was solid all day whilst debutant Dean Dawe showed promise of things to come in a great first up display. Goals went to Sticks Clark with 2 and Josh Wilcox and Josh Mazur with 1 apiece. A good effort leading into a big game this weekend.

The Seniors were fairly confident of a good showing against a Brighton side that had recruited pretty well in the off-season. They welcomed popular player Matty Whitehouse in for his first game of the season after over-coming injury. The perfect weather only made for a great spectacle for the fairly big crowd in attendance. The Port got off to a good start and Brighton were not taking a backward step as both teams felt each other out. The Port led by 5 points at the first break. Brighton came out really determined in the second quarter, and with both sides setting up some great passages of play, it was goal for goal but the Robins had clawed back the lead to go in at half-time leading by 7 points. Coach Quirk asked for a big third term and both sides were still working overtime in the back half of the ground making goals hard to come by. The Port held a 3 point lead at three quarter time setting up a thrilling finish to what was a great game. In the final term, both teams threw everything they had at each other, but the Port led by Ben Halton (6 goals) shot out to a 3 goal lead with 5 minutes to play. Most Port supporters thought they had done enough, but they had to withstand a late surge from the Robins who stormed home to only go down by a goal at the final siren in a game that could have went either way all day. Better players included Grant Clark who wound back the clock to be best on ground for the Port. Ben Halton with his 6 goals was a great target for the Port, but he also worked hard around the contests and passed off other scoring opportunities. Brayden Hayes continued his great start to the season, while Young Toby Cowen showed he’s a star in the making with a great game on the wing. Coach Gav Quirk led by example all day and Jake Brereton was fantastic in the ruck and provided plenty of contests up forward. Thanks to those that stayed for the cards night after the senior match and supported the club. This weekend we travel to Huonville in the local derby to play the highly rated Huonville Lions. The Lions have had the better of Cygnet over the past couple of seasons overall, but both Clubs lift and supporters of both teams highly anticipate these contests during the season. All in all, it makes for three great games of football, and the Storm and the Port will need to be at their very best to gain the 3 wins – good luck to all three teams!!

**NEW CHANGE ROOMS – OFFICIAL OPENING**

The official opening of the Club’s new change rooms will now be held at our home game against Dodges Ferry on Saturday 30 April, at 1.15pm. Come along on the 30th and check out the new facilities on what promises to be a great day of footy. Jacquie Petrusma will cut the ribbon on behalf of the Premier Will Hodgman who will be overseas at this time.

**WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?**

The Club has several membership packages available, ranging from $65 which includes a Club cap and a free drink or food to the value of $5 at each home game. Player sponsorships are also available for $120.

Also, check out our Port Cygnet Football Club Facebook page for more details or please see Marcus Synnott and get on board The Port train in 2016.

**CAMPBELL BROWN TO ATTEND PAST PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS DAY – SATURDAY 28th MAY**

Put this date in your diary, as it again promises to be a great day. The Club through the Past Players and Supporters Committee is proud to announce the highly entertaining Campbell Brown as guest speaker for the function. Do not miss Campbell’s many tales and he is sure to have the audience in raptures. With only 120 per-sold tickets available for this event, tickets are selling fast and there will be no door sales. Tickets are $60.00 per person plus gate entry with the function commencing at 11.30am. The cost includes a two course meal & free refreshments till the Senior match commences. Tickets are available for purchase at the Cygnet Newsagency, otherwise, go to our website or Facebook page for organising committee contact numbers to secure your seats. Proceeds for the day will go towards floor coverings in our new player change-rooms.

**Major Sponsor**: Cygnet ‘’Top’’ Hotel
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**Weekly Award Donors**: Phillip & Loretta Wilcox [Wilcox Electrical], Bill Cribbin’s BP Cygnet, Roys Bits of Old Pizza and R & D Meats

**‘’Support the Port in 2016’’**