**A BIG DAY AT ‘THE PORT’ LAST SATURDAY**

It was the case of one milestone, two wins and an official opening at Cygnet last Saturday, when the ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ played host to the Dodges Ferry Sharks.

After the hype of the previous weekend’s games against arch-rival Huonville, the teams were a bit more subdued in the lead up to the Dodges’ games.

After their narrow loss to Huonville, Coach Matt Brereton was keen for his Southern Storm boys to get back on the winner’s list and to play the running team brand of football that had brought them success against New Norfolk and Brighton. However, it was the Sharks who jumped away early and with their key forward creating headaches for the Storm backmen, Dodges lead by 3 goals at quarter time which they then extended to 26 points at half-time. Matt had some strong words for his players at the break and urged them to take the game on and show some real energy and passion for the contest. The players took heed of this advice and with Joe Direen and Jake Dance providing good targets up forward, the Storm worked their way back into the game to get within 12 points, but a late goal by Dodges had them leading by 3 goals at three-quarter time. The last quarter saw goal for goal kicked but the Storm were unable to bridge the gap and the Sharks ran out winners by 20 points.

Better players for the Storm were Nathan Duggan, Peter O’Neill, Sean Burgess, Joe Direen (4 goals), Paddy O’Neill and Jackson Gordon. Jake Dance also played well kicking 2 goals.

Sticks and his Reserves were keen to put the disappointing performances of recent weeks behind them and play a competitive brand of football. As with the earlier game, it was obvious that Dodges had come to play as they kicked the first 3 goals of the game before ‘The Port’ settled and kicked two goals of their own to reduce the margin to 15 points at quarter time. Cygnet really got their game going in the second quarter scoring five goals to nil to lead by 15 points at half time and then extended this slightly to 19 points at the last change. Dodges’ kicking for goal was letting them down as they scored seven behinds only in the second and third quarters. A three goal to two, hard fought last quarter gave ‘Sticks’ Clark and his boys their second win of the season by 21 points.

Better players in a great team effort were Sammy Walter, Jeremy Duggan, ‘Sticks’ Clark, Ian Coulson, Tim Bakes (4 goals) and Brendon Direen. Jamie ‘Big Daddy’ Direen also chimed in with two valuable goals.

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE “JACK & MARY SYNNOTT ROOMS”**

Prior to the Senior game, the Club officially opened its new change rooms. After a few words of welcome and thanks to everyone involved in the project by Club President, Dave O’Neill, he introduced Government Minister, Jacquie Petrusma to perform the official opening. Jacquie acknowledged the Club for its efforts in building the new facilities which would be of benefit to all local sporting groups and schools. Together with the assistance of Club Patrons and Life Members, Jack and Mary Synnott, Jacquie officially opened the new change rooms, which she announced were being named in Jack and Mary’s honour in recognition of their tremendous and ongoing services to the Cygnet Football Club. This had been a well-kept secret and came as a big but pleasant surprise to both Jack and Mary.

**THE BIG GAME AND ‘NOODLES’ 200TH**

All was then set for a great Senior contest in perfect conditions and with a good crowd in attendance. The boys were particularly keen to win for one of the Club’s favourite sons, Grant ‘Noodles’ Clark who was playing his 200th Club game. Noodles started his senior career as a 15 year old and played an integral part in the Club’s three-peat of Premiership wins between 2002 and 2004. He is also a multiple Club Best and Fairest winner and highly respected by his team mates and opponents for his great skills, total ball focus and sportsmanship.

‘The Port’ opened up kicking to the bottom end goals and got off to a great start with Jacob Brereton winning the taps and giving first use to Rhys Jennings and the other onballers who continually drove the ball forward. Cygnet were on target early with four straight goals to one to lead by 17 points at the first break. The second quarter was all Cygnet’s with Micheal Darcy proving an excellent target up forward to have 3 goals by half-time, and taking ‘The Port’ out to a handy 6 goal lead at half-time. The third quarter was an even affair with the back line under constant pressure. Ben Halton’s 3 goals for the quarter helped the Port to retain a five goal lead at the last change. However, Dodges Ferry were not finished and they started scoring on each forward thrust, but the Shark’s inaccuracy and Cygnet’s backline pressure kept The Port’s hopes alive. With only a few minutes to play Cygnet’s lead had been reduced to four points, when the ‘Herbometer’ Ollie Burke broke clear on the wing and after a quick sprint and a bounce kicked the ball long where it bounced through for a much needed goal and some breathing space.

From the centre bounce Dodges went forward again but could only manage another behind before the final siren blew, with Cygnet up by nine points. For Gavin and the boys it was more a sense of relief after the game. They had managed to get the four points for the win but had squandered a six goal lead and fully understood that they had been lucky to hang on for the win.

Toby Cowen once again showed what a great talent he is, with composure beyond his years, Grant Clark celebrated his 200th game in fine style, Will Ford was a tower of strength at full back, Jake Brereton rucked well and competed well around the ground, Rhys Jennings as always was in and under all the packs and Micheal ‘Pud’ Darcy, with his 3 early goals was important. Ben Halton also finished with three goals while Brayden Hayes kicked two with singles to Toby Cowen, Rhys Jennings, Joe Shields, Will Ford, Matt Cane and Ollie Burke.

**FOOTBALL RETURNS TO KERMANDIE THIS WEEKEND**

This week football returns to Kermandie when we take on Hobart in what promises to be another close and exciting contest. Hobart have also started their season well, winning three of their first four games and are coming off a good win against Sorell last week.

We hope to see another packed ground for three great games, and plenty of support for the Storm boys from the Geeveston area and surrounds and the boys at the Club who are former Kermandie players. The popular iPod Shuffle Night will be held back at the Cygnet Clubrooms after the game with all welcome to attend what was a packed function last season.

Please note, the following week (14th May) will be our first bye.

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

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. 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. With only 120 per-sold tickets available for this event, tickets are selling fast and there will be no door sales, so get your ticket now! Tickets are available for purchase at the Cygnet Newsagency or from any of the organising committee. Check out the Club website or Facebook page for further details. Proceeds for the day will go towards floor coverings in our new player change-rooms.

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