

27 August 2013

WE SURVIVE IN DIVISION 2 FOR 2014

Well it certainly was a day of mixed emotions on Saturday. With our survival in D2 truly on the line when we took on top team Therry Penola, depending on one other result, we knew we had to perform well and not lose by too much if we didn't win. The bad news is that we were well and truly outclassed by a very good team, losing by 103 points, enough to relegate us if Monash Gryphons beat bottom team Emmaus St Leos. The very good news is that ESL did us a massive favour by beating the Gryphons by 64 points, meaning our result was irrelevant. So, in a year when we beat the top two teams and lost 6 games by 14 points or less it would have been unfortunate to have been relegated. Rumours are circling that Werribee Districts will be leaving the VAFA next year, which may mean only one team is relegated from B grade down, saving Monash from relegation also. In the Reserves, the boys flew out of the box against the top team to hold an 8 point lead at quarter time. From there on however, Therry found their form and dominated to finally win by 79 points. The Under 19s wrapped up second spot on the ladder after a 68 point win against Old Paradians at Ivanhoe Park and now they head into the finals full of steam, finals details below.

FAREWELL & THANK-YOU

Moments after the Seniors' season ended on Saturday, coach Leigh Cole spoke with them about the season and announced to the players and those supporters present that he would be stepping down as Senior coach of Ivanhoe AFC. Leigh has been a wonderful coach at Ivanhoe as well as a wonderful Ivanhoe person in general. Having been a player at the club, Leigh took over as the Under 19s coach in 2009 and took them to third place. In 2010 Leigh took over as Senior coach when we were in Division 3. In his first season we just missed out on finals but it was the beginning of a great 4 years. In 2011 Leigh led the team to third place after the home and away season but we ultimately finished fourth after the finals. 2012 saw Leigh's coaching taken to new highs as he developed a young squad and formed a wonderful team that went to the final dance, and although were unsuccessful on that day, the year was a great one. 2013 showed a lot of promise and after the Round 1 defeat of the early premiers favourites, Therry Penola, the season slowly got tougher and tougher as we lost key players to injury and overseas jaunts, ultimately finishing in eighth spot. Throughout both good and bad times Leigh never took a backward step or lost his professionalism, continuing to try and develop our young squad. A fantastic 5 years as a coach at our club, we farewell and thank Leigh for all his hard work, and wish him luck wherever he is in 2014. Leigh, you will always be welcomed back with open arms.



UNDER 19s FINALS KICK OFF IN LOCAL DERBY

With the Under 19s wrapping up second spot on Saturday, they have set up an intriguing battle this weekend in the Second Semi. Our next door neighbours, Old Ivanhoe, won the right to host the final which will be held at Chelsworth Park this Saturday 31 August at 2pm. The winner goes straight into the Grand Final so the heat will be on and we hope to see all Ivanhoe people there to cheer them on. Don't forget to head to the Eaglemont Village Spring Fair before you head down to support the future of our club.

18 August 2013

EAGLEMONT VILLAGE SPRING FAIR

One of our fantastic sponsors, Eaglemont Village, are having their Spring Fair on Saturday 31 August from 11am to 4pm. It would be great if all of our Ivanhoe family could get along for some of the festivities. It is likely our Under 19s will be playing very locally on this day, so why not head to the fair before heading down to watch the match. Let's give back to an important sponsor of ours!



FIGHT CONTINUES AFTER GUTSY WIN

Yesterday saw our Senior team face an almighty challenge against Monash Gryphons, with one of the two teams to be relegated to Division 3 in 2014. Those who were there would have been forgiven to think the season may have gone, and we were certainties for D3, at half time when we trailed by 31 points. However, a change in attitude and commitment by the boys in the second half has kept our battle to stay in D2 alive, as they fought back to win by 16 points. The result puts us a game and 4.4% ahead of Monash as we enter the last round of the season. With our last opponents being top team Therry Penola and Monash's being bottom team Emmaus St Leo's, the war is not done yet. We need to get all the supporters we can along to the match out at Oak Park on Saturday to help us get over the line. The Reserves also saved their best for late in the game yesterday as they stormed home, after trailing by 3 goals at the last change, to win by 28 points. On Friday night the under 19s continued to show their potential, this time under lights, to defeat Latrobe University by 10 goals in tough conditions and stay in second spot. With one round left the boys could finish anywhere from first to third and they take on Old Parade to finish the home and away rounds. The first and third placed teams will host finals in the Under 19s this year during week 1 of the finals, so it would be great to snatch top spot. A big last round for all!

PRESENTATION NIGHT

A reminder to all players, partners, families and supporters that the Presentation night is not far away, so please organise your tickets, if you need to pay via online banking, please contact a committee member for banking details. It would be great to see you all there, a great dinner is assured at Condotti Restaurant.

14 August 2013

IRISH MOOSE

Our Moose, Ash Close, has been invited to represent the VAFA on their tour of Ireland to take on some Irish Gaelic Football Teams in some hybrid matches. They leave at the end of September for the tour. It is a great honour for Ash, once again, well deserved. Congratulations Ash!

FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER LIGHTS

Our Under 19s again this year have an exciting opportunity to play a night game. This weeks match against Latrobe University will be held on Friday night at Latrobe Uni at 7pm. It is a great opportunity for the boys and also for all our supporters who usually have to decide which match to watch. We encourage all supporters and Senior players to get along on Friday night to support our boys.

VOTE COUNT

We are planning to hold this year's vote counts on Saturday 31 August at the clubrooms from 6pm'ish. With both the Seniors and Reserves finishing up on 24 August we anticipate that the Under 19s first week final will be on this Saturday at a local venue (still could be Ivanhoe Park). This will mean that all Seniors and Reserves players can get to the Under 19 match to support the boys and then make their way from the match to Ivanhoe Park for the vote count that evening. If for some reason the Under 19s match is scheduled for the Sunday we may need to review when we hold the vote count.

8 August 2013

PRESENTATION NIGHT - 20 SEPT

As previously announced the IAFC 2013 Presentation Night will be held on Friday 20 September. The evening will be held at Condotti Restaurant, 239 Lower Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe East from 7pm. The evening will include a three course meal and beer/wine as part of the ticket. Ticket are \$100 for Seniors/Reserves/Adult Supporters and \$80 for Under 19s/Ladies. You are able to buy tickets now by seeing any of the players leadership group or a committee member for yourself and your partners. We look forward to a great evening of food, drinks and stories of our 2013 Seasons.

LAST ROUND DRINKS

Our last players function at the club rooms is fast approaching. The Last Round Drinks evening is held, obviously, after the last round on Saturday 24 August. It will be a great night to farewell the season for the Seniors and Reserves and for the Under 19s to celebrate a great home and away season before they have a crack at the finals. Make sure you get along and bring all your partners to help us celebrate in style.

5 August 2013

GUTS BUT NO GLORY

In a year of close defeats for our Senior team, Saturday was a similar story. With our backs truly up against the wall as we entered the last month of the home and away season we ventured out to Domeney Reserve for the last time (Yarra Valley are moving next year). The boys again showed fantastic spirit, as they have over the last month or more, and led the second placed Bushrangers for much of the day and with only 3 or 4 minutes left were trailing by a solitary point. Unfortunately Yarra managed to kick 3 quick goals to finish 20 points in front. With other results not going our way we

now sit in 8th spot, one game ahead of relegation, so the last three games are going to determine which grade we play in in 2014. The Reserves had a very tough day, struggling to field a full team. The undermanned team showed spirit as they were completely outpointed all day to lose by 111 points. It is the Under 19s that have the good news for our club as they continue their great year. Sitting third going into the weekend they took on second placed St Marys Salesian at Ivanhoe Park. A slow start saw the boys trailing by 4 goals at quarter time, but by the final siren we had fought back and took the game by 3 points and second spot on the ladder. Well done guys.