**STORM BLOWS SORELL AWAY**

In fine and sunny conditions last Saturday, the Southern Storm Colts were up against the Sorell Eagles in a SFL First Semi-Final match-up, with mothballs for season 2018 for the loser.

Despite slippery and heavy conditions, particularly on the grandstand side of the ground, the Storm showed that their hard running team game was back after a couple of recent indifferent performances. Will Polley was jumping high from the first bounce, winning the ruck contests and giving his midfielders an armchair ride. Captain Josh Coad lead the way and was well supported by Noah Clifford and Lukas Ford who continually drove the ball forward while George O’Neill and James Zeitzen were in everything. A six goal first quarter to the Storm while keeping Sorell scoreless had the Storm ahead by 40 points at quarter time.

It was more of the same in the second quarter as Connor Soward and James Zeitzen both kicked their third goals for the game and Josh Coad was also on target with two first-half goals. George O’Neill was dominating and winning numerous possessions, but was made to earn every one of them as his opponents realised his important impact on the game. The Storm defence had held firm, restricting the Eagles to two behinds only for the half. The game was effectively over at half-time, with the Storm holding a comfortable 65 point lead.

To their credit, Sorell regrouped during the break and really matched it with the Storm in the second half, with both teams scoring six goals. Despite their best efforts, the Eagles could not bridge the gap, with the Storm running out victors by 69 points.

Best players in a very even team performance were George O’Neill, James Zeitzen (3 goals), Lukas Ford, Noah Clifford (2 goals), Josh Coad (2 goals) and Cameron Slater. In a solid performance, key forward Connor Soward top scored with 5 goals to take his season tally to 33, Will Polley kicked 2 goals with single goals to Jordan Lane and George O’Neill.

**This week’s game**

The Southern Storm will now play New Norfolk in the Preliminary Final at North Hobart this Saturday, with the game to start at 4.45pm, following the Senior game.

On the line for both teams will be a Grand Final berth against Lindisfarne the following Saturday (8th September).

**Best & Fairest Counts**

The Club’s Best and Fairest Counts will be conducted on Saturday 15th September, starting at 2pm and will include a BBQ. Mark this date in your calendars.