

2010

Rise and rise of Club Barnstoneworth. February 2010

Barnstoneworth Football Club, the thinking mans football club in Orange are primed for the 2010 season in the Orange Football Competition. Performances in last years Year of the Ox season saw the continued trend of all three teams prominent at the pointy end of the season but failing to win any silverware. Management have taken some drastic steps to address this concern in 2010, the year of the tiger, I hasten to add, not the year of Tiger Woods.

With global warming limited an increase of just 2 degrees based on an uncontrolled, non binding, non monitored, non sanctioned meet at Copenhagen recently, Barnstoneworth Management will continue to play their part in this important global concern with players contemplating wearing green shirts to be more eco friendly. This rumour is yet to be confirmed. Barnies management have teamed well with the financial wizards of Orange for sponsorship, managing another multi million dollar deal with Parkview Hotel. This is the fourth year Parkview has supported Barnstoneworth with Parkview management pleased with the ever increasing profile of this august football team and the benefits that flow at the View, usually just after a game. This influx of additional funds has not been unnoticed with a number of prominent sporting people in Orange and surrounding villages also wanting to jump on the Barnies match payment gravy train. Management at Barnstoneworth are happy to negotiate any financial deal, provided no review of off field activities are linked to payments (similar to Sydney Roosters).

2010 will not commence without the usual behind the scenes activities during the off season. 2009 saw a number of new players sign for the season with United player of the season, Tim Hewitt a fine example of positive recruitment to the club. As a part of the 2010 recruitment campaign, a number of new players from as far away as Scotland and Mexico are considering a transfer offer from Barnies and a fourth team, tentatively named Brighthouse (also part of Yipping Yarns folklore) is proposed for the >35 competition.

The second issue to deal with has been the marquee player for 2010. This has led to a number of heated disputes between players with many wanting to maintain the services of Glenn Harpley as the glamour player for 2010. A number, however, want to decide once the transfer window for players is closed and teams finalized before such an important decision is made official.

The upside in the off season has been the strict training regime each Sunday with children and non-playing neighbours boosting the attendance each training session into the 10's, Barnies players are rigorous in following their individual program of rehydration after each training session. This, in addition to touch football and an ongoing support of the local vintners have kept the players in tip top condition (no relationship to white bread now no longer baked in Orange).

As with each season, the team song 'calcitro qu horreum lapis dignitas'(kick it Barnstoneworth) will be heard long and loud during the season . With planets aligned, temperature increases controlled, crystals and palms read and in the Year of the tiger, Barnstoneworth, the thinking mans club will be a year to remember.

Rise and rise of Club Barnstoneworth. March 2010

With only a few weeks before the start of the premier football competition in Orange, the >35's competition, Barnstoneworth Football Club, the thinking mans football club of Orange are working through the team structures and positions for the three teams under the banner of Barnstoneworth, 2010. As indicated in a previous article, Barnstoneworth signed the lucrative sponsorship contract with Parkview Hotel recently and benefits of this have already flowed to the club. As part of the contractual arrangements, Barnstoneworth players are present each Thursday for autograph signing for the many patrons at the Hotel. A karaoke and dance night has also been mooted, once the pole has been strengthened and OH&S and Workcover have approved the upgrade. A Trivia Night, with all questions related to Ripping Yarns and previous Barnstoneworth results and players, has also been discussed. If pole dancing doesn't bring in the crowds, trivia will.

As Ripping Yarns devotees would know, Barnstoneworth United played against a number of teams in the south Yorkshire competition in the 1920s and 30's. These included Denley Moor Academicals and Brighouse. As Barnstoneworth has progressed in Orange from a modest 1 team club in the late 1990's under the United banner to 3 teams in the >35 in 2010 (and also a youth and development squad in the all-age), Barnstoneworth needed to utilise additional names along with United. Although, technically foes in the competition in Michael Palin's stories, Barnies have embraced the fine Yorkshire village names of Denley Moor and Brighouse into the >35 competition .

United, the 'selective school' within Barnstoneworth, have had the history and kudos of being 'the thinking men team of the thinking men's club'. United expanded to embrace a multitude of cultures and backgrounds to now be the melting pot of football faiths and skills and arguably the envy of other clubs in the >35 comp. United have purchased some good buys in the off season to assist in reducing the overall age of the squad by several weeks.

Where United players prefer the artistic works of Christo, Denley Moor Academicals, the social club within Barnstoneworth, have had an active week with many attending the Mardi Gras, although few will confirm whether to watch or participate. The highlight for Barnies was the performance on the steps of the Opera House on Monday morning by many within the Denley team. Many in the club believe Denley Moor are the 'show ponies' in the club and this was on display in copious amounts that chilly morning but a number in the club have also found some new respect for the players after their performance for Spencer Tunick. Not an easy task hugging a naked 20 year old woman you have not met before and still be able to concentrate on the task at hand, photography or human sculpture.

Brighouse, the new team on the block for Barnies, have yet to find the mojo within the club but all are expecting great things from this exciting new group. Many have already contemplating their involvement in some performing opportunities with some planning some 'still life' work for the TAFE art class. Phil 'Obama' Hodges just mumbles 'mea culpa'. More will be revealed.

Rise and rise of Club Barnstoneworth. April 2010

Barnstoneworth Football Club, the thinking mans club of Orange have had a tumultuous month. Many would be aware that the new A League team of Melbourne Heart (if ever such a bodily organ exists in Melbourne) have stolen the red, white and black colours of the fabled Barnstoneworth Football Club. Barnstoneworth are quietly pleased, however, that an A league team have decided to use the colours of this august football club of Orange. Some in the club also wanted the club emblem of the handle barred player and the mottos of 'the legend continues' also used but to be quite frank having such a motto for any football club in Melbourne is completely inappropriate. Legends are only believed to reside in country NSW, at least in the mind of country NSW players, specifically >35 Orange players at Barnstoneworth.

Barnstoneworth Football Club and the continued growth of the club is mainly down to good club spirit, results of past seasons, magnificent sponsors like the Parkview Hotel and terrific talent scouting. On top of this has been the continued support by the CWD in publishing the results, fund raising actions and social activities that the club and its members are involved each week. It was with some shock and surprise that the recent issue of the CWD 'Game On Program' failed to mention, even in passing, the >35 football competition, the premier football competition in Orange. Players, sponsors and neighbours were shocked that minnow competitions like aussie rules, hockey and league were all give game draws and commentary but not one column inch for >35 football. Barnstoneworth did note that other sporting such as netball and pigeon racing also had no information. Something, I hope, CWD address in future years and future issues.

As for the club in general, the 4 teams of Barnstoneworth are starting to take shape. Barnies Youth And Development Squad (YADS) have bought wisely in the off season with a number of new recruits from fields as far as Mexico and Millthorpe. This had added flair, strength and culture to the squad. The boys are quietly confident of a semi final position in 2010.

As for >35 competition, Barnstoneworth are flushed with talent with a third team in Brighthouse, joining Denley Moor Academicals and United this year. Brighthouse are a bit of an unknown squad, however a number of key players selected for vital positions will be the nucleus of the team. It was revealed in an earlier article that Brighthouse players were sitting for still life art classes at TAFE. It is rumoured that the old saying of 'being bigger than a brick....' was used by a number of women in class, but it is just a rumour. They obviously got their brick and house mixed up with Brighthouse but there are some well built bluestone foundations sighted among a few of the new signings in the team. A playing strip is yet to be finalized and a few of the free thinking players are not perturbed with what they wear but to protect the innocent and to keep the sporting paparazzi at bay, the club will find some clothing, any clothing.

Denley Moor, the literary show ponies of the club have also bought in some new faces and great expectations are anticipated. Players bought include Bumble (Denley made up of several from the Bumble family), Pumblechook and Harold Skimpole but what would you expect from a team with Dickensian great expectations. A team of well read players that in general can read the play, football. Some, however, are illiterate.

As for United, the blessed and skilled of the club continue with just one or two new signings. To get into this team you need to know all the hand signs, dress in an distinguished manner and be of sound mind (although this rule is frequently waived). This team is like Australian cricket team, harder to get in than out and to be frank, it is good that some form of critical selection is used to get into the think mans team of the thinking mans club. United should be strengthened by a number of players returning from injury. In 2009, United started with an orchestra of players but the injury toll reduced the numbers to a quartet and someone on spoons. The only unknown is who is the marquee player for 2010? More will be revealed on this issue at the start of the season proper in May. Negotiations continue.

Barnstoneworth – Season 2010 begins – four from four.

As dawn broke last Saturday morning it appeared to be just another mid Autumn day in Orange with no inkling of the potential to be such an historic day. Many in the Orange community, specifically the players in the Barnstoneworth Football Club, were wondering whether the off season team restructures, the return of old players and the introduction of new players would meld for the forthcoming matches. A number reading Barnies articles would be aware of the recent upheaval within the club on the team changes and many within the club were not amused by the forced changes management thrust onto a number of players but what a difference a day makes. Management, all is forgiven.

All Age C Division

Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were up against a strong East Orange United in the initial game of the C Division season. YADS are a combination of new players, youth and experience but little cohesion during the early moments. As the game progressed the experience of Andy Haydon, the youth of Jorge Mejia and the introduction of new players like Valmir Winkler came to the four. A number of great scoring opportunities with some stout defence had YADS in command. Goals were scored by Karl Brabrook, Siniga Fourmarch and Luke Kent with a brace of goals by the speedy midfielder in Jorge Mejia and YADS were the victors 5-0. A terrific performance with player rotation the only obvious improvement noted from the sideline. Just the tonic for the remaining matches of the day.

Over 35's

In the premier football division in Orange, the >35's, Barnstoneworth introduced the 2010 strategy of 3 teams into this division. This was a calculated risk that Management wanted to take with many sceptics wondering whether the teams would be too stretched in the thinking mans competition.

Denley Moor vs Gladdy –a - tahs

Denley Moor was an amalgam of ex United players and traditional Denley Moor players from previous years and the lack of combination showed in the earlier moments of the game. Gladdy, led by 'Crash' Goodluck and Allan Oswald showed some good early skills and with the Rangers keeper stopping everything Denley had to offer, Denley were down 1-0 early and many in Denley considered changes to the structure. After the early onslaught, Denley looked composed in the backs with man mountain, Ewan Powell in goals. Backs were well structured with Tony Haines, Andy Rolfe, Geoff Dunstan and Hugh Lukins all playing a strong games. Midfield of Alastair Dunham, Nick Milham and Tim Hewitt and Pat Driver were showing some good combinations and strikers Steve Adams, Rick Parsons and Allan Benter showing good skills. A second half strike by Jeremy Buckingham and Steve Adams and Denley prevailed in a tight contest 2-1. Two game, two wins.

Brighthouse vs Saints

Brighthouse, the salary cap exploiters of the >35 competition in Orange had poached a number of players from within Barnstoneworth and with the return of some previously seasoned players made for a strong Brighthouse team. As Charles Dickens may say 'great expectations' are anticipated for Brighthouse. With the premier keeper of the club in Stu Riles not available, Terry 'thrill' Brill was given the task of keeping. Defence was a strong quartet of Mick Carpenter, Lino Manca, Andrew Brown and Jason Ingham. Midfield was the strength of the team with Phil Davis, Dave Clarke, Ali Noerdin, Dave Craig, Brett Hazard and Chris Jacobs showing control with the strikers in Bruce Hogben, Daryl Guise and Glenn Harpley feeding off some terrific through ball from midfield. With the trial match the previous week against Saints and reviews of videos of Saints game plan during the week, Brighthouse exploited some weaknesses in the Saints defence. Glenn Harpley scored the first for the day with Chris Jacobs, Brett Hazard, Ali Noerdin and Bruce Hogben also making the scorers list. Glenn went on to score a total of four goals for the match for an 8-0 score line. There was an incident late in the game that blotted the copybook of Harpley. Call it ego or enthusiasm in scoring four goals, Harpley could not help himself in trying to also ref at the same time. A yellow card to Harpley and all the good work of this fine player was for nought. The disgrace of a card and his best and fairest chances for 2010 shot after one game. 'What was he thinking' was the call after the game. Three games and three wins and the pressure was mounting.

United vs CYMS FB's

Barnstoneworth United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club had the usual honour of being the final game of Saturday. Many players from previous games and many spectators were on hand to watch what is becoming a tradition in Orange, United vs FB's as the best game of the opening round. United started with a strong team with Scott Shepherd as goalie. Defence were the reliable Phil 'Obama' Hodges, returning from injury in Phil Totten, Sean Brady and Phil Jackson. Midfield was a strong group with Aidan Sugden, Robert Young, Rob Smith, Greg Vinall, Dan Kennedy, Sinisa Kosarac and Mick Jessop with the strikers of Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs. United started well with Eric Jacobs showing some good skills to convert the first opportunity. A second before half time by Tony Cavanagh and United looked the goods. 2-0 and only some fine saves by the FB's keeper kept the score to a reasonable total. FB's did have an opportunity to score from an indiscretion in the box (by a player whose youthful name will not be mentioned) but keeper Shepherd was not required to save the wayward shot. At oranges, United players were reminded of the second half resilience of FB's and the history beckoning day if United could win. FB's scored from a terrific cross early in the second half and at 2-1 the game was in the balance. Some resolute defence by United and a quick counter had FB's stretched. A last line of defence tackle and a penalty to United. Aidan Sugden was called to take the penalty. After some earlier wayward shots in open play, many in United were hostile to Sugden been given the opportunity to take the penalty but cooler heads prevailed and Sugden converted beautifully. 3-1 the final score. It was then that enormity of the day became clear.

At rehydration at Barnstoneworth's premier sponsor, the Parkview Hotel, players, supporters and sponsors were there in droves with the Parkview Barnies Room bursting at the seams. Sponsors were over the moon that the change of supporting Melbourne Storm to Barnstoneworth during the week had an immediate impact. Barnstoneworth had never fielded four sides in the Orange

competition and with each team winning, team historian, Ed Cato, was over the moon. 'It will be remembered with similar importance to the Orange bypass opening, if ever that happens' said Cato.

That mid autumn day in Orange was just a beautiful day. Thinking people in Orange would agree. At least one event was reality.

Barnstoneworth – Round 2, 2010 – 8th May 2010

With Barnstoneworth Football club still basking in the glory of a perfect start to the season last week (4 wins from 4 games), management of this thinking mans club were not resting on the laurels of victories past. Many in the club, that are comfortable rubbing shoulders with the well established in Orange society, decided to relax on Friday night watching the premier of 'Dusty' at the Civic Centre. A night recommended to the thinking people of Orange. Discussed after the fine performance, Barnstoneworth Management wanted to strengthen both the player numbers and political base prior to the closure of the transfer period. A key signing of Jeremy Buckingham into the Denley Moor fold during the week reinforced the green credentials of this team and more importantly, the club. This weekend, Barnstoneworth had some key games in the >35 competition against, on paper, more experienced teams. Players and supporters alike steeled themselves for something different to the first round results but life is full of surprises.

All Age C Division - YADS vs Kinross 16's. (9-0)

In the all age competition Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were against a new and inexperienced team in Kinross 16's. The fitness of the Kinross team was countered by their inexperience and YADS had a field day. YADS were almost at full strength with Matt McGrath at keeper and Andy Hulme, Josh Towns, Matt Bird and Chaim Sproles in the defensive lineup. Midfield was the strong combination of Valmir Winkler, Jorge Mejia, Chris Hanicar, and Andrew Haydon with the striker combination of Siniga Fourmarch, Karl Youse and Karl Braybrook. YADS played some terrific positional play and were up 5-0 by oranges. Further goals in the second half and YADS were victors 9-0. Siniga Fourmarch and Matt McGrath scored single goals, Matt coming from goals to slot a penalty. Club historian could not find a Barnies goalie on the score sheet for many years. Karls's Braybrook and Youse scored a brace each and Jorge Mejia continued his fine start of the season with a hat trick. Management are extremely pleased the huge transfer fee paid to the Mexican FFA for Mejia has already paid dividends and it also reinforces the clubs multicultural base other than players from Orange and far away Millthorpe.

Over 35's

In the premier football division in Orange, the >35's, Barnstoneworth policy of three teams was put through the test on the weekend. All teams were arguably against stronger foe with mixed results.

Denley Moor vs CYMS Gold (0-6)

Denley Moor were against last years grand finalists and the new team structure was put to the test. With usual keeper, man mountain Ewan Powell unavailable, stand in keepers Tim Hewitt and Hugh Lukins put their hands up - literally. Denley had a strong defensive group in Tony Haines, Andy Rolfe, Martyn Patfield and Rick Parsons. Midfield was new recruit Jeremy Buckingham with stalwarts in Drew Tuckwell, Nick Milham, Andrew Ellington and Pat Driver and strikers Mick Flynn, Steve Adams, Alaister Dunham. Denley played with determination and pluck but were outmatched by the more experienced CYMS team. A 6-0 loss to CYMS but Denley showed some terrific periods of play.

Brighouse vs Waratahs (3-2)

Brighouse were playing Waratahs on Tahs home soil for the first time in 2010. Waratahs pride themselves on winning home games but the new kids on the block, Brighouse, were not there just for the numbers. Befitting such an important game, Brighouse donned their new jumpers. Tangerine, black and white the colours of Brighouse. The new stadium at Tahs was packed to watch this enthralling contest.

With the premier keeper of the club in Stu Riles returning, Terry 'thrill' Brill was pushed into the backline to support of Mick Carpenter, Andrew Brown and Jason Ingham. Midfield were Phil Davis, Dave Clarke, Ali Noerdin, Dave Craig and Chris Jacobs and strikers were Bruce Hogben and Glenn Harpley. With only one reserve to call on, player rotation was a difficult task. Glenn Harpley started off like the previous week by slotting in the opening goal. A beautifully constructed goal that demolished the Tahs defensive pattern. Tahs replied quickly and the arm wrestle continued. Dave '5' Clarke scored the second goal for Brighouse and at oranges with Brighouse up 2-1. Players and spectators alike were thinking an upset was on the cards. In the second half, Tahs refused to roll over and a second equaliser had the crowd on their feet. Some good lead up through the midfield and Chris Jacobs scored the winner for Brighouse with Tahs unable to reply. A terrific win by Brighouse in their new strip cements their position as the gun team of the >35's in 2010. Only early days boys. Just wait till next week.

United vs Canobolas Rangers (2-2)

Barnstoneworth United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club were up against stern opposition in 2009 >35 premiers in Rangers. United were not intimidated by Rangers but the loss before the start of the game due to injury of United's gun midfielder in Robert Young did not dampen the enthusiasm of the United team. New signing, Scott Shephard continued his role a goalie. Defence were the reliable Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Gary James, Phil Totten, Sean Brady and Phil Jackson. Midfield were the reliable Aidan Sugden, Dennis Hodgkins, Ed Cato, Rob Smith, Dan Kennedy and Mick Jessop with duo of Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs the striker combination.

Rangers started the more composed with some good midfield play. United defence was under pressure but United also had some opportunities. A scything shot by Sugden just missed in an early raid on the Rangers goal. Rangers responded and a long distance attempt was easily covered by Shepherd and long clearance had Rob Smith clear. A shot on goal was parried by Rangers keeper Sharpie but the rebound was put away by Smith. United one up and Rangers were bemused. A body clash in the United goals and Rob Smith was left walking wounded. Rangers pushed for an equaliser with a Rangers reply just before half time the game was poised for a hard second half. With both sides showing some sterling commitment in both attack and defence, neither side were taking prisoners in the second half. United scored from a classic play down the right side. With Aidan Sugden beating several with a mesmerising run down the right wing, an inch perfect cross and Eric Jacobs scored. Rangers pressed with Luke Bingham finding some space down the right side with a number of opportunities.

With only a few minutes remaining Rangers again equalised. The last few minutes were tight and hard football with both teams looking for victory and offering little for the opposition. Keeper Scott Shephard, defender Sean Brady and midfielder Aidan Sugden had stand out games.

At rehydration at Barnstoneworth's premier sponsor, the Parkview Hotel, the beautiful weekend of the previous week was but a distant memory. Two wins, a draw and a loss was the Barnies carbon footprint for the weekend. To be honest, not a bad result given the opposition on the weekend. All >35 played against the top 3 from 2009. A win, loss and draw in the three games was a pleasing result. All goes well for Barnstoneworth, the green club of 2010. Also discussed was next weeks mate vs mate game, United vs Brighouse at Jack Brabham. Bookies and players were already discussing results, start and first scorers but one United player was adamant, 'no favours for the boys in tangerine and no start offered – or given'. If anything like previous years United against other >35 teams in Barnstoneworth are pure grit and determination.

Barnstoneworth – Round 3, 2010 – 15th May

I always wonder at the depth and variety of activities that members of the Barnstoneworth Brotherhood are involved in. If players are not rubbing shoulders with the politically connected, members are seen at social and historic events as well. As mentioned in the article last week, Barnstoneworth have become the 'green' club with the signing of a local political heavyweight. This, no doubt, will open up opportunities for greater access to thinkers outside the football fraternity. Players also continue to attend social events in Orange, the musical 'Dusty' being one such event. Barnstoneworth players were there in droves in the last two weeks to support this wonderful performance by locals – a small price to pay to be part of the cultural elite of Orange. Many in Barnstoneworth can't wait to see the next musical, 'Rent' later this year. Many would have also noted the Australian submission for the 2018 World Cup this week. Barnstoneworth Management have been working closely with the FFA on the submission with the hope that the multi function stadium at Jack Brabham gets the green light. 'Stadium Barnstoneworth' would be a fitting name.

With the season proper now at full swing in Orange, teams from both the all age and the more important >35 competition played again this weekend. Barnstoneworth continue to show that early wins were no aberration.

All Age C Division - YADS vs Saints Ignite (3-1)

In the all age competition Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) had the top of the table clash with Saints Ignite. It was considered a litmus test for the restructured YADS as the earlier rounds were against less fancied teams. Both teams went into the game undefeated with a single goal differential separating each team. YADS were close to full strength with Matt McGrath at keeper and Andy Hulme, Josh Towns, Matt Bird and Chaim Sproles in the defensive lineup. Midfield was the strongest combination available with Valmir Winkler, Dave Taylor, Jorge Mejia, Chris Hanicar, and Andrew Haydon with the striker combination of Siniga Fourmarch, Curtis (surname unavailable due to copyright), Karl Youse and Karl Braybrook. Steve Perkins and Steve Fairly were also making their first start in the fabled red, white and black.

YADS knew they were in for a torrid time against some talented young players. YADS played some fine football with a first goal by Karl Braybrook. A reply by Ignite and at oranges it was anyone's game. YADS goalie, Matt McGrath was not happy. The only goal conceded in three games of football. A fine start to the second half by YADS and a second goal by Curtis and a third by Jorge Mejia, his sixth goal in three matches, and YADS prevailed 3-1. The pleasing point is that nearly all the players were available to play and the combination is getting more structured each game.

Over 35's

In the premier football division in Orange, the >35's, Denley Moor had the bye and many of their players went to Jack Brabham to watch the local derby, Brighthouse vs United. The mind games between players had started the previous week and during the week many emails, twitters, blogs and text messages were circulating amongst the players on who would be first scorer, who would win and by how many goals. Many technically unskilled in United had no idea of what a blog was but are familiar on what is a twit.

Brighthouse vs United (4-2)

Brighthouse started with an almost full strength line-up with Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in goal. Terry 'thrill' Brill, Mick Carpenter, Lino Manca and Jason 'Chooka' Ingham the reliable defensive structure. Midfield were Phil Davis, Dave '5' Clarke, Brett Hazard, Dave Craig and Chris 'Russel Crowe' Jacobs with strikers Bruce Hogben, Daryl Guise and Glenn Harpley along with new signing, Damian Pries up front. This was Priest's first game for the 'Tangerine men' and befitting his elevation to the new club he donned bright yellow boots, similar to those Jarrod Haynes would wear.

United, the thinking man's team of the thinking man's club, on the other hand, were slightly undermanned and less colourful with United guns and part time celebrity managers, Robert Young and Phil Totten unavailable. Rumour is that they were negotiating with Jessica Watson a contract for the YADS team in 2011 as she sailed up Sydney Harbour. It is also rumoured Lara Bingle will be next to sign.

United had Scott Shephard in goals. Defence were the usually reliable Phil 'Obama' Hodges (more on him later) along with Gary James, Sean Brady and Phil Jackson. Midfield included Aidan Sugden, Mick Flynn, Dennis Hodgkins, Ed Cato, Rob Smith, Sinisa Kosarac, Dan Kennedy and Mick Jessop. Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs the striker combination.

Brighthouse started, as usual, the stronger with some good combinations in the midfield by Chris Jacobs and Phil Davis. Only some stout defence by the United back four and the safe hands of Scott Shephard kept Brighthouse at bay for the first 20 minutes. A Brighthouse shot was repelled by the United defence but the returning ball from Brighthouse defender, Mick Carpenter went into the top corner from 30 metres out. A terrific strike by the reliable Brighthouse defender. Brighthouse was up 1-0 and the Brighthouse chatter became a crescendo. To United's credit they pressed for an equaliser but Brighthouse struck again with a beautiful touch from close range by Brett Hazard. It was then that the game descended into farce. Some 'simulation' just outside the United box by Brighthouse's midfielder, Chris Jacobs had the United players up in arms. The only person on the park that thought it was a penalty was officialdom while others thought the simulation was only bettered by an Italian player in 2006. You know what I mean readers! A Brighthouse shot and United's defender, Phil 'Obama' Hodges deflected the shot just past the United's goal. Hearts were in mouths for the United defence that Hodges just missed an own goal, but more was to follow. Another raid by Brighthouse and the cross beautifully struck by Hodges into his own goal. United down 3-0 and United players were understandably concerned that United's Hodges had scored. Many uncomplimentary comments were directed to Hodges, but the distressed and obviously disorientated Hodges insisted the score was now 2-1.

At Oranges, United players were in a huddle with ostracised Hodges looking forlorn and alone 20 metres away.

Second half started with United looking more purposeful. Some beautiful one touch football by United's Mick Jessop to Mick Flynn down the right side with the resulting cross met by Aidan Sugden. Perfect control by Sugden and a shot into the bottom corner and United were on the board. United pressed again and United scored by a defensive error by Brighouse's Jason Ingham and United were back in the game at 3-2. Brighouse pressed as the United players injury toll mounted. A beautiful cross by Brett Hazard and Glenn Harpley pounced on the ball. 4-2 to Brighouse, although an obviously incoherent Phil Hodges was claiming a 3-3 draw. Sinisa Kosarac was felled late in the game by a falcon shot by Brighouse's Phil Davis. It was the first time Sinisa has hit the pitch in any of his many years with Barnstoneworth and Davis is believed to have moved and now living under an assumed identity somewhere in Europe. Kosarac is believed to be a non forgiving type. Jacobs and Hazard the standouts for Brighouse while Sugden, Brady and Jessop toiled manfully in the United team.

At rehydration at Barnstoneworth's premier sponsor, the Parkview Hotel, YADS players still had their feet on the ground talking about 'one game at a time'. Brighouse and United players dwelled on the positives and also the farcical incidents that occurred in the game. Some terrific play by both sides in the match, some solid defence and some own goals along with some simulation had the tongues wagging. Many farewelled Davis prior to his quick exit. YADS have another top of the table clash with Millthorpe Black next week. Brighouse have the bye and Denley Moor are against United in another mate vs mate game in the >35's.

Barnstoneworth – Round 4, 2010 – 22nd May

With resident Barnstoneworth United Football club scribe Phil Jackson away swanning it off with many thinking people of Wesley College at Sydney Uni the writing of the most eagerly awaited article to appear weekly in the CWD was passed this week to Glenn Harpley. Feeling nervous to ensure that regular readers were not let down, Harpley spent many a night this week reading the Macquarie dictionary (kindergarten version) to ensure Jackson's standards were upheld in his absence.

All Age C Division - YADS vs Millthorpe Black (0-0)

In the all age competition Barnstoneworth Youth and Development Squad (YADS) had their first road trip for 2010, making their way out to Millthorpe to take on top 4 contenders Millthorpe Black.

For those footballers who have made their way out to Millthorpe the ground has a certain slope that can take several years to master. Jessica Watson having completed her solo unassisted round the world trip would have been right at home on the Millthorpe pitch with her wonky sea legs negating the hard to judge slope.

YADS were keen to cement their position at the top of the table after three wins from three starts this season. However, Millthorpe has other ideas. YADS went into the game with the ever reliable Matt McGrath at keeper. Andy Hulme, Josh Towns, Matt Bird and Chaim Sproles kept the YADS defensive line in tact, with Valmir 'Henry' Winkler, Dave Taylor, Jorge Mejia and Chris Hanicar strong in the middle. Siniga Fourmarch, Karl Youse and Karl Braybrook were able to pepper the Millthorpe defence, only to be denied.

At the end of the day, a 0-0 result, keeping YADS firmly entrenched in the top half of the field.

Over 35's – United vs Denley Moor Academicals (4-1)

As it turns out, last week's article could have been re-used as the game of the round in the Orange Over 35's between Barnstoneworth United and Denley Moor Academicals was virtually a carbon copy of the previous week's game between United and Brighouse. There were two own goals, players hitting the ground and some delightful football across the park.

This week it was Brighouse having a rest after three wins from as many games, so the Brighouse boys were out in force to watch stable mates United and Denley Moor slug it out at Jack Brabham oval. The mind games played by United last week were not continued as United may have sensed that this week they were not the under dog, but had a realistic chance of taking the points. The Orange Football Association even recognised the importance of this game by moving it to the number one pitch at Brabham to ensure that the anticipated bumper crowd had a great view of the game. The tension between two teams could be smelt in the air prior to kick-off, or perhaps that was just the waft of the sausages cooking on the BBQ provided by the Brighouse boys.

United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club, were buoyed by the return of Phil Totten, who after a week off with injury was ready and raring to go. It didn't take long for United to get on the board with Eric Jacob's scoring early on with a fine strike after managing to draw in several defenders and then turn for a brilliant shot that Denley keeper Ewan Powell could only watch as it sailed into the net.

United were up 1 nil and looked to be in control. That was until club president Phil 'Andrés Escobar' Hodges, calmly nudged in his second own goal in as many weeks. For those that don't know who Escobar is, he famously scored an own goal in the 1994 world cup whilst playing for Columbia. The resulting loss to the USA saw Columbia bundled out of the world cup in the first round. No less than 3 weeks later, Escobar was murdered, believed to be at the hands of Columbian drug lords who were furious at the own goal and the resulting gambling losses. Hodges was seen at the end of the game packing his kit and hitting the road.

With the game level at one a piece, it was there for the taking and United started to dominate in the midfield with Aidan Sugden, Mick Flynn, Dennis Hodgkins, Ed Cato, Rob Smith, Sinisa Kosarac, Dan Kennedy and Mick Jessop all looking good over the ball. Andy Rolfe and Sinisa Kosarac competed hard for the ball in the mid-field and the ensuing clash saw Sinisa hit the ground, again for the second time in as many weeks. Kosarac, although a little slow to get to his feet, picked himself up, gave the head a bit of a shake to see if was still attached, and calmly went about his business. Rolfe quickly made his way to the sideline to see if anyone new the whereabouts of Phil Davis who had also felled Kosarac the week before and was now believed to be living under an assumed name some where in Europe.

To their credit, Denley Moor looked structured with Tony Haines, Nick Milham and Geoff Dunstan all playing strong games. The midfield of Alastair Dunham, Nick Milham and Tim Hewitt and Pat Driver were starting to make inroads into the United defence. New Denley recruit Andy Bobbin look good early on, only to succumb to injury and he would not make it back on the park. Drew Tuckwell made several incisive raids into United territory, but was unable to convert. Unfortunately, for Denley, the own goal curse struck shortly after with Andy Rolfe deflecting one into his own goal. Another goal by Jacobs and United made it to oranges in a strong position leading 3-1. All was now square in the eyes of Kosarac.

The half time pep talk was an interesting chat, with calls from the side line for Hodges to don the Denley strip and play for them. In fact, the crowd was buzzing as every time Hodges had the ball the cry of 'Shoot' would echo around grounds of Jack Brabham. United keeper Scott Shephard was also looking nervy when Hodges went near the ball.

The second stanza was a tight affair with limited opportunities for both teams. Denley's Tim Hewitt should have scored from a scorching shot, but was denied by the wood work. However it was United who maintained the pressure and a late goal to Jacobs to give him the hat trick was the clincher for United. Garry James and Sean Brady were strong as ever in defence, whilst Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh played a very solid game. The end result 4-1 to United.

For those readers keen to learn more about the thinking mans club, visit the newly created website at www.barnstoneworthcorange.com and delve into the colourful characters that make up this fine club.

Barnstoneworth – Round 6, 2010 – 29th May

Many thinking readers would have had the experience of remembering where you were at critical times in life, like where were you on the day of the 1974 rugby league grand final, in my case watching the Roosters destroy St George but it is the cathartic incidences in life that are the meaningful ones. My first cathartic experience was the death of Princes Diana and my life changing decision to revert to a republican. My second was late last week. As many avid readers of the tabloid press of Sydney would have noted, the use, or abuse, of body hugging clothing on one of the Williams sisters in the French Open. This was taken up by CWD's leading sports journalist in Michelle Cook about thought police and for people to have an open mind on the posterior unchallenged tennis player and the use of this type of clothing. This one article in the local newspaper has led to a series of events that can not be stopped. Barnstoneworth Management, for many years, have had Greg 'Warwick Capper' Vinall as an integral part of the playing numbers. His body hugging shorts have gone down in folk lore, so to speak, within the Barnstoneworth community. With the CWD article staring Barnies management in the face it was decided that Barnstoneworth players should don flesh coloured shorts that are a combination of body tones of most of the Barnies players – off white, bone or cream along with the body hugging tightness that Vinall has been so successful in wearing. Concerned that Barnies players may revolt (or look revolting), CEO and the clubs chief exhibitionist, Phil 'Obama' Hodges said he would trial the shorts on the weekend. In hindsight, and I use the word appropriately, this was a mistake.

All Age C Division - YADS vs CYMS Green (1-0)

In the all age competition Barnstoneworth Youth and Development Squad (YADS) returned from their long road trip from Millthorpe to the more level field of Jack Brabham.

YADS were keen to maintain their position at the top of the table after an undefeated start to the season. YADS went into the game with the ever reliable Matt McGrath at keeper. Andy Hulme, Josh Towns, and Chaim Sproles kept the YADS defensive line in tact, with Valmir 'Vlad' Winkler, Dave Taylor, Jorge 'tequila' Mejia and Chris Hanicar strong in the middle. Siniga Fourmarch, Karl Youse and Matt Bird were the reliable strikers. YADS dominated play with the skills of keeper McGrath not needed the entire game. Defence and midfield were in total control. With Valmir and Jorge orchestrating the midfield the only ugly incident with Josh Towns tackling Siniga Fourmarch to stop him scoring. A most unfortunate development. Matt Bird scored a clinical goal and with the rotation of players in the heavy conditions well controlled, YADS never looked likely to be beaten. 1-0 to the youngsters of the club and great expectations for more silverware in 2010 is predicted after several years dressing as bridesmaids.

Over 35's

Denley Moor vs CYMS FB's (1-0)

In the premier football competition in Orange, the >35 comp, Denley Moor were against the very competitive FB's. Denley started with man mountain, Ewan Powell in goals. Backs were well structured with Tony Haines, Andy Rolfe, Geoff Dunstan and Hugh Lukins all playing a strong games. Midfield had Alastair Dunham, Nick Milham, Tim Hewitt, Pat Driver and new signing Allan 'win' Reeder with Steve Adams, Rick Parsons, Drew Tuckwell, Allan Benter and Jeremy Buckingham up front. The game was an arm wrestle in the heavy condition with neither side giving ground. Reeder blossomed in well in the mid field and a clinical strike by Buckingham the game breaker. The first 'carbon neutral' goal by Barnies was enough for a famous victory by Denely.

Brighthouse vs Gladdy A Tahs (6-1)

Front runners Brighthouse were up against the new comers to >35's in Gladdy A Tahs. Brighthouse started with an almost full strength line-up with Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in goal. Terry 'thrill' Brill, Mick Carpenter, Lino Manca and Jason 'Chooka' Ingham were the defensive structure. Midfield were the well established Phil Davis, Dave '5' Clarke, Brett Hazard, Dave Craig and Chris 'Russel Crowe' Jacobs with Bruce Hogben, Daryl Guise, Damien Priest and Glenn Harpley up front. A Tahs started well with a well thought out goal. Brighthouse knew then it was to be an arm wrestle. Damien Priest started to reply by Brighthouse and at oranges the game was level. The second half did not reflect the commitment of A Tahs. Second half started with a beautiful cross by Glenn Harpley that curled into the net and Brighthouse were up 2-1. Bruce Hogben scored from a terrific turn and shot and an own goal had Brighthouse up 3-1. An own goal by A Tahs and a beautiful run and cross from the left wing by Thrill Brill and Harpley scored a second. A final goal off an A Tahs goalie clearance deflected off Hogben and 6-1 the final score. Form all reports, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Mick Carpenter and Stu 'preying mantis' Riles the stand out players.

United vs Saints (3-3)

With Barnies now 3 wins from 3 games, pressure was on a depleted United structure to achieve a clean sweep for the weekend. With Young, Sugden, Totten, 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and even Vinall all refusing to play with Hodges after 2 own goals in as many weeks, United team needed a restructure.

United started with keeper Scott Shephard with Dennis Hodgskin, Gary James, Sean Brady and Phil 'Obama' Hodges the defensive 4. Midfield were the ever improving Mick Jessop and Robert Smith along with the reliable Dan Kennedy, Ed Cato and Phil Jackson with Sinisa Kosarac and Eric 'Borat' Jacobs the main strikers. Andy Rolfe, Pat Driver and Steve Adams also played a cameo role in the game. With Hodges now dressed in the tight, flesh coloured lycra shorts, Saints scored with a nice long distance strike. United replied with a terrific corner by James well headed by Jackson for Jacobs to score from the deflection from the keeper. Many believed the ball had crossed the line prior to Jacobs scoring but Eric was quick to claim the goal. Just typical to rob the hard working Jackson from his first goal in 3 years. Saints scored a second goal in comical circumstances after a cross by Saints was missed by defender Driver with keeper Shephard obviously distracted by the behind of Hodges. A third goal by Saints and United needed some rethinking. Robert Smith was pushed forward and scored from a lovely through ball. At this time United's Hodges was carded complaining about slide tackles

but it was obvious to all that the tight shorts were having a negative effect on both him and the team. United pressed with a number of gilt edged chances missed. With 23 minutes of extra time required, United's Kosarac scored from the last kick of the game. 3-3 a fitting result. Saints have found their keeper for the season.

At rehydration at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel, the marquee was full of well wishes and players. Dan Kennedy, from 'armaris R us' was quick to spruk up the performance of the new body hugging flesh coloured lycra shorts worn by Hodges as the kitting out of the club was won by his tender. Others were not convinced. Some were concerned the tirade off abuse and bile directed by Hodges during the game was a result of the lack of blood circulating in his body. Keeper Shephard was insistent that from behind, Hodges looked more like a bike rack and is refusing to keep in future games if the new shorts are worn by all. More will be revelled in coming weeks. Thankfully all photographic evidence has been destroyed, although a pirate copy may appear on You Tube. Hodges was still insistent that, if not used during games the shorts will add some attraction to the Frost Feast 'budgie smugglers' run in July.

Barnstoneworth – Round 7, 2010 – 5th June

Many of the Barnstoneworth establishment were at the opening of the local photographers and potters display at the Art Gallery on Friday night, rubbing shoulders with other influential people of this multicultural and multitalented town. What a great night and good to see the arts, apart from football, going from strength to strength. This and with the recent announcement that the Council is supporting the development of an indoor pool complex (yet another grass roots push that has taken years to get agreement – similar to completing the Orange by-pass) has had many in the Barnies fraternity wagging their tongues and shaking their heads. Why do all the good projects take so long to start, or if started, take so long to complete? Barnstoneworth financiers are worried the proposed Barnies ski lodge and indoor snow complex planned for the slopes of Mount Canobolas may now be in jeopardy. Too much development too soon? One of the frustrations of Orange but I digress.

After the distractions of the previous week that I will not rack over again, Barnstoneworth had a mixed week on the field. The thinking men of Barnstoneworth from the United team were at the grounds on Saturday to support the youth team and also watch the local derby, Denley Moor vs the tangerine men of Brighthouse.

All Age C Division YADS vs Cyms (0-2)

In the all age competition Barnstoneworth Youth and Development Squad (YADS) were against a strong CYMS side at Jack Brabham. With both teams starting the season well, tensions were high for an anticipated torrid affair at the top end of the table clash.

YADS went into the game with the ever reliable Matt McGrath at keeper. Andy Hulme, Josh Towns, Scott Shephard and Chaim Sproles were the defensive line, with Valmir 'Vlad' Winkler, Dave Taylor, Jorge 'tequila' Mejia and Chris Hanicar the midfield combination. Siniga Fourmarch, Karl Youse and Matt Bird were the strikers. The first half was a real arm wrestle with the most of the game played between the two goal boxes. A long through ball by CYMS split the off side trap and CYMS led 1-0 at oranges. Many on the sideline were not convinced the attacker was on side but the goal stood. Life goes on. Second half was more of the same with chances few. Another clinical strike and CYMS prevailed 2-0 over a disappointed but determined YADS side. Matt McGrath was livid having only one goal conceded in the initial five rounds and much discussion with his backs on improvements for the next round.

Over 35's

Denley Moor vs Brighthouse (0-3)

In the premier football competition in Orange, the >35 comp, the thinking mens competition, Denley Moor were against their fellow Barnstoneworthian team in Brighthouse. United players were there in numbers to offer support, derision and abuse in equal portions to both teams. Denley started with a full contingent of players with man mountain, Ewan Powell in goals. Backs were the reliable Tony Haines, Andy Rolfe, Rick Parsons, Geoff Dunstan and Tim Hewitt. Midfield had Andrew 'Ray' Ellington, Andy Bobin, Alastair Dunham, Hugh Lukins, Mick 'Errol' Flynn, Nick Milham, Allan 'WIN' Reeder and Pat 'taxi' Driver with Steve Adams, Rick Parsons, Drew Tuckwell, Allan Benter and Jeremy Buckingham up front.

Brighthouse started with an almost full strength side with Daryl Guise, Lino Manca and Bruce Hogben the only injuries leading up to the game. Brighthouse had Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in goal. Terry 'thrill' Brill, Mick Carpenter, Andrew Brown and Jason 'Chooka' Ingham were the defensive structure. Midfield were the well established Phil Davis, Dave '5' Clarke, Brett Hazard, Ali Noerdin, Dave Craig and Chris 'Russel Crowe' Jacobs with Damien Priest and birthday boy, Glenn Harpley up front.

The game started with Denley on the defence with the midfield of Brighthouse probing for weaknesses. Priest and Harpley were working well down the right attack for Brighthouse but, conversely, Denleys Adams and Tuckwell were also probing the Brighthouse defence. With Brighthouse attacking a beautiful cross by Clarke was struck by Harpley and Brighthouse was up 1-0. At oranges and United player revving up players from both sides, both teams were bemused but focussed at the game at hand. Harpley scored a second from an inch perfect cross from Jacobs. With both teams still committed to attack Chris Jacobs was taken down in a slightly mistimed tackle. The resulted penalty was a comedy of errors that had the spectator's vocal at the performance. 'Worth the price of admission' was one call. Harpley scored a lovely one touch opportunist goal for his hat trick. Denley did not give up with Hugh Lukins just missing a terrific chance late in the game that would have made for a more respectable score line. Harpley the obvious standout due to scoring all goals but Jacobs, Brill and Noerdin all had strong games. Tuckwell, Driver and Haines the pick of the Denley's side.

At rehydration at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel, players and supporters alike were there in numbers discussing the opportunities, missed and taken along with some of the more comical incidents. Many reflected that no-one was injured. This is always a positive result in a derby game. Many dwelt, however, on the hat trick of the birthday boy of the club, Glenn Harpley, his first three goal game in 2010, but not his last.

Barnstoneworth – Round 7, 2010 – 12th June

This week in the thinking mans club, it was all about the timing or should I say lack there of. Resident Barnstoneworth scribe Phil Jackson embarked on a talent recruiting mission to Israel and Turkey under the guise of a work trip. Jackson was offered an upgrade towards the pointy end of the plan, but declined the request given what happened recently to the former Minister for State and Regional Development. The long flight over, high on Jackson's list was to visit Turkish club Galatasaray to see if he could woo a talented Australian mid-fielder by the name of Harry Kewell back to the Australian shores to play for the thinking mans club of Orange. However, Jackson was met with disappointment at the club grounds after being told that young Harry was off in South Africa playing in a wee little tournament called the World Cup. Bugger!

Jackson's poor timing was not the only timing being questioned this week at Barnstoneworth HQ (aka the Park View Hotel). The timing of round 7 of the Orange Football and District Association was certainly under the microscope, with Saturday's games falling on the long weekend, which also happened to coincide with the commencement of the World Cup. Casualties were expected to be high and they were. Over 35 front runners Brighthouse had to defer their game against CYMS FB's due to CYMS FB being unable to field a team. Denley Moor had their bench decimated and United were looking for extras in the minutes before kick-off. Worst of all, YADS started with only 9 and had to send out an urgent SOS for players.

All Age C Division YADS vs Cudal (3-1)

In the all age competition Barnstoneworth Youth and Development Squad (YADS) were on the road again this week to sunny and warm Cudal. The long road to Cudal appeared to have been too long for some and YADS could only take to the field with 9 players. With kick off at 1.30pm, an urgent SOS was sent at 1.28pm for any Barnstoneworth players to make a mercy dash to Cudal. The SOS was duly answered by Brighthouse over 35 club mates in Mick Carpenter and Glenn Harpley, who were quick to load the kit into the car and make haste for Cudal show ground to arrive just in time for half time oranges. Although knackered, YADS were hanging on to a slender lead 2-1. The names of the first half goal scorers remain a mystery as YADS were delirious with exhaustion and could not remember who scored.

YADS kicked off the second half with renewed vigour and two sets of fresh although old legs. Matt McGrath was made to work hard at times in the goal keeping position. However McGrath may well have been the difference between the two sides with some superior glove work the highlight of the day. Andy Hulme was directing traffic at the rear of the field and Chris Hanicar controlling play in the centre. Matt 'the Marrickville Mauler' Bird was pushing hard against the Cudal defences, a little too hard at times and was shown the yellow card by the official. YADS striker, known only as Curtis scored YADS third goal after outpacing the Cudal defence from a beautiful long ball from Carpenter. The last 20 minutes of the game were a strong tussle between the two teams, with both sides having plenty of opportunity. 3 -1 to YADS in a gutsy hard fought win.

Over 35's Denley Vs Saints (4 All draw)

In the premier football competition in Orange, the >35 comp, the thinking mens competition, Denley Moor were against an improving Saints team. Denley started the game with Ewan Powell protecting goals. The back line consisted of Tony Haines, Nick Milham, Andy Bobin, Andrew Rolfe, Andrew Ellington. After trialing several combinations in the last couple of weeks, the halves were made up of Alastair Dunham, Steve Adams, Geoff Dunstan, Hugh 'Like a surgeon' Lukins, Matyn Patfield, Pat 'Taxi' Driver and Alan 'Win' Reeder. The improving forward combination of Drew Tuckwell and Jeremy Buckingham were keen to post some points on the board.

Saints found their mark early and before they knew it, Denley were down by 2. Denley were a little shell shocked and were unable to post a reply in the first stanza. A half time gee up from captain Steve Adams did the trick and Denley rallied after the break to score 2 early goals and lock it up. Saints scored again to take the lead, but it wasn't long before Denley replied with an equalizer and another to get back in front. As fulltime approached a shot from Saints glanced off the side of one of their players head ballooning up over Powell's outstretched arms to drop into the corner of the net. 4-4 at full time. Denley had many missed opportunities and were unlucky not to come away with a win. Goal scorers for Denley were Jeremy Buckingham and Drew Tuckwell scored a well deserved hat trick.

Over 35's Barnstoneworth United Vs Gladdy-A-Tahs (4 - 1)

This week Barnstoneworth United were on the road, albeit a short road trip to Waratah sports ground to take on Gladdy-A-Tahs. United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club, were slightly undermanned with long weekend commitments taking their toll. Once again Brighthouse game to the rescue with Phil Davis donning the gloves to fill in as stand in keeper. United defensive line was made up Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Gary James, Sean Brady and Phil Totten. Midfield included Aidan Sugden, Dennis Hodgkins, Rob Smith, Dan Kennedy and Mick Jessop. Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs the striker combination.

The game started well for United with an early goal to Jacobs. Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh added a further two to have united in a strong position. Jessop looked superb down the right side with some delightful one touch passing. With Gladdy-A-Tahs pushing towards the United goal a simply clearance kick from Sugden off the line should have easily repelled the attack. However, for Sugden it was if time was standing still and unfortunately the resulting 'air swing' was unable to clear the ball. Sugden was quick to point out that playing at altitude (Waratah sports ground is some 2 metres higher above sea level the Jack Brabham oval) and using the new "Jabulani" world cup ball that can swerve wildly even at a trickle pace, the clearance was always going to be difficult. "Jabulani" which means "to celebrate" in isiZulu was certainly what Gladdy-A-Tahs were doing after getting back into the match.

After Oranges, both teams were pressing hard to get an advantage, but neither team would give. The score would only change in the final minute of the game when Sean Brady scored a cracker in what was believed to be his first goal in over 10 seasons with the red and white army. The end result a fine 4-1 win.

At rehydration at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel, the usual after match dissection by players and supporters alike was interesting. Brighthouse were lamenting the loan of players following injuries to Carpenter and Davis. Talk also centred on Brady with management keen to permanently promote the star defender into the front line following the superb goal. There were certainly a few nervous looking forwards and halves in the United camp not keen to be pushed back. Debate will surely rage in the thinking mans team this week!

Barnstoneworth – Round 8, 2010 – 19th June

With the world cup now in full swing many of the Barnstoneworth establishment were feeling the pinch after staying up all night on several occasions over the last week to watch the world game. Surely this would not affect performance on the park? Unfortunately, the dark and gloomy Saturday afternoon in Orange reflected the results on the pitch. At the end of the day, three losses for the three over 35 teams with the only shining light a victory to YADS. Perhaps the lack lustre efforts of Barnstoneworth were due to the poor Australian performance against Germany, but whatever the reason, it is the first time this season that all three Over 35 teams haven't collected a win. A trend not many at the thinking mans club are keen to continue.

All Age C Division YADS vs KWS Opens(3-0)

In the all age competition Barnstoneworth Youth and Development Squad (YADS) were against an improving KWS Opens teams. YADS have been travelling quite nicely this year with strong performances against quality sides and cementing their position in the top 4 was high on the agenda.

With a number of players missing last week, YADS were able to field a much stronger side to take on KWS opens. Returning to the team this week were Valmir 'Vlad' Winkler, Dave Taylor, Jorge 'tequila' Mejia. Gloveman Matt McGrath assumed the regular position between the sticks. Andy Hulme, Josh Towns, Chaim Sproles were the defensive line, with and Chris Hanicar controlling the midfield. Siniga Fourmarch, Karl Youse and Matt 'The Marrickville Mauler' Bird were the strikers. YADS dominated possession throughout the game and were able to post 3 unanswered goals. Goals scorers were Jorge 'tequila' Mejia, Karl Youse and Matt Bird.

Over 35's

Denley Moor vs Waratahs (0-4)

In the premier football competition in Orange, the >35 comp, the thinking mens competition, Denley Moor were against competition front runners Waratahs. Denley started with a full strength team with Drew Tuckwell and Geoff Dunstan up front. Andy Rolfe, Rick Parsons, Andy Bobin, and Tim Hewitt provided a strong defensive line. The midfield was at full strength with Andrew 'Ray' Ellington, Alastair Dunham, Mick 'Errol' Flynn, Nick Milham, Allan 'WIN' Reeder, Pat 'taxi' Driver and the effervescent Steve Adams.

The job was always going to be difficult for Denley with the game being played at 'Tah Park'. Although there were no glitches with the pitches, Denley found the running tough and 3 goals to Tahs super striker Shane Walton had Denley trailing 3-0 at half time. Denley made some positional and tactical adjustments during the half time break and were able to shut down the Tahs attackers in the second half. Although conceding a late second half goal Denley were pleased with the improved second half performance.

Brighouse vs Canobolas Rangers (1-4)

Over 35 front runners Brighouse were keen to continue the good form that has seen them not loose a match so far this year. The game against defending premiers Rangers was always going to be tough, but was made even tougher with six regulars out of action due to work commitments and injury.

The game started well for Brighouse with space being found down either side of the park. A beautiful cross by Ali Noerdin was met with a well timed header from Glenn Harpley. However Harpley was denied, not by the keeper but by the outstretched hand of a Rangers defender. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and giving the Rangers defender his marching orders. This very scene would be replayed at the world cup some 12 hours later when Harry Kewell was sent off for the same infringement. Harpley slotted home the penalty and Brighouse were in the lead.

Alas, how quick the tables turn. Unfortunately for Brighouse, a penalty was awarded to Rangers for an accidental hand ball. Bruce Hogben pleaded with the referee that the ball struck him in the chest, but the decision had been made. The Rangers penalty not only levelled the scores but caused a big shift in momentum. With only 10 men on the park, Rangers spirits lifted and Brighouse was unable to reply. A further 3 goals to Rangers and the match finished at 4-1 in favour of Rangers.

Barnstoneworth United vs CYMS Gold (0-2)

The thinking mans team of the thinking mans club were this week up against CYMS Gold. Taking on the powerhouse team of the over 35 comp for the last couple of years was always going to be difficult for United. United started the game with a bare minimum number of players. Winger Greg 'Warrick Capper' Vinall was a late arrival after not calculating the time difference between Orange and Bathurst correctly. Work commitments to a number of key players also meant that positional holes needed to be filled.

United showed true Barnstoneworth spirit by challenging CYMS across the park. CYMS were not able to run away with the game as they may have well become accustomed to in previous years. United's backline of Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Gary James and Aidan Sugden provided plenty of opposition to the CYMS attackers. The United striking duo of Erica Jacobs and Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh provided plenty of punch up front, but unfortunately for United were not able to post some points on the board. At the end of the game, CYMS Gold took the points with a 2-0 victory.

At rehydration at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel, players and supporters alike were reflecting on a dark and gloomy day, not only from a weather point of view but from a performance point of view as well.

Barnstoneworth – Round 8, 2010 – 3rd July, 2010

As most avid readers of the premier journalistic newspaper in Orange would know, Barnstoneworth, the thinking mans football club of Orange, have been in turmoil and trouble in equal portions in recent weeks. Many in the know are aware that the mining executives within the club, yes we know who, were instrumental in the recent spill within Government to oust Kevin Rudd from the position of PM. It was as much the big, scary super profits tax on the few, obviously cash strapped and down trodden mine owners that cast the die of rebellion but as important the lack of flexibility Rudd had on changing the tax system for the collectors edition Barnstoneworth vuvuzelas being imported from South Africa. Rudd was insistent that he would not budge on the import tax regime in place for vuvuzelas even though it commonly known that Barnstoneworth is seeking tax exemption as a religious entity in 2010. Taxed Barnstoneworth vuvuzelas was the last straw. Strange how these two things in life have an inverse proportion to an outcome. I am sure that once Gillard rolls over and pays billions in compensation to the financial disadvantaged mine owners, action on vuvuzelas will be next. Time will tell.

As indicated in an earlier article, a number of players have been globetrotting the world for the right type of person to add to the selective ranks of this Orange cult, known as Barnstoneworth. Jorge has travelled to Mexico to see if any wayward souls escaped from the Branch Davidian in Waco. Valmir has travelled to China to talk to dissident Falun Gung disciples and Jackson has just returned from watching Maccabi Tel Aviv but only returned with gold, frankincense and myrrh (although his wife thinks the myrrh was a cheap substitute from Turkish Filbert – Corylus Colurna to those Peter Cundall followers).

All Age C Division – Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) vs Millthorpe Gold 2-0

The YADS squad had a long distance road trip to far flung Millthorpe. Many believe the discredited flat earth theory was a pre Copernicus idea in that if you reached the end of the world, you would drop off. In the case of the Millthorpe field, many players get the feeling of dropping off due to the camber at one end. During the game, many ended up with a nose bleed at the high end of the field and others suffered from altitude sickness. Zambucks worked overtime during the game with oxygen bottles almost drained. Many players were last seen falling over the edge, towards the bottom pub of Millthorpe. Having said that, YADS fielded a strong side. Gloveman Matt McGrath assumed the regular position between the sticks. Andy Hulme, Josh Towns, Chaim Sproles Valmir 'Vlad' Winkler and Dave Taylor were the defensive line, with Siniga Fourmarch, Karl Youse, Matt 'The Marrickville Mauler' Bird and Chris Hanicar controlling the midfield. Curtis Gillard (no relation to Kevin Rudd) was the lone striker. YADS played some constructive football with only an own goal the early difference. Curtis scored from a beautiful cross and with YADS in control, Millthorpe showed more resolve. A couple of clear scoring opportunities were missed by the Gold attack late in the game but YADS prevailed 2-0.

Over 35's Barnstoneworth United vs Denley Moor Academicals 1-4

In the premier football competition in Orange, the >35's, the annual game (held twice a year) of mate verses mate was on show at Jack Brabham on Saturday. Only one avid Borenore devotees managed to pay the extortionist tax on his vuvuzela but many were on hand to watch a live game, to get a better understanding on how quick the game is played in Orange – so similar to current world cup matches.

United have been playing with an under strength team of late and this week was no exception with Robert Young, Robert Smith, Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh, Phil Totten, Greg Vinall and Sean Brady all out for a multitude of reasons. Scott Shephard was given the gloves after continuing his strong performances between the sticks. Backs were Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Dennis Hodgkins, Gary James and Phil 'Shlomo' Jackson returning from the holey land. Midfield was the reliable Mick Jessop, Ed Cato, Dan Kennedy and Sinisa Kosarac with Eric Jacobs and a cameo appearance by Allan 'WIN' Reeder the strikers. With Aidan Sugden managing just 2 minutes of game time before succumbing to a recurring injury, United were down to the minimum 11.

Denley Moor, on the other hand, took the local derby more seriously and were there in numbers to try and seek revenge from United after a loss earlier in the year. Denley started with a full strength team with man mountain Ewan Powell as keeper. Andy Rolfe, Rick Parsons, Allan Benter, Tony Haines, Martyn Patfield and Andy Bobin provided a strong defensive line. The midfield was at full strength with Andrew 'Ray' Ellington, Alastair Dunham, Mick 'Errol' Flynn, Nick Milham, Dedy Hendrawon, Pat 'taxi' Driver and the effervescent Steve Adams. Drew Tuckwell, Jeremy 'green' Buckingham, Tim Hewitt and Geoff Dunstan were up front.

Denley started the stronger with United content on counter attack when possible. With Buckingham and Tuckwell probing the defensive wings with some strong runs, keeper Shephard was working overtime to keep Denley at bay. A nice through ball by Hewitt to Adams and onto Buckingham and Denley were up at oranges, 1-0. United tried to be upbeat, even trying to get Shirley Purvis to don the kit of her son Aidan for a run. The stand out for United was the efforts of Reeder in the unfamiliar United strip with some solid midfield work and a shot just skimming the posts. Shephard was having a great game as United's keeper.

Second half started like the first, although Eric Jacobs did manage a terrific run, beating several before falling in the box with no-one within metres of him. The referee considered a card for simulation but common sense and brotherly compassion prevailed. With the ground heavy and with United tiring, Denley pressed. A fine strike by Tuckwell and Denley were up 2-0. A second clinical goal to Buckingham and some poor defence by the globe trotting Jackson allowed Hewitt to score the fourth for Denley. United, to their credit still tried to attack with keeper Powell sent sprawling to save a number of shots, although Jackson's attempt went 50 metres above the cross bar. Jacobs managed to snare the consolation goal for United with 4-1 a fitting result. Bobin, Buckingham and Tuckwell the standouts for Denley with Reeder, Shephard and Hodgkins the picks for a determined United side.

With school holidays starting and with Brighthouse having the bye, children, wives and partners attended the rehydration session in numbers at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel. With the club and patron saint of the

club, Mick Jessop, footing the bill, food and drink was on hand for the throng that attended. With many players with their children, all goes well for future years for the thinking mens club of Orange.

Barnstoneworth – Round 11, 2010 – 17th July, 2010

Barnstoneworth, as we all know, is the moving forward, thinking football club of Orange. Players love to be moving forward but there are some things that impact this moving forward attitude. It is also well known that the club failed in its attempt to become a religious entity for 2010 in a ploy to remove the tax imposed on the collectors edition Barnstoneworth vuvuzela but have managed to become a charity instead. It is alleged that on hearing Barnstoneworth was now an established charity, Melbourne Storm financial management sort payment of Storm players through the Barnstoneworth charity. Barnstoneworth club financier, Phil 'equity' Hodges was quick to point out the Barnstoneworth charity, 'St Kitts Barnstoneworth Benevolent Charity Number 23' was purley established for the wayward children of Barnstoneworth players and has refused to bow to pressure from the Storm management (and possibly their players) for match payments. More will be revealed.

With this imbroglio to deal with Barnstoneworth continued to be club that is moving forward although the results have a Kevin Rudd type result to them.

All Age C Division – Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) vs Waratahs 2-2

With Andy Hulme returning from his musical duties playing trumpet with the Macquarie Regional Orchestra in a terrific rendition of Copland's 'fanfare of the common man' (a performance that I hope other thinking people of Orange attended), YADS had to play in the quagmire at Tahs. It was a late night game and both players and the hundreds of spectators would have preferred the warmth of the Tahs clubhouse. Having said that, YADS fielded a strong side. Usual gloveman Matt McGrath, was unavailable but Valmir 'Vlad' Winkler and Josh Towns, were each given a half to show their credentials. The playing lineup started with Andy Hulme, Chaim Sproles and Dave Taylor in the defensive line, with Siniga Fourmarch, Matt 'The Marrickville Mauler' Bird and Chris Hanicar in midfield. Karl Youse was the lone striker this week. YADS played some constructive football with Karl Youse scoring a terrific goal from great lead up header from Matt Bird. Tahs replied but YADS scored a second from a clinical strike by Siniga Fourmarch. Tahs again replied with a third goal by YADS Chris Hanicar disallowed for off side. Not always a good decision with no linesman to call on. A fitting result in the mud that is Tahs number two ground at present and YADS have found two fine replacement keepers if McGrath not available.

Over 35's Denley Moor Academicals vs CYMS Gold 1-3

In the premier football competition in Orange, the >35's, Denley Moor took on the more fancied CYMs in the mid table clash. Denley started with a full strength team with man mountain Ewan Powell as keeper. Andy Rolfe, Rick Parsons, Allan Benter, Tony Haines, Martyn Patfield and Andy Bobin provided the reliable defensive line. The midfield was at full strength with Andrew 'Ray' Ellington, Alastair Dunham, Nick Milham, Dedy Hendrawon and Pat 'taxi' Driver. Drew Tuckwell, Jeremy 'green' Buckingham, Tim Hewitt and Geoff Dunstan were strikers. Denley started strong and were well in the game. Denley, however, conceded an own goal. As part of club policy not to mention surnames (to reduce any embarrassment at work or with their children in the playground), the own goal was a pearler. Martyn was inconsolable after the event. Denley did continue to be competitive for long periods of the game. Another CYMs goal just after oranges and Denley were under the pump. Jeremy 'green' Buckingham lost composure, I think due to the election announcement, and was carded for handing out 'how to vote pamphlets' during the game. A most inappropriate action and Barnstoneworth management are developing a consultative process with our Barnstoneworth activist. A third goal to Gold and Denley were out voted 3-1, green preferences not required for this result.

Brighthouse vs Waratah's 1-3

Brighthouse, the salary cap exploiters of the >35 competition in Orange were under strength for the game. With the charity scam exposed, a number of players were seeking a transfer to the Broncos (or Saints) in an attempt for Brighthouse to fit under the Orange Football salary cap for 2011. Brighthouse started with just 10 players, a most disturbing situation. Terry 'thrill' Brill was given the task of keeping with Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in Brisbane. Defence was a strong trio of Mick Carpenter, Andrew Brown and Jason Ingham. Midfield was the strength of the team with Dave Clarke, Damian Priest, Dave Craig and Chris Jacobs showing glimpses of combination with the strikers in Bruce Hogben and Glenn Harpley given limited opportunities. With the ground looking more like a mud bath you would find at a carbon neutral retreat, playing football was difficult. Damien Priest scored from close quarters and Tah's mudskipper, Darren Sinclair soon equalised. Brighthouse's Glenn Harpley was injured and Brighthouse down to 9 players, an even more disturbing situation. Tah's score twice more and finished as victors over a depleted and under strength Brighthouse.

United vs Canobolas Rangers 1-3

United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club, continue to be depleted by injury or unavailability. United were against the more fancied Canobolas Rangers and United had just one reserve to call on.

With usual keeper, Scott Shephard in Narromine picking oranges, Phil Jackson was given the gloves, however, during the warm-up period not one shot was saved. Jackson blamed the Jabulani ball saying it was more like a Jabberwock. Paul Crain was given the keepers gloves with the tried and true defence line up of Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Dennis Hodgkins, Gary James and Sean Brady. Midfield was Ed Cato, Dan Kennedy, Robert Young, Phil Jackson and birthday boy, Sinisa Kosarac. Aidan Sugden and Tony 'mokbel' Cavanagh were the strikers. Rangers started well with United comfortable to concentrate on defence. Jackson continued in his warm up coordination phase, again blaming the 'jabberwocky' ball but his fellow players were not impressed and words were exchanged. Rangers scored from a good central attack and a second scored from a long range shot and United were down at orange 2-0. After some heated discussions, management considered further positional changes and Jackson started on the bench however injury to Robert Young straight after half time and United were down to just 11. Nowhere to hide for Jackson. United started to play some good combinations with some one touch football from Ed Cato, Dan Kennedy and Gary James leading to a terrific strike by Tony Cavanagh. At 2-1, United were moving forward. Cavanagh had two further shots saved acrobatically by the Rangers keeper and United continued to

move forward. A Rangers clearance near the end was pounced on by the Rangers striker and 3-1 the final score. Although beaten, Paul Crain, Tony Cavanagh and birthday boy Sinisa Kosarac were the picks for best players.

At the rehydration session at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel players discussed the symmetry of all >35 sides being beaten 3-1. Club statistician Phil 'numbers' Hodges was not amused that along with 3 losses, a draw, an own goal and card were the highlights of a difficult weekend. United players continued the on field debate with Jackson about player skills. Thankfully common sense prevailed and all is forgiven. A positive situation that others in the club can take heart. Barnstoneworth continue to be moving forward.

Barnstoneworth – Round 12, 2010 – 24th July, 2010

It is not commonly known that Barnstoneworth, the thinking mans club of Orange, is becoming an institution, even an icon if I may say, in the central west. It is true to say that success breeds success and followers of the fabled Barnstoneworth Football Club know, this great club is no exception to this old adage. It just staggers the writer that the players backgrounds and job activities makes for a multicultural melting pot that Master Chef would give a nine out of ten. It is only a matter of time before Master Chef Callum and Adam traverse the bright lights of recent cooking stardom to be among the cuisine literate of the Barnstoneworth brigade. Many players after the game discuss the finer points of a flambé or the difficulties of making their own yoghurt rather than football, while the less cuisine centric discuss Proust or Voltaire and Matisse and Goya. Barnstoneworth embrace many differing thesis and thoughts in the club. Having sprouted the finer points of the club, our focal point should not be missed, we are this iconic cult due to one thing, football.

All Age C Division – Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) vs CYMS Young Guns 0-6

Many would be aware that although a broad church of backgrounds, owning guns is not the strong suit of the club and many were nervous about shots fired from the Young Guns of CYMS. YADS started with a team that in previous games provided worthy opposition. Matt McGrath returned from his sabbatical at Sydney Uni (majoring Greek philosophy) as keeper. Backs were Fez (named after the historic Turkish headwear), Chris Cameron, Graeme White, Dave Taylor, Andy 'satchmo' Hulme and Josh Towns. Mid field was Luke 'clarke' Kent, Steve Perko, Matt Bird, Curtis 'Rudd' Gillard and Sinaga Fourmach. Forwards were Andrew 'rooster' Haydon and Valmir 'vlad' Winkler. Cym started like being shot out of a gun, and I assume most are sons of guns. YADS were under withering fire and were soon down 2-0. At oranges (or ceasefire), discussion was about the loss of a certain part of the anatomy of Chris Cameron from a cracking shot. No one wanted to visit no mans land to find the missing part/s. Second half was no better than the first. Curtis Gillard was penalised for tackling a CYMS player for a comment about moving forward boat people and Kevin Rudd and CYMS were up 3-0. Another penalty after Andy Hulme was believed to have pushed a player, although replays indicated simulation by the CYMS player. Matt McGrath beautifully saved by trumpeting the virtues of Hulme and watching the shot clear the cross bar. CYMS scored another 3 and were winners 6-0, a true reflection of an A division team playing in C division.

Over 35's Brighthouse vs Gladly A Tahs 8-0

In the premier football competition, the >35's, Brighthouse were almost at full strength against a depleted gladioli side. Brighthouse started with Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in goals after returning from his global speaking tour on 'Zen and the art of goal keeping.' Defence was the strong Mick Carpenter, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Andrew Brown, Dave Craig and Jason Ingham. Midfield was the strength of the team with Dave 'S' Clarke, Damian Priest, Ali Noerdin, Brett Hazzard and Chris Jacobs with the strikers in Bruce Hogben, Daryl 'socialite' Guise and Glenn Harpley. Brighthouse started strong with an early penalty well saved by the gladioli keeper. Glenn Harpley scored the first followed quickly by Chris Jacobs and Dave Clarke. At oranges, Terry 'thrill' Brill was given the keepers gloves with Stu Riles promoted to a field position, once his half time meditation, in a lotus position, were complete. Further goals to Bruce Hogben and Chris Jacobs and a hat trick to Glenn Harpley and the gladioli had wilted 8-0.

Denley Moor Academicals vs CYMS FB's 1-1

Denley Moor took on the never say die FB's. Denley started with a near full strength team with man mountain Ewan Powell as keeper. Andy Rolfe, Rick Parsons, Allan Benter, Tony Haines, Martyn Patfield and Andy Bobin were the ever present defence line. The midfield was Andrew 'Ray' Ellington, Alastair Dunham, Nick Milham, Dedy Hendrawon and Pat 'taxi' Driver. Drew Tuckwell, Jeremy 'green' Buckingham, Tim Hewitt and Geoff Dunstan were strikers. It was a game of missed opportunity for both sides with the game flowing from goal mouth to goal mouth. A clinical strike by Drew Tuckwell had Denley in front however a reply by FB's and the game was level. Unfortunately for both sides a winning goal was not forthcoming and both teams settled for a well earned draw.

United vs Saints 3-1

United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club, are yet to field the full complement of players in any game this season. Having said that the team was a competitive team. Scott Shephard returned from his recent citrus experience in Narromine to be back as keeper. The defensive line-up included Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Dennis Hodgkins, Paul Crain, Gary James and Sean Brady. Midfield was Ed Cato, Dan Kennedy, Robert Young, Sinisa Kosarac and Mick Jessop. Aidan Sugden, Eric Jacobs and Tony 'mokbel' Cavanagh were the strikers. It was a must win game for both teams with the feeling of expectation and tension evident prior to kick off. United pressed early and looked more likely. A beautiful chip by Tony 'mokbel' Cavanagh and United were up 1-0. At oranges, kindly provided by Scott Shephard, manager and CEO, Phil 'no prisoners' Hodges was quick to point out that Saints had beaten United earlier in the season and that this blot on the clubs history should not be repeated. In the second half United again pressed. Some terrific interplay from Eric Jacobs to Rob Young led to the second goal to Cavanagh. Saints replied almost immediately and Hodges was in full voice. 2-1 and the game was on. With Saints pressing, keeper Shephard threw the ball to Aidan Sugden who showed beautiful foot skills to beat several players before passing the Cavanagh. With defenders and the keeper to beat, Tony Cavanagh converted after showing some terrific skills. A hat trick and he was mobbed by players and the large crowd. A usually subdued Cavanagh was excited and his theatrics almost resulted in a card. 3-1 the final score and Hodges was beaming. Brady, Crain and Shephard the picks with Young continuing to show good form until injured.

At the rehydration session at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel, players, sponsors and the media were there in numbers to talk about football, culinary delights and philosophy in equal portions. Many found it difficult to be still moving forward, especially on the heavy grounds. Many were thrilled that a number of Master Chef devotees in the club will now refocus on boots rather than trotters. One can hope they revert back to serving rather than plating up and

eating food rather than scoring, although both Harpley and Cavanagh continued to wax lyrical about scoring. Well done to both players - ten out of ten for their hat tricks.

Barnstoneworth – Round 13, 2010 – 31st July, 2010

With the labyrinthine and intricate issues that the thinking club of Orange needs to deal with, Barnstoneworth were at a loss on Saturday for a number of reasons. Many avid readers that follow the trials and tribulations of the club were aware this week was a tumultuous one with the last 2010 Barnstoneworth mate against mate game planned for Saturday. Barnies were also well advanced on the birthday plans for horses in Australia on Sunday. Barnstoneworth management had gone out on a limb arranging a marquee and portable kitchen, sponsored by Parkview Hotel, built next to the Jack Brabham number 16 field on Friday. As mentioned in the previous article, Adam and Callum from Masterchef had already announced their plans to be Barnstoneworthians once their commitments to media had finished. They had planned a banquet luncheon for the followers of the club prior to the game.

Many of the season ticket holders knew on Friday night that the chances of the annual grudge match between Denley Moor Academicals and Brighthouse were slim due to the inclement weather. Players on the other hand along with the club stalwarts, club groupies and food devotees were there in numbers, all there in anticipation of a Grande Bouffe afternoon. Much to the surprise and dismay of management, Orange Football Association cancelled the game on Saturday morning due to a sprinkle of rain. Who are these decision makers that believe a passing shower is like a flood? What happened to the old days of games in sleet and hail?

I am sure that a number of the well heeled in Orange noted on Saturday afternoon an increase in middle aged men, wearing red, white and black seen roaming the streets. They were at a loss as to what to do now 'the event' was cancelled. Some were seen crying in the gutters, others putting the housekeepers wages through the Ex Services pokies, others were in small groups at the Parkview Hotel, talking quietly, trying to fathom the situation while staring into their beer glasses while others looked like lost kiddies with their wife dragging them through the shops, totally disinterested. What does a footballer do on a Saturday with no football? It was like losing a close friend. One player, who will remain nameless, was even forced to go to Molong on the steam train. Dan Kennedy was sighted by several in the club looking like someone with a post traumatic disorder. Not being able to build because it was too wet and now not being able to play football. To top it all, not being able to taste the fish head and macaroon soup topped with artichoke hearts and linguini that Masterchef winners had planned. Dan, like the fish, was gutted.

Barnstoneworth – Round 14, 7th August 2010

Barnstoneworth football club of Orange has not been affected by the caretaker mode of the Federal Government and have announced some pre election plans for the future. As many Mills and Boon and CWD readers know, Barnstoneworth, the thinking mans club of the environs of greater Orange have members in a number of senior positions of influence; in government, business and social fields. Don't be afraid fellow readers about previous articles referring to Barnstoneworth as being a charity, a religious order or even a cult. Members have no mystery handshake, nor do they dress in unique clothing, nor dance like Morris dancers but we are passionate about improvement. During the week, the sacred garden of Bloomfield was topical in the recent discussion about the new Orange Base Hospital. Many in Orange would be aware that the current construction site was once 'Stadium Barnstoneworth', aka Bloomfield. Fewer would know that with the demolition of the Hodges Ablution Block to make way for the building, Phil was given a small parcel of land as recompense for the loss. I can announce that Hodges has donated this garden site to the new hospital on proviso that the Hospital be named 'Barnstoneworth Regional Hospital, the thinking mans (and womans) hospital'.

All Age C Division – Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) vs Millthorpe Gold 2-1

With the deferred game from the previous week, YADS returned from their team building visit to Lourdes in an effort to address the recent decline in positive results. With this uplifting experience behind them, YADS also restructured their team. Starting line up was keeper Luke 'Clarke' Kent for his first attempt as keeper. Defenders were Valmir 'Vlad' Winkler, Josh Townes, Chris Cameron, Matt Bird and Chaim Sproles. Midfield included Curtis 'Rudd' Gillard, Steve Fairley, Chris Hanicar, Graeme 'Barry' White and Sinaga Fourmarch with strikers Karl Brabrook, Rooster Haydon and Jorge Meija. First half was an even affair with Jorge missing a number of opportunities to score. Keeper Kent started well after some 'family planning' hints during the warm-up. He kept his legs together. Just prior to oranges a long range strike by Millthorpe and Luke had no chance. 1-0 down and the planning strategy changed. Luke relocated to a field position with Josh Townes given the gloves and the reminder about positioning his legs. Millthorpe decided to rest on their lead and pulled all their players into a defensive pattern. YADS struck with an equaliser from Fourmarch. Millthorpe pressed but the YADS defence and Townes up to the task. With seconds remaining Chaim played some good football with a lovely pass to Fourmarch. Some one-two touches between Fourmarch and Hanicar for Chris to slot in the winner. 2-1 to YADS and the relief was palpable.

Over 35's Brighthouse vs Saints 7-0

In the premier football competition, the >35's, Brighthouse were almost at full strength against the zeal of Saints. Brighthouse started with Barnstoneworths premier keeper in Stu 'preying mantis' Riles. Defence was the ever reliable Mick Carpenter, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Andrew Brown, Dave Craig and Jason Ingham. Midfield was the strength of the team with Dave '5' Clarke, Ali Noerdin, Brett Hazzard and Chris Jacobs with the strikers in Bruce Hogben, Daryl 'socialite' Guise and Glenn Harpley. Brighthouse started slowly with a number of missed opportunities. Goals before oranges by Chris Jacobs, Daryl Guise and Dave Clarke but still some areas of concern for the tangerine men. The diminutive Saints mid fielder in Donnie Jacobs was totally out classing her Brighthouse counterpart in Chris Jacobs with Chris substituted before half time. Stern words and a restructure was required. The positional change worked a treat with further goals to Dave Clarke and Daryl Guise and some fine finishing by Bruce Hogben and Brett Hazzard and Saints were vanquished 7-0 with Hazzards goal the pick.

Denley Moor Academicals vs Gladdy A Tahs 2-2

Denley Moor took on the Gladdys team in the mud at colosseum Tahs. Denley started with a near full strength team with man mountain Ewan Powell as keeper. Andy Rolfe, Rick Parsons, Allan Benter, Tony Haines, Martyn Patfield and Andy Bobin were the ever present defence line. The midfield was Andrew 'Ray' Ellington, Alastair Dunham, Steve Adams, Nick Milham, Dedy Hendrawon, Allan 'WIN' Reder and Pat 'taxi' Driver. Drew Tuckwell, Jeremy 'green' Buckingham, Tim Hewitt and Geoff Dunstan were strikers. The game was a real arm wrestle with Denley up 1-0 after some terrific skills shown by Steve Adams to score from a clinical strike. Gladdies replied and scored a second and at oranges, Denley reviewed the game plan. The second half was more of the same with some of the tackling not as well timed as in the first half. A disputed ball and some discussions about family heritage and tackling skills resulted in a Gladdies player and Denley's Pat 'Taxi' Driver given an early shower. Play resumed back to a more orderly fashion. Late in the game a corner from Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell and Jeremy 'vote 1' Buckingham headed perfectly for an equaliser. 2-2 a fitting result.

United vs CYM's FB's 2-1

United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club, fielded a competitive and revamped side for the good humoured but always competitive FB's. Scott Shephard slotted back as keeper. The defensive line-up included Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Phil Jackson, Paul Crain, Gary James and Sean Brady. Midfield was Ed Cato, Dan Kennedy, Bryn Loader, Sinisa Kosarac and Mick Jessop. Phil Totten also returned after a long absence. Aidan Sugden, Robert Smith and Eric Jacobs were the strikers. As many that watch these historic sides, games are typically won and lost by a goal and this game was no exception. United struggled a bit with structure but Totten showed all his silky smooth skills during the game. The play moved from one end of the field to the other with neither team dominant. Sean Brady continues to show some strong defence and Mick Jessop was, as always, tireless. FB's scored and looked like scoring a second but some fine keeping work by Shephard kept United in the game. A beautiful reply by Eric Jacobs and at oranges the teams were level. Phil 'Obama' Hodges was neither pleased nor unhappy but greater commitment was asked of the United team. United pressed and were most likely to score. With Aidan Sugden now in mid field, the gaps started to open. A number of near misses by United but a great shot by Sugden and United prevailed 2-1. United wish the walking wounded of FB's the best in coming weeks.

At the rehydration session at the premier sponsor of Barnstoneworth, the Parkview Hotel, food and wine were lavished on the victors. 4 games without defeat is a rare result for the fabled red, white and black of Barnstoneworth. Many discussions about the goals, opportunities missed and tackles made with most discussion centered around the magnanimous decision by CEO and training director, Phil Hodges. Just one reflection on the true altruism of this fine club.

Barnstoneworth – Round 15, 2010 – August 14th, 2010

As many readers would know, the cancellation this week of the premier football code in Orange, the >35 football, avid Barnstoneworth followers would again have noted the throng of downcast men dragging their feet on Saturday afternoon, kicking tufts of grass and floating paper boats down the nearest creek. While a number were seeking solace at several of the local rehydration establishments in this fine but waterlogged city, others were plotting the results of this weeks federal election. It is true to say that Barnstoneworth is an open minded club with many political hues to be found. Readers have noted, Barnstoneworth, the thinking mans club of Orange, has developed many programs over the years, well before they became fashionable or even political.

In 2009, the club developed the pandemic preparedness program (BPPP), just prior to the H1N1 swine flu outbreak and were first club to don surgical masks while playing. Other would be aware that also in 2009 a green policy was enacted to reduce the wear and tear on football clothing by playing a static form of play and in 2010 the 'think local, buy local' program was introduced to further reduce our carbon footprint. This was the most surprising initiation with Barnstoneworth players previously beer drinkers of imported beers from Mexico or Germany now sip a nice merlot or pinot gris from Printhe or Philip Shaw, with a number of players waxing lyrical about the benefits of big men in tights from Bloodwood. This along with eating at the premier local food establishments like Borrodell and the Old Convent and shopping at the farmers market all add to the credentials of this thinking mans football club. Players also rub shoulders with the well heeled at musicals like Dusty or Rent (on this weekend). It is true to say that these local bias programs have not been funded by any political party and this must change to reflect the importance that Barnstoneworth players have to the local economy.

As indicated, the many philosophers Barnstoneworth has in its ranks have been reviewing the various candidates for Calare, assessing their pledges and promises on offer this Saturday. Let me be first to announce that Barnstoneworth does have amongst our ranks the Greens candidate Jeremy 'vote 1' Buckingham. Jeremy has been an asset to our football squad this season and so an obvious bias may be anticipated from those outside the ranks of the chosen few that play with Barnies. Many are also aware that we have a Gillard, Haydon and Dunstan playing so a political bias to the Labor Party could be also considered. It was with disappointment that no candidate or political party in 2010 has promised Barnstoneworth their own football clubhouse (unlike the equine centre built in Tamworth just prior to the 2007 election). Barnstoneworth, like any thinking group can be persuaded by financial inducements to switch allegiance and so with regret that Barnstoneworth are recommending to their players just one adage, 'vote locally'. The electorate should not be taken for granted so vote wisely.

Management have also been discussing with the Electoral Office on the name of the electorate. While many Barnstoneworth players live in the Orange area known as Calare, the executive committee of the club believe that as a reflection of the status that Barnstoneworth has in the thinking community of Orange and in the electorate at large, Calare electorate should be named Barnstoneworth for the 2013 election, a true reflection of this great club and aligning with the name of the new Orange Base Hospital.

Barnstoneworth – 4th September, 2010

Barnstoneworth, waiting for Hodgo

Firstly, let me be the first in the club to congratulate CYMS in their hard fought victory in the heavy conditions of Wade Park. Always a good result for another iconic club of Orange winning some silverware after a long drought. And let us be frank, we are no longer in drought. At the time of writing the article, the weekend games were again cancelled for some unknown reason. In previous seasons, games have been played under more trying conditions but Orange FFA management are reviewing the outcomes and actions of their decision making as we speak. Insiders to the discussions believe the first round of the semis will stand and those that finished in fourth position will now be celebrating mad Monday. It is believed a High Court challenge has been submitted by a number of clubs to annul the decision and to play the games as they stood for this week. More will be revealed and rumours abound about a Pakistani businessman calling a number of club executives on Monday morning. What odds the decision to overturn the initial decision? Odds were believed to be \$1.20 for the decision to stand and to replay the games, \$1.25. The writer is waiting for the odds for Andy Hulme, Jason Ingham and Phil Hodges as first goal scorers in the next Barnstoneworth match. Should be similar odds to Manly winning the league in 2010.

Football is a bit like waiting for Godot. Players are seated at the side of the ground, wanting to play football. Mick Jessop (AKA Estragon) is taking off his boots, 'nothing to be done' said Jessop to Carpenter. Carpenter (AKA Vladimir), 'I'm glad that you are back. I thought you had gone forever'. Both waiting for Phil Hodges (AKA Godot). Those in the know would remember that Godot never shows up. A bit like football at present. 'Let's wait to see what he says'? But nothing happens. Can we get a run? Please!

So what does that mean to the thinking mans club of Orange some may be wondering. Well there is good news and great news.

All Age C Division

In the C division, Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were positioned 3rd and would have had a difficult game against John Parkers Pink Bits team. John Parkers Pink Bits are a combination of years of experience and spontaneous exuberance and would have been a hard team for YADS to handle. John Parkers Pink Bits are not the most attractive to play but very effective as a team. With the cancellation of the game, YADS progress to the final against Saints Ignite. This should be a tough final as both teams have shown great consistency during the season. Good luck boys!

>35 Division

In the premier football division played in Orange, Barnstoneworth achieved a first in 2010 with all three teams achieving the impossible in that all teams have reached a semi final position. With the cancellation all three teams are still in with a chance.

Brighouse

Brighouse, the tangerine Barnies team for 2010 were optimistic against the more fancied Sinclair's Waratahs. With the cancellation, Brighouse will play last years grand final winner in Canobolas Rangers in the A division Final. Brighouse had the upper hand against the boys in blue but it will be a real arm wrestle between the two well credentialed sides. Players from both sides are concerned that the many weeks on the sideline, team cohesion will be a bit rusty. The first to gel will probably win this tight encounter.

Denley Moor Academicals

The Denley Moor Academicals side were full of confidence with a lot of trash talk emails circulated late in the week addressed to the more reserved United side. Andy Bobin, Allan Reeder, Nick Milham and Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell were noted to be the more flamboyant and colourful in their pointed discussion, referring to skill and youth and reminding Hodges (and others at United) of the result of the last game. Time will tell. Denley Moor will now take on the Saints team in the B division final and should, given all reports, have the measure of the hard working Saints side. If, however the shrewd money is successful in that the games will be replayed from last week, United will not be swayed but the cheap shots addressed to United players, their families and work colleagues.

United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club

As indicated last week, seasons come and go and success is always there or thereabouts with the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club. United were keen to redress the embarrassment of the previous loss to Denley Moor in the last game in the season proper and were steered by the political party tactics adopted by some. Text messages and facebook slurs against the United players may get a giggle or two within the opposition ranks but United are made of more honourable virtues. If the cancellation of last weeks results stand, United are into yet another grand final and are hoping for a better result than the previous two years. If, by political skulduggery, the games are replayed, 'bring it on' was the call at the United training session on Sunday.

Barnstoneworth's marquee sponsor, the Parkview Hotel, were full of praise on the success of the iconic football club of Orange and wish all the players well for this week, whoever they play. United's manager, croupier and political schemer in Phil 'Obama' Hodges was quick to deny rumours that the initial trash talk emails stemmed from a specific financiers office in Orange. Barnstoneworth is an equal opportunity club in that all ideas, ideals and comments have some positives. What

doesn't kill us makes us stronger' said pugilist Hodges but was quick point out that any attempt by some in Denley Moor to destabilise the thinking mans team will not be tolerated.

If the decision stands in that the Finals will be next week, good luck to YADS, Brighthouse and Denley Moor. United are enjoying yet another week off.

Barnstoneworth – Grand Final and Champion of Champions 18th/19th September 2010.

Leading up to the > 35 B Division Grand final and, arguably, the more prestigious NSW Champion of Champion games last weekend, players, supporters and family friends were mused over the results of the year that was 2010. With Barnstoneworth, the thinking mans club of Orange having a terrific season with all teams qualifying for semi-final positions, club spirit and camaraderie were put to the test on the weekend.

Over 35's B Division Grand Final - United 3 Denley Moor Academicals 4

With sister teams of the same club both making the Grand Final for 2010 you would think that club harmony and good humour would be evident but with one of the most prestigious trophies on offer in Orange sport, banter and psychological games were the order of the week. Denley Moor, fresh from a hard fought win in the Final against A Tahs, were up against the B Division Minor Premiers in United. With United 'fresh' from not having to play for 6 weekends in a row, talk about match fitness and being 'past it' were bandied about in copious emails circulated during the week. Emails from the Champagne region of France were even received from Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell describing United as akin to a 1980 Welsh Claret, 'good in 1981 but well past it in 2010'. On match day, crowd security were put to the test leading up to the start of the game with both teams active in the vitriol and diatribe towards the opposition.

Befitting such an important and historic a game, United management decided that as 'the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club' a traditional start to proceedings was required. As Denley looked a rabble on the sideline, United ran on as a team to the centre of the pitch to welcome the opposition, a tradition going back to the early games at Bloomfield aka Barnstoneworth Stadium in the 1920's. With exchanges of handshakes, the game commenced.

United looked a powerful outfit wearing the traditional red, white and black. Scott Shephard maintained his keeping role, one which part of the reason for United's success. The defensive line-up was Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Phil Jackson, Gary James, Dennis Hodgskin and Sean Brady. Midfield was Ed Cato, Robert Young, Paul Crain, Sinisa Kosarac, Aiden Sugden, Phil Totten and Mick Jessop, Robert Smith, Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs were the strikers. On reflection, without Dan Kennedy being available, this was the strongest starting line-up for United for many seasons.

Denley started with a near full strength team with man mountain Ewan Powell as keeper. Andy Rolfe, Rick Parsons, Allan Benter, Tony Haines, Martyn Patfield and Andy Bobin were the defence line. The midfield was Andrew 'Ray' Ellington, Alastair Dunham, Steve Adams, Nick Milham, Dedy Hendrawon, Allan 'WIN' Reeder and Pat 'taxi' Driver., Jeremy 'vote 1' Buckingham, Hugh Lukins, Tim Hewitt and Geoff Dunstan were strikers. The game was a real arm from the start with both teams looking for opportunities. United looked the more composed and scored after a few minutes from a clinical finish by Eric Jacobs. United 1-0 and Denley pressed. A long through ball between United defenders and a woeful error by the usually reliable Phil Jackson and Steve Adams pounced. Scott Shephard had no chance and the scores were level. Denley pressed again and another error in the United defence and Denley were up 2-1. With some strong words of encouragement, United pressed. Some terrific work by Phill Totten, Robert Young and Aiden Sugden in midfield and some terrific crosses into the Denley box and Robert Smith scored what was an obvious goal only for officialdom to rule offside. Underterred, United pressed for an equaliser and with Robert Smith felled by a racking tackle across his calf, Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh scored. 2 all at oranges and both teams were playing some terrific football.

Second half started and United's Sean Brady continued to shadow the elusive Buckingham. Geoff Dunstan scored from a set move and Denley hit the front. Denley's defence of Tony Haines and Andy Bobin were playing some fine football but a torrid tackle by the Denley defence in the box and United equalised with a great goal by Gary James. Denley pressed and some officialdom decisions were vigorously argued by Phil 'Obama' Hodges. A card and tensions grew. A Denley foray down the right and Allan 'win' Reeder snuck past the defence with an inch perfect strike from the outside of the boot passing both keeper and defender on the line. United pressed for the last 10 minutes, unable to equalise. 4-3 to Denley and the underdogs had prevailed. Steve Adams, was the standout for Denley along with some terrific work by Tony Haines, Andy Bobin, Tim Hewitt with Allan 'win' Reeder the difference. United toiled manfully with Sean Brady shutting out his opposing player all game. Aiden Sugden, Phil Totten were inspirational in midfield.

Rehydration at the major sponsors function room, Barnstoneworth Bar and Grill at the Parkview Hotel, both teams reviewed the many great positives of the game along with the good the bad and the woeful. Well done Denley Moor.

NSW Champion of Champions. - Brighthouse vs Epping Eastwood RSL. 1-11

As with many of the years leading up to 2010, Barnstoneworth, have represented Orange in the very exclusive Champion of Champions competition many times. This competition is based on top sides from the many districts of NSW competing in a knock out format and Barnstoneworth take pride, unlike some clubs in Orange, in playing against more fancied Sydney sides and representing Orange. Pakistani book makers already knew the result will favour the Sydney team, but Barnstoneworth continue to put in for Orange, the honour of representation sufficient kudos.

Many of the Brighthouse players selected in the team were late withdrawals and the team started as an amalgam of players from each side in United, many backing up from the previous day. Brighthouse started with Barnstoneworth's premier keeper in Stu 'preying mantis' Riles. Defence was a restructured defence of Mick Carpenter, Paul Crain, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Ed Cato, Dennis Hodgskin, and Andy Rolfe. Midfield included Brett Hazzard, Mick Jessop, Scott Shephard, Damien Priest and Chris Jacobs with the strikers Daryl Guise, Robert Smith and Donnie Jacobs. Epping started with some clinical play with Brighthouse forced to defend with the occasional counter. After 30 minutes and some frustration in the Epping ranks, Epping scored. By half time, Epping were up by 6. Second half Scott Shephard slotted into goals but the game was more of the same for the first 30 minutes. Damien Priest played a lone hand up front in the second half and was rewarded with a terrific strike outside the box. Brighthouse pressed and another shot by Brett Hazzard had the keeper beaten only to bounce

off the crossbar. Mick Jessop put his body on the line by saving two goals from thunderous shots and Scott Shephard made a number of finger tip saves, one even applauded by Epping players. Epping pressed and an obviously tired Brighouse were soundly beaten 11-1 in a well spirited game. Barnstoneworth wish Epping Eastwood all the best for future rounds.

As Barnstoneworthians reflect on the season that was 2010, management wish to thank Parkview Hotel as the premier sponsor for Barnstoneworth in 2010. Also a special thanks to CWD for ensuring that the cultured public of Orange are kept informed of the exploits of the thinking mans club of Orange. Our motto, **'Kick it Barnstoneworth' calcitro qu horreum lapis dignitas**

Barnstoneworth Ode – 2010 Presentation Day

Befitting the occasion to celebrate the successful year of the thinking man's club of Orange, Barnstoneworth Football Club, and many local dignitaries were on hand to mix with the well heeled and thought provokers of our fine city, known to most as Barnstoneworth footballers. As the all tickets affair was a sell-out, many tried various ways and means to enter the Parkview Hotel, Barnstoneworth Room, to be part of 'the Event'.

Barnstoneworth president, Phil Hodges, started the afternoon by offering sympathy, support and best wishes to Penny and Craig Mills after the tragic loss of their two beautiful girls, Georgie and Bella on Thursday. Many in the room remembered the earlier years of Barnstoneworth when both Craig and Penny donned the Barnstoneworth colours with their lovely girls and son, Harry, watching from the sidelines. Our thoughts are with the Mills in their great loss.

On the football front, Barnstoneworth continues to go from strength to strength on the football pitch. 2010 was the first year the club entered four teams with all teams making the semis. Unfortunately, only one team, Denley Moor Academicals were able to lift the silverware as victors in the >35 B Division grand final. Barnstoneworth continue to sign some talented players and 2010 was no exception with many of the new players prominent amongst the award winners.

YADS (Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad) were always near the pointy end of the All Age table, however a lack of players at critical weeks during the year, specifically the semi finals, prevented them from achieving greatness. Most improved was awarded to Josh Towns, goal of the year to Chaim Sproles, golden boot (most goals in the season) was won by Jorge Mejia and players player went to Chris Cameron.

In arguably the more important >35 competition, Barnstoneworth had three teams vying for glory in Brighouse, Denley Moor Academicals and the thinking man's team, United. Management at the start of the year created some drama by changing the player squads with the aim of greatness in the >35 competition. It was astonishment that the team most likely, didn't and the team with the most new comers won. Football is full of surprises.

Brighouse, the team of expectation suffered also from not being able to field a full squad at the semi stage but were honoured with representing Orange in the Champion of Champions in 2010. Awards were won by Dave Craig for most improved, Damien Priest scored a pearler in the Champion of Champions to win goal of the year. Golden Boot was won by Glenn Harpley and player's player Brett Hazard.

Denley Moor Academicals was an amalgam of new and seasoned players. They started as a new group is expected but finished as champions, a true reflection of the quality of players Denley introduced at the start of 2010 and the guidance from the older players. Many Denley players were strutting the stage, as victors do, with even an ode written for the occasion. Awards went to Allan Benter for most improved and Goal of the year to Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell, returning from France just the day prior

just to receive the award – true dedication. Golden Boot went to Jeremy ‘vote 1’ Buckingham and players player to Steve Adams.

United, the thinking man’s team of the thinking man’s club were also a team with something old and something new in 2010. It is true to say the 7 week cancellation of games robbed the players of any match fitness, losing the grand final to Denley in a hard fought finish. Most improved was awarded to Mick Jessop and goal of the year to Sean Brady. Golden Boot was won by Tony ‘Mokbel’ Cavanagh on a count back from Eric Jacobs and player’s player was won by Sean Brady.

The club management also praised the terrific work by Glenn Harpley in developing a terrific web site. Readers should log on to read the many exploits of the players, particularly Lino Manca’s world tour, but also the game commentary and player details. Phil Jackson was also thanked for writing reports that, on the odd occasion, reflected truth, reality and theatrics in equal portions.

Banjo on Denley by Ewan 'Lawson' Powell

Banjo came to the match
And said "Not a patch
Has this game that you fancy
On my mate named Clancy.
But to quell the naysayers
I'll give you the verse
And so let's immerse
Our minds in the state of your players!"

'Tween the sticks is a big bloke named
Ewan.
Heaven knows what the hell he is doin'
Without dignity or grace
He fills up the space
And the fella from Gladdy's is spewin'

Up next is the defensive man Haines
He's often in hospital with pains
But the Emergency Room
Holds no doom or gloom
And he gets out of there for the games.

Alongside young Tony is Rick
Other teams seem to think he's a prick
But they want him to be
on their side not Denley
But he defends in the DMA clique.

The first of our Andy's is Bobbin
He leaves all the other teams sobbin
It's not only his throw
That delivers a blow
From attackers the ball he is robbin'.

Mr Ellington is Andy number two
A defender of our Gold and Blue
Give him finances
He'll take all his chances
But any plans for wet games sees him
stew

Then Mr Hewitt is Tim
You'd never mistake him for dim
He can pass in squeeze
With elegant ease
And he can steal a ball away like a crim

We start in the midfield with Hugh
He runs with his knee wrapped in blue
His surgical pass
Is more class than arse
Well, he paid me to say that it's true

In consummate style is Nick Milham
He'd look right at home in a fillum
But he'll argue with a ref
Not knowing their deaf
They'd be rich every time if they'd bill
'im.

All over the field is Geoff Dunstan
You'd never think he's Norman Gunstan
It's really not fair
He's got all his hair
And his strike boot is made out of
tungsten

Number three of the Andy's is Rolfe
As a lawyer he should be at golf
But the son of a gun
Loves a good run
And he'll pounce on the ball like a wolf.

The Dunham is another called Al
Like his son he makes a great pal
But out on the field
He never will yield
Up against him you'll be left with a
scowl

The backbone of the team is young Steve
He leaves his opponents to grieve
But the hill he went over
Is covered in clover
He's the grandson of Adam & Eve.

What can we say about Pat
Against Gladdy's he was involved in a
spat
There's little finesse
But heart nonetheless
If you get in the way, you'll be flat.

Another of the AI's is Benter
He can run so he plays in the centre
He helps win the Cup
So try to keep up
The way that he plays he's an inventor

There's also the Patfield in Martin
With his own goal his team did start
smartin'
But come the big day
He balanced the sway
And now we all own him a carton

We also have Allan the Reader

He often for goals is the feeder
But at last v United
Their scorecard he blighted
An outside foot left to right bleeder

Drew T doesn't fit in the mould
He runs round instead of being old
So he took his chance
And nicked off to France
When he took wine the thinker was sold
That's Jacko the Thinker
In hook line and sinker
Their email exchanges were gold.

Up front is one called the tree hugger.
At times he's a cranky old bugger
While he's saving voles
we'll tally his goals
when he moves like a Chat'nooga
chugger.

At last we have Phil W Obama
On the field he's the Queen of the Drama
As our WMD
He scores readily
His name isn't Earl, there's no Kama.