

Barnies United – butt of Barnstoneworth Club jokes – May 31st 2008

With YADS continuing on their winning way with yet another resounding win in all age C division and Denley Moor breaking the drought with a strong win against Waratahs in >35's, Barnies United were up against strong opposition in CYMS FB in the >35 comp on Saturday. With just the 12 players available due a recent string of injuries and incontinent problems, Barnies started in a cautious fashion, probing for any sign of weakness in the FB's defence. It was surprising at first to see that FB appeared to know exactly what Barnies were going to do. Rumour spread quickly of a leak of the game plan and some nervous glances were common in the Barnies team.

With the bounce of the ball varied, as the playing surface was rock hard with the only greenery being small clumps of grass scattered at intermitted spaces on the field, a miskick cross from a FB attacker hit defender, Phil Jackson in the wheels. It took several minutes finding these small, but precious, family heirlooms and, after much laughter, several more minutes reinserting them. A fellow player said Jackson was upset because his grandfather gave them to him as a dying wish. Midway through the first half a misplaced cross by FB's went straight into the top corner with no chance of saving by keeper, Stu Ryles.

At half time, club patriarch and coach Phil W Hodges was pleased with the commitment of the team. Strikers Tony 'Mokbel' Kavanagh, Steve Adams and Ian Carter had some good scoring opportunities and Phil Totten, Paul Hopkins and Mick Jessop purposeful in midfield. Defenders, Andrew Rolfe, Gary James and Sean Brady were strong with none other than Hodges saving a shot off the goal line. Some wag said Hodges is a 'wannabe' goalie pretending to be a field player.

Midway through the second half, Phil Totten's hammies were strung and shortly after, Paul Hopkins went down with a potentially season ending knee injury. With FB's replacing their side at regular intervals (with the 27 substitutes available) and Barnies now down to 10 players, Barnies conceded an own goal in comical circumstances. An innocuous cross by FB's and Gary 'cheeks' James deflected the cross with his protruding behind past a groping Stu Ryles. Not a pleasant sight for either adults or young kiddies, not to mention fellow Barnies players.

Post match discussion was mainly about the injuries and goals of the game, but comments spread quickly about the leaking of the game plan. Mick Jessop blamed the Department of Motor Transport, Steve Adams, the Department of Health and Sean Brady, the Department of Primary Industry. A Royal Commission has been established to find the recalcitrant. The terms of reference will include all players and support staff. This will include a numerologist, pedicurist, club doctor, laundry technician, Swedish masseurs, mascot, publicist, astrologist, herbalist and shiatsu (hot rock) specialist. Hodges saying that it was a hard week but 'no stone will be unturned to find the leaker'. 'Who could it be? More will be revealed'.

On a club note, Jose Dioses, who has played many years in all the Barnies teams, is migrating, again, this time to Queensland. Originally signed by Barnies from the premier Peruvian league, Jose (or Hose A) always arrives several minutes after the commencement of each game but his clever foot skills and strong positional play have been an asset to each team of the club. We wish him well in the land of high humidity, maroon colours and bloody Queenslanders.

Barnies United – Defeat stolen from the jaws of victory 14th June 2008

Barnies Management were extremely disappointed this week that the Order of Australia, issued last week, overlooked the exploits of Barnies for services to humanity, Park View profitability and artificial insemination. Again! Putting that behind them, Barnies were victorious, yet again in the All age C Division, but >35 Denley Moor were unlucky in defeat. Barnies United were up against a resurgent Waratahs in the >35's on Saturday. Barnies started like there was no tomorrow with a couple of finely crafted goals. A few people were shocked at this early result, but as Barnies players know, we play our best football in the first 8 minutes. From there, what wheels Barnies had, fell off. With Tahs now organised, Barnies were under pressure, but many reflex saves by Barnies Keeper Stu 'van der Saar' Riles kept Tahs at bay for most of the half. Then Tahs 'scored' from a Barnies own goal and a proper Tahs goal a few minutes later, the teams went to oranges on equal footing. Barnies 'numbers man', Phil 'Della B' Hodges spoke to the ref at half time about the Tahs first goal, claiming Barnies should have been given the goal and the score should be 3-1. When the ref stood her ground, Hodges mumbled something about cancelling her ref licence and her womanhood.

With Tah's rampant down the left through the exploits of a Mr Sinclair, not a pretty sight for Barnies players, Tahs knocked in a few more to be up by 4-2. Barnies replied with a third but Tahs hit a fifth and the game was as good as over. 5-3 was the final score, although Hodges was adamant it was a 4-4 draw. The up side for Barnies this week was many players returned from a number of injuries and melancholy.

As with the report of the last game, the Iguana Royal Commission into the leaking of the Barnies game plan to CYMS FB's continued. Who would have thought such a minor incident in the heart of Orange would ruffle the aspirational feathers of budding politicians in the Barnies team. The Iguana Commission, or Commish as it is known, could tear at the fabric of club loyalty in the coming weeks. The Commission is led by Mr Keddies and supported by 3 independent and elder statesmen of Barnies in Mick Jessop and Eric and Keira Jacobs. The independent people were quickly removed from the Commission, however, due to some distraction with Sudoku. To date a number of players have been called before the Commission for a review of each players activities and the statutory declarations signed on the day of the alleged incident. Mr Keddies said he is working pro bono, but a number of players were perplexed they had to sign blank claim forms. First before the Commission, Tony 'Mokbel' Kavangh, recently returned from Greece and refused to respond to any questions, stating Australian Bill of Rights. Unfortunately for Tony, no such document exists. Andrew Rolfe and Steve Adams stuck with their original Stat Dec's stating that Dan Kennedy, Godfather to Belinda Neil, was sighted talking with the CYMS boys before the game. Gary James, Phil Totten and Aidan Sugden, all lifetime members of Barnies, refused to support their own declarations and have been charged with Judas Prudence. Sean Brady, Ian Carter and Peter McClymont recanted on their declarations and were last seen to be writing an apology letter for any hurt or pain suffered as a consequence of the inquiry. Robert Young said he heard a conversation but couldn't remember it, Paul Hopkins said he saw the incident but couldn't hear it and Phil Jackson said he both saw the meeting and the conversation but couldn't understand it. Dan Kennedy, from Armanis are Us, is yet to give his version of events. The story continues.

Barnies now United 23rd June 2008

Barnies Youth & Development Squad (YADS), continue to sit atop of the All Age C Division with yet another strong performance on Saturday. In the >35 comp, Denley Moor were ecstatic with a strong win against the travelling Cudalians. Although only beaten twice this season, Denley Moor were buoyed by their second win of the season. United on the other hand continue to slip down the leader board. United were up against Canobolas Rangers, the raging favourites for the coveted >35 competition in 2008. The game started well for United with a strong defensive effort supported by some infrequent counter attacking. Barnies Keeper, Stu Riles was a little more involved in the game and continued to keep Barnies competitive in these tense games. Barnies were also welcoming of the return from injury of Aidan Sugden and along with Sean Brady, Keira Jacobs and Phil W Hodges, were active in the defensive line. Midfielders Mick Jessop Peter McClymont, Andrew Rolfe and Steve Adams toiled well under constant pressure while Ian Carter and Tony 'Mokbel' Kavanagh and Patrick 'Mexican' Driver were, at times, threatening up front. Rangers keeper, Luke Bingham, however, appeared to be playing in the mid field at times. At first substitution, Phil Jackson went into the back 4 and within seconds, Rangers scored from a clinical finish. At oranges, Coach Phil 'thighs' Hodges was pleased with the overall performance, although looks of disgust were flashed to a certain, unnamed player.

Second half was similar to the first with a lot of defending with some willing counterattacks. Tony Kavanagh had beaten the keeper during one raid only to see the final shot just miss. Rangers scored from another clinical finish with John Parker prominent in attack. At this stage, Phil Jackson left the field under an injury cloud. Rangers players were generous in applause as he hobbled off the field but sounds of derision could be heard within the Barnies faithful. A third from a penalty and at rehydration time Barnies were down 3-0.

Thankfully, the dramas that have plagued the club off the field for the last few weeks have abated. As everyone knows, the Barnstoneworth Iguana Royal Commission was established to determine who leaked the Barnies games plan to CYMS FB's several weeks prior. The Commission, headed by Justice Keddies, completed the interviews with the remaining players and support staff during the week. Chairperson Keddies made some surprising, yet principled stances prior to his final report. He refused to allow any testimony obtained through waterboarding be admissible. As a number of players were still recovering from the 2007 end of season white water rafting fiasco in Penrith, their testimonies were excluded. Three players sent to Rumania (as part of George W Hodges Rendition Policy) were also excluded from the submissions. Keddies also looked at a number of other submissions. These included , naval footage of children overboard submitted by a J W Howard. Although not strictly part of the terms of reference to the Inquiry they were reviewed but seen as patently concocted. He also excluded WMD in Iraq submission from Dick Cheney and the Fuel Watch scheme from a K Rudd. More contentious and actively debated by the defence team, photos of some Barnies players in compromising positions (obtained from an entrapment process at Kings Cross). One boggles at the dexterity of some of Oranges' upstanding pillars of society (just looking at a few pics). Thankfully, that type of dexterity is not allowed (nor seen) on the playing field.

On Friday, Chairperson Keddies announced his findings. It was the Barnies shiatsu (hot rock) specialist who may have inadvertently advised CYMS. As it turns out, Sinisa Kosarac uses this form of therapy frequently. It appeared that he said something about Barnies always playing to his left wing during the game. From that, the shiatus (one who practices shiatsu) told her neighbour and he told his mate, and he in turn, his next door neighbour who plays for CYMS. The interesting and bemusing thing to Barnies players was that Sinisa was not playing against CYMS that weekend. Aidan Sugden was on the left side that day. What does it all mean? Kiddies should always remember that loose lips sink ships!

Apology: Barnies Management are pleased to put this distraction behind them but would like to apologise to Dan Kennedy. It was reported in the article last week that Dan, from Armani's R Us (specialist in measured silk, leather and home evening wear), was labelled as the recalcitrant. An unreserved apology by Barnies Management will be aired on Today Tonight on Friday. Dan Kennedy was last sighted talking contracts to Harry M Miller for a TV appearance on a pseudo celebrity 'remember me' program.

Barnstoneworth – 29th June 2008

Barnstoneworth Club continue to have mixed results for the prestigious Orange Football Club Champions Trophy last weekend. YADS (Youth and Development Squad) had another strong 3-1 victory against Ex Services Tigers in the All Age C division with Scott Williams yet again noted in dispatches. The top of the table win puts YADS clear top of C Division. In the >35s, Denley Moor continue to climb up the table with yet another clinical 2-0 display against Saints, although the impending visit by a certain papal visitor may have had a bearing on this result. Denley Moor are positioned just outside the top 4 but are building for a strong back half of the season. Barnstoneworth United, however are just not pulling their weight. United are a shattered and demoralised rabble after their humiliating loss to the Cudalian Cobwebs in the >35 competition on the weekend. With the grudge match between United and Denley this weekend, 'God save the Queen because nothing will save the Governor General'. Sorry, I digress.

As with most on road trips to Cudal, a number of players were forced to defer attending because of the rocketing fuel prices. A few players vowed never to go to Cudal until Treasurer Turnbull introduces the 5 cents a litre saving (maybe a long wait). Some of the newer players, however, had no idea of the extreme heat and highly oxygenated air experienced at Cudal would play and others just had no clue. I will expand on this theme.

Chief sports therapist, Phil W Hodges, started the proceedings by forgetting to bring the chill vests required for such a hash climate as Cudal. Temperatures were almost 20°C prior to the game and the perspiration on the players, even while changing, looked like jockeys in a sauna. The second mistake was that Barnies players allowed for traffic delays in metropolitan Cudal and arrived 20 minutes earlier than kick-off. Consequently, Barnies players started to warm up before the game, a sight not seen since Federation, 1901. A new starter to the team, Patrick 'Mexican' Driver quipped 'I was told by Manager Hodges, Barnies do not train. I have been totally misled. I left Carlton in Melbourne to get away from such callous, antiquated and demeaning footballing methods. Training before a game? What a joke!'

With the usual keeper, Stu Riles indisposed, a slightly hamstrung Phil Jackson was given the short straw and the gloves and was promptly injured during the warm up period. Unfortunately, this did not deter this modest yet talentless person from playing. The game started with Barnies defending well. Keira Jacobs, player of the match, was key in this early period. Robert Young, Phil Hodges and Sean Brady were also strong in the defensive line while midfielders Aidan Sudgen, Steve Adams and Andrew Rolfe also probing to see if any Cudal weaknesses. Ian Carter, Tony Kavanagh and Eric Jacobs were strong up front but the control the ball, due to the sub tropical Cudal surface, made life difficult. After 20 minutes a break by Cudal beat sweeper Gary James. The shot was firstly juggled between the legs of keeper Jackson before Cudal slotted home the loose ball for a 1-0 lead. Jackson was just thankful the right ball was kicked this week after being 'wheelless' 2 weeks prior. The remainder of the half was all Barnies and an equaliser more than justifying the effort of the boys. At oranges, coach Hodges was pleased with the effort. Mick Jessop, Hugh Mathison and the ever mobile Peter McClymont were mentioned in dispatches.

Second half was initially an arm wrestle but half way through the period, the training prior to the game and the oppressive heat started to tell. Cudal pressed home their

territorial advantage and a cross was slotted home for the local side to be up 2-1 Cudal pressed and a third put the game beyond doubt. Barnies did have their chances with several clinical conversions (if playing rugby).

At recrimination time, Barnies lamented their missed opportunities but were upbeat on the positives. Coach Hodges indicated that we had as many scoring shots and were as effective in most facets of the game, with one exception, ball control. Hodges stated to the throng of media after the game, 'we were a bit knocked up after the long road trip. The training before the game without the chill vests was a mistake to which I take full and total responsibility. We knew the weather and pitch conditions were not what we are used to, but remember the main point, we have a proper keeper Stu Riles back after next week'.

For those that follow the well patronised >35 Orange competition, please remember that next weeks grudge match between Denley and United is a 1.30pm game. This is to allow crowd control and police duties to be fulfilled before the Rugby Test. Hodges reminded club supporters, this is an all tickets 'mate vs mate' affair. The sky diver, catering and cheer leaders (personally supervised by Dan Kennedy from Armanis R Us) has been booked for this sell-out match. With a number of ex Barnies recently migrating to Queensland, many have decided to stay after the Wednesday league game and have booked the last of the corporate boxes for this impending titanic struggle.

Barnstoneworth report 5th July 2008

With all the fanfare leading up to the weekends 'state v state' match and all Barnies teams playing on adjoining fields, the crowd of red and white looked more like Kogarah Oval circa 1961 than Brabham 2008. Many Barnies life members, ex players, sponsors and supporters were on hand to see two enthralling games. Barnies Youth and Development Squad, AKA YADS had a hard fought 2-0 victory over Saints in the top of the ladder game in all-age C division. Ex players travelled as far afield as Sydney, Long Bay and Kirkconnell to watch this hard fought match.

Without demeaning the exploits of YADS, it is true to say, that most eyes were directed towards the senior teams, Denley Moor vs Barnstoneworth United in the more prestigious >35 game. Earlier in the season, Denley talked up their exploits but were held to a draw by the guile and cunning of the senior Barnies team. Leading up to this week, however, Denley kept a low profile, even opting for a training camp away at distant Spring Hill. With a number of players from both teams injured or away with country or state teams, discussion before the game was of commitment, passion and beating the bejesus out of each other.

Denley Moor reverted to their old strip of blue and gold, the same strip that Brazil pinched from Denley in 1921. Barnies United played in the fabled red and white for their 612 consecutive games in a row (yes that's right I here you say – tautology). Denley had their two tyros in Mick Carpenter and Phil Davis unavailable due to some anatomical injuries that only a gynaecologist would understand (or even dare diagnose). Barnies also had several of their mid field guns in Phil Totten, Robert Young, Tony 'Mokbel' Kavanagh, Peter McClymont, Paul Hopkins missing as well as keeper Stu Riles but this did not diminish the spirit and skills on display by both teams.

Barnies started well, a trait always on display in the first few minutes. Eric Jacobs, Patrick 'Mexican' Driver and Steve Adams had some early chances with Denleys keeper, Alan Sharp out of his box to thwart an early attack. Barnies mid field of Richard Hogg, Ian Carter, Sinisa Kasarac, Mick Jessop, Andrew Rolfe and Hugh Lukins toiled manfully and the traditional back line of Phil 'sledger' Hodges, Sean Brady, Keira Jacobs and Gary James were also in their 'take no prisoner' attitude. This was a task difficult to achieve for most, playing against lifelong friends, although Phil 'sledger' Hodges (AKA Hodge Sledger), seemed to revel in the task at hand. Denley had the more clinical shots in the first stanza and a Denley corner mid way through the half led to confusion in the Barnies defence for Dan 'Armani's R Us' Kennedy to head home off his nose. Stand in keeper (standing a position often seen by this keeper), Phil Jackson, was bemused by the decision. With pandemonium around the box, the linesman was called to decide if the ball crossed the goal line. A review of ways Barnstoneworth players have scored were checked by club statistician, Ed 'calf' Cato. Not one single goal from a nose has previously been recorded and the only perpetual trophy not previously won by a Barnstoneworth player, the Proboscis Shield, will be presented to Dan at the end of season.

At oranges, with both teams standing next to each other, tempers flared and the first use of the 2008 Iemma 'Annoyance' Act came into effect. Police were called and those with offending shirts or comments, offering thoughts of comfort, compassion and divine intervention, first to be removed from the field. It was a bizarre situation for the police to decide who was most annoying. It is true to say that at times, all Barnstoneworth players are annoying but to frog march 27 corporate sponsors from the sideline made a mockery of law. The act was obviously targeted against the likes

of Ms Neil and other recalcitrant non believers, not the salt of the earth supporters of Barnstoneworth.

Also at oranges, Gary James swapped with first half keeper Jackson, a decision roundly applauded by all that were still concentrating on the game. Barnies late starter in Aidan Sugden became a bit more involved in the second half but Denleys defence more than covered the attacks of Barnies. A wayward clearance by Barnies and Denley pounced with a second goal. At rehydration time, winners Denley celebrated alone on the sideline with champagne while parched Barnies players were forced to lick their wounds at club headquarters, Parkview Hotel. At recrimination time, all teams gathered 'at the View' to discuss the results of the games and arrange bail for those interned by this hideous Iemma Annoyance Act. Dan Kennedy's goal was the issue most discussed with a number of players getting their photos taken with their arm around Dan's now red, protruding beak. SBS are rumoured to be sending a film crew to Orange to discuss this unique event with the man from Armani's R Us. A one figure sum has been rumoured to be on offer.

Barnstoneworth report 19th July 2008

With a number of Barnstoneworth United players participating in the World Youth Day in Sydney on Saturday, although technically none met the 'youth' criteria, Barnies were always going to be under the pump against Waratahs in the prestigious >35 Orange competition. With gun players, Phil Totten and Robert Young appearing on the cross at Barangaroo, Sinisa Kasarac as Popemobile driver and several others as pilgrim and/or annoyance controllers at Royal Randwick, Barnies fielded a depleted and make shift side for the 3rd game in a row against the show ponies called Tahs.

As with the previous 3 weeks, Phil Jackson was handed the keeper gloves. This being a testament, not of his keeping prowess but more the stupidity of the Barnies Management and after 6 passes Tahs had scored without a Barnies foot or hand touching the ball. After 15 minutes, it was 3-0 with verbal abuse, bile and vindictive sprayed in copious quantity at the makeshift Barnies keeper. It is true to say, however, that Barnies stuck to the task at hand. Steve Adams, Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs started to gel up front and Aidan Sugden, Peter McClymont, Mick Jessop and Keira Jacobs toiled manfully in the midfield, this being an extremely difficult task for Keira. The team was restructured after the debacle of the first 15 minutes with Phil Hodges (Hodge Sledger), and Andrew Rolfe now on the defensive sides and Sean Brady and Gary James in the central defensive pattern. With this, Barnies started to be more adventurous and pressed the Tahs defence. A corner by Barnies was slotted home beautifully by Tahs defender, Jason Bargwanna. A number of his fellow players were bemused by the clinical strike and others wanted him immediately promoted to striker or removed from the field. Just prior to half time, an already injured Aidan Sugden was again forced from the field with Barnies now without any available substitutions.

At oranges, chief sponsor and CEO, Hodge Sledger (returning from his recent Batman duties) again took responsibility for the decision on the keeper position and immediately handed the gloves to the more capable and very talented Gary James. 'Lets not dwell on past mistakes' said Hodges, 'lets show those in the club who preferred to rub shoulders with the Pope rather than toil for Barnies, that we are made of substance'. He did not elaborate which substance Barnies were made but the emotional and spiritual rendition did wonders for all but one player.

Second half started much the same as the first but the keeper change was one of divine inspiration. A beautiful Barnies through ball by Peter McClymont to Steve Adams, with his pin point cross smashed home by Tony Cavanagh and Barnies had a sniff. Moments later a perfect header by Steve Adams and the game was level at 3-3. Barnies were buoyed but Tahs recrimination and abuse was now directed at the crest fallen Jason Bargwanna. Tahs started to use their 6 man bench and with 10 minutes remaining Tahs slotted home a fourth against a now tired Barnies. Barnies had a late chance with the keeper out of the box but the strike from long distance by Steve Adams sailed just over the bar. Last kick of the game, Tahs scored their fifth with a pearler.

At rehydration time at Waratahs Sports Club, most players were pleased with the result and the spirit in which the game was played. Players discussed their exploits and many positive moments of the game. Many jokes were had with a number of

comments directed to but a few. Jason and Phil sat forlorn and alone at the corner table, just thankful that the Iemma Annoyance Act of 2008 was dismissed in the Supreme Court earlier last week.

Barnstoneworth report 26th July 2008

Barnies Youth Team (YADS) returned to the winning way with a hard fought 8-3 against Kinross. This has kept them in contention for minor premiership in C Division this year.

In the >35 competition, Barnies sister team, Denley Moor, did not play this week due to a double booking on Saturday with the pedicurist.

As most people that have been glued to SBS in the last few weeks would have noted, Team Barnstoneworth continued to perform admirably in the Tour de France. Some cynics believe that performing in the >35 competition in Orange has given an unfair advantage to Barnies but climbing mountains has always been the forte of this proud club. The downside to any mountain climb is that with so many Barnies still in the Tour, player availability for the >35 competition have been minimal for the last few weeks. This week both stand in keepers for the last 4 games in Gary James and Phil Jackson were also not available due to being part of the Sonny Bill Williams Legal team in Lakemba. Rumour about the possibility of Mark Bosnich impending signing for Barnies has resulted in the usual keeper, Stu Riles returning from trials with Chelsea to rightfully stake his claim as Barnies premier keeper.

As for the game Barnies were up against CYMS in the >35 on Saturday. Barnies had just 11 to start and were under the pump from the first kick. Phil Totten, Phil Hodges and Sean Brady were forced to defend for most of the first half with mid fielders, Ian Carter, Keira Jacobs and Mick Jessop lending a hand in midfield. Strikers in Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh, Eric Jacobs and Steve Adams were well contained in the first stanza.

Dan Kennedy returned from his sabbatical at the clothing designer awards at Milan and Scott Shepherd had his usual cameo appearance for the season. Sinisa Kosarac returned from the tobacconist just in time for his third game of the season. CYMS had scored 4 goals within 40 minutes and Barnies were history.

At oranges, club strategist, psychiatrist and macramé specialist, Phil 'Plato' Hodges was philosophical about the first half. 'There are 3 classes of men: lovers of wisdom, lovers of honour and lovers of gain' said Hodges. 'Who are we?' Most were bemused by this homily but Mick Jessop was first to respond 'all men are by nature equal, made of the same earth by one workman and however we deceive ourselves, the poor man is as mighty as the prince'. For some reason, these pearls of Greek wisdom from our Woodward Street resident did conjure a change to Barnies performance. Second half could have been considered a moral victory for Barnies with Tony Cavanagh slotting in his second goal in as many matches for the final score being 5-1. It was also noted that Eric Jacobs headed the ball. It had been rumoured, although never corroborated, that Eric also headed the ball in the previous game. These headers from all reports are the only 2 in Eric's 37 years of football. Barnies Management is urging that any photographic evidence of this event taken from the throng of supporters on Saturday should be forwarded to Barnies for a special end of season award. It is believed Prime have been made aware of this eclipse like event with several cameramen planned to be at next weeks game.

At rehydration the discussion was of the great revival after half time along with the impending Olympic Games. As many would know, several of the Barnies players are expecting a call to play in the Olyroos. With only 3 players over the age of 23 eligible for selection, a number of Barnies players will obviously miss out. This may be a blessing in disguise. As the Olympic movement and sports doctors know, Viagra has

the same positive effects in blood circulation as EPO and rumour has it that Chief sponsor, Manager and team doctor, Phil 'mother' Hodges has been urging players to hydrate prior to recent games with his 'Dr Kildare energy drink' (trade mark 2008). Players have been unsure for some weeks why their minds have wandered during the game to some other forms of physical exercise. This has led to some unusual player positions being noted during the game with many a blush from the sidelines. Club hydrationist, Hodges would be thankful to John Coates if no Barnies players were selected for China.

Barnstoneworth report 2nd August 2008

It was a weekend of mixed fortunes on Saturday for the three Barnstoneworth teams. Barnies Youth and Development Squad (YADS) were beaten 3-1 by the formidable Canobolas Pink Bits. Pink Bits had the rub of the referee decisions with YADS post mortem focussing on a number of short comings with the team structure. It was true to say that having goal keeper Ewan Powell playing with 1 boot and 1 runner did not assist but some positional changes will be trialled in future games. The loss, however, still keeps them in contention for minor premiership in C Division this year.

In the >35 competition, United over performing sister team, Denley Moor registered a 5-2 win against the Cudallian Cobwebs at Cudal Central. Denley Moor, now known as Demi Moore because of last weekends session with the pedicurist, played a number players in unaccustomed positions. Usual keeper Alan Sharp was promoted to striker and Scott Shepherd given the gloves. This worked a treat as Alan scored a cracker of a goal and will miss the nudie run at the end of the season, a situation Management, photographic paparazzi and CWD editors have roundly applauded. Also amongst the scorers was Mick 'Deep Heat' Carpenter. He beat 2 players on his side of half way, noted the goalie off the line and struck a pearler from 50 metres. Mick will be goal keeper next week, such is the strategy of Demi.

As for the glamour team of the Barnstoneworth Club in United, they were up against the fancied show ponies for the >35 comp in Canobolas Rangers. It was true to say that United had most of their gun players on the pitch. Eric Jacobs, who had headed the ball in the 2 previous matches was unavailable due to urgent neurosurgery and Robert Young was still believed practising Falun Gong in the mountains of Tibet and is not expected to return until after the Olympics, if at all.

The strategy this week was a hope for containment and counter attack when possible. Barnies started with a more defensive strategy with Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Ian Carter the only two up front., Peter McClymont, Steve Adams, Patrick "Mexican" Driver, Aidan Sugden and Andrew Rolfe in midfield and Sean Brady, Gary James, Phil Totten and Phil 'swan dive' Hodges in front of keeper Stu Riles. The reserves were formidable with Andrew Hogg, Mick Jessop, Phil Jackson and Sinisa Kosarac the impact players on the bench. More on Sinisa later.

Barnies won the toss and decided to play with the 'megan' gale at their backs. After 20 minutes of strong Barnies defence one or two of the less disciplined Rangers players became a bit vocal with some questions raised about Barnies family genealogical and gynaecological history. This, however, did not deter the focus and game plan of Barnies. A great Rangers shot nearing half time and Barnies were down by 1. Shortly after, Rangers keeper was out of position and a long range Steve Adams shot was just saved on the line. From the ensuing corner Sinisa Kosarac hit the cross bar from 1 metre. The half finished with a Rangers player and Sinisa having a head clash near half way. Sinisa head hit the ground and such was the force that the ref had no option but to call a halt to proceedings to request the groundsman to repair the rather large divot.

At oranges an upbeat coach, naturopath and vivisectionist in Phil 'St Johns Wort' Hodges was pleased with the commitment of all the players but with the 'megan' gale in Barnies faces for the second half, players thoughts started to wonder. Realistically, Phil sounded like the band leader on the Titanic saying there is nothing to worry about.

Rangers scored an early second goal and a third nearing full time, however Barnies management were pleased with the overall performance of the team. Stu Riles had

another strong game in keeper. Many shots were saved and each goal conceded were well crafted with Rangers Luke Bingham dictating his players around him. At rehydration time at the 'View', many of the more interesting aspects of each game were discussed, analysed and dissected. YADS players were deep in discussion about turning their game plan around. Demi Moore were discussing the finer points of Deep Heat vs Dencorub and how to remove it after the game while United were more circumspect and reserved. It is true to say that after the first game of the season, United were top of the Division but with 1 win from the remaining 387 games this season, Phil Hodges is considering a rugby career in Toulon. The only upside is that those players that had niggling injuries in previous weeks have all finished the game without recurring pain. With the semis just a 4 games away, United need to turn the Titanic of a season around. The legend continues.

Barnstoneworth report 9th August 2008

Inclement weather and the Olympics kept the crowd attendance down for the two Barnstoneworth games at Brabham on Saturday. The usual, 'ticket holders' only sign was absent at the ground for just the 3rd weekend this season as both Denley Moor and United competed against some strong opposition. On reflection the crowd numbers rivalled the attendance of many Olympic venues, especially the cycling. Thankfully ex-manager Hodges cancelled the 27,000 members of the Australian Defence Force for pre-game amusements. I think the Department of Defence were unavailable due to their trip to Beijing, taking notes on the Chinese Red Army manoeuvres on the Olympics opening night.

YADS (Youth and Development Squad) had the bye so arranged a bonding session at a nudist colony on the central coast . It was here that changes to the team for future games were thrashed out. Not a pretty site and from all reports with some were left scared for life. For the Barnies teams competing, Denley Moor had the task of stemming the might of >35 competition leaders Cymys Gold. Dan Kennedy was moved to the forward position and from an early corner scored from close range. Denley scored again from a great strike by Bruce Hogben and the pressure mounted. Unfortunately Denley conceded a goal from a penalty. As Phil Davis once said 'to have one penalty is unfortunate but to have two is careless' and Denley again conceded a second for a 2-2 draw. As many in Orange would testify (even under oath) the penalty contributors in Mick Carpenter and Ed Cato are both pillars of the Orange establishment. The punishment more than exceeded the crime. Dave Craig played with a pedometer and was clocked at 127kms for the game. A real disappointment to the team as the last game he was clocked as covering 162kms for the match. After a courageous save late in match, keeper Alan Sharp failed to complete the game due to injury and is in doubt for the impending 'mate vs mate' game later in August.

As for Barnies United, it was true to say, were in a bit of turmoil prior to the game. With Sinisa Kosarac not able to attend as his stock of cigars were exhausted and Robert Young still not released from a rehabilitation centre in Lhasa, Tibet, to compound matters, Coach, Manager and hedge fund specialist, Phil Hodges was also not available due to family commitments. At short notice, Phil Jackson was given the team game plan and balls – a first for Phil. Apart from this distraction, Barnies were at full strength against a competitive Saints team.

With Hodges away, Jackson decided a open minded approach to the team structure and a number of positional changes were implemented. Thankfully he insisted that key players Andy Rolfe stay in the defensive line and Stu Riles as keeper. Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh was given the striker role. He returned in time from touring with his band, The Converts. The Converts had been on the road for several performances, including the Horden Pavlova, Griffith and a number of venues in Orange earlier that week. From all reports they are the support band for Wolfmother, AC/DC and the recent papal tour. Eric Jacobs also returned from recent neurosurgery was again promoted to a forward position (to protect the stitching in his scalp). Steve Adams was given a more roving role behind the strikers. Mid field was strengthened by the return of Keira Jacobs and was supported by Peter McClymont, Andrew Hogg, Ian Carter, Mick Jessop and Patrick 'Mexican' Driver. With Aidan Sugden and Phil Totten both recovering from recent injuries, new manager Jackson decided to give both the central midfield role, just to test their fitness. This was a master stroke by the

new Manager. The defensive structure was ever reliable. Central defence was Sean Brady and Gary James with Andy Rolfe right back and Phil Jackson promoting himself to the all important roll of left back, a position that is/was Hodges. Barnies started on fire with a cross from Tony 'Mokbel' struck perfectly by Steve Adams for a 1-0 lead. With Barnies pressing forward a quick Saints counter attack had 4 players bearing down on the lone Barnies defender in Andy Rolfe. Only some quick thinking (and running) by Andy kept Saints at bay. Later a long range Saints shot was also tipped over the bar by Stu Riles for the completion of proceedings.

At oranges, the typical team talk Barnies usually heard from Hodge Sledger on positional play, commitment and improvement was replaced by sonnets and soliloquies from Jackson. Most were nonplussed by the change but humoured the new coach (at least to his face).

Second half started like the first with Barnies always feeling they had the upper hand. Aidan Sugden scored another of his terrific strikes to return the faith in his coach's decision to push him forward. Barnies had prevailed 2-0 with a tradesman like team performance where all contributed to the win.

At rehydration time at the 'View' or Parkview Hotel, many actions and game performances were recounted. The downside was the apparent defection of Mick Jessop to another team after the United game. His recent 5 year contract with Barnies is now in limbo with Jessop heard to say that he has to look after his interests, although he tried to clarify his position at the 'View' later that night. Jessop said he was misquoted. 'We are slaves to Barnies and are obviously not being paid fairly' he said. 'I had six runs, ten passes and no tackles today for my tiny \$50,000 match payment. This is just ridiculous'! Many of his fellow players were in agreement with the last statement but gob smacked to hear the amount Jessop was on. Barnies players thought the amount each player paid each week after the game was to the referee, but in truth, was going to Jessop as a portion of his match payments. When Hodges and his family return from Toulon, an extra-ordinary meeting is planned for players to air the grievances. A new club financier has also been mooted with Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh or Tony 'the man' Mundine the likely candidates.

Barnstoneworth report 15th August 2008

Barnstoneworth Football Club had an 'Australian Swim Team weekend' in the Orange Football Competition on Saturday. I will expand on that mixed theme. Barnies Youth and development Squad (YADS) had a successful return to the winning list with a strong 6-2 victory against a very competitive Waratahs in the all age C Division. The game was poised at 2 all when the introduction of the new team structure came into play. As those in the know knew, YADS had a heart to heart session at the nudist colony last week to discuss why the wheels had fallen off mid season. The new structure with David, originally from Colo Colo, Chile controlling the central mid field and Scott Williams at centre right split the well structured Waratahs defence. The positional changes seemed to work in all facets of play, although the goal keeping position is still in question. It was noted that in more than 312 games for Barnies, no-one had seen a lob get past the usually reliable 6'11" (327cm) Ewan Powell. Powell was crestfallen after the game with his distinguished record now extinguished.

In the >35 competition, Denley Moor was also up against the old foe in Waratahs. Waratahs and Denley have had many a titanic struggle since both teams were established last century with usually a single goal separating the two teams. Saturday was no exception. Both teams adjusted to the windy conditions but it was Darrin Chambers who scored the all important goal for a 1-0 win to Denley. Darrin, who was recruited to Denley from Waratahs in 2007, has adjusted well to the Denley style of play and is a key to the success experienced by Denley in 2007 and again this year. He was his usual humble self after the game but the look of satisfaction was obvious.

As life mimics football, so does football mimic life. For the sweet taste of victory clubs have to endure some losses. Unfortunately, the loss in the Barnies club this week was experienced, again, by United. After one victory in a row against Saints last week, United were buoyant that they could experience another win against FB's. Part Owner and swim suit designer in Phil W Hodges, returned from Beijing after assisting in the fitting of his new swim suits to the Australian women competitors. Comments about Stephanie Rice will go unrecorded but I am sure Phil will be mentioned in many glossy magazines in the coming months, post the decline of Eamon Sullivan. Hodges returned to 'his' position of left back, a position successfully covered by others last week. Robert Young, returned from the Tibet Gulag and Ian Carter was also a starter after his award winning musical Eisteddfod appearance mid week. From all reports, Ian's attire has never been recorded on stage previously.

United won the toss and decided to play into the wind and uphill at ground 16 at Brabham. Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs were given the up front role. Mid field consisted of Robert Young, Steve Adams, Peter McClymont, Ian Carter, Patrick 'Mexican' Driver, Mick Jessop and Aidan Sugden. To fit Phil W back into 'his' position some changes were required in the backs with Phil Totten and Sean central defence and Andy Rolfe and Keira Jacobs on the right. Stu Riles was given the gloves for keeper and Phil Jackson would be called on, only as a last resort. United started well with a number of opportunities, however the FB keeper stood tall. Game maker Aidan Sugden was a closely marked man, however the rub of decisions went against him the whole game. With United looking the goods an FB speculator

from outside the box slipped through the legs of keeper Riles. It was the type of goal (and position) that Family Planning Clinics always advise caution.

At oranges, United were still upbeat. Down by a goal and running downhill and down wind the players felt like Grant Hackett before the 1500 metres.

Second half was a titanic struggle. FB's adjusted their game plan to counter attack but defend in numbers. United pressed with many a scoring opportunity but at a crucial time, Mick Jessop left the field with an injury. Goal kicks to an eternity and FB's were victorious.

At rehydration time at the 'View' or Parkview Hotel, the initial discussion was about Mick Jessop. Eric Jacobs rant about the decline in mens swimming and Mick Jessop match fees quickly made way to Mick's injury. Club historian and conservator in Dan Kennedy checked the Barnstoneworth record book. Mick had previously been replaced due to injury only once in 2005. This was due to a substantial head gash that required both reconstructive and cosmetic surgery. As for the positives and learnings from each match. Denley were obviously upbeat, as were YADS. Some in United mumbled about the man in black but Aidan said it was our opportunities that were missed.

Just a reminder to patrons and those that have annual membership to Barnies for 2008 that YADS are at Cudal on the weekend but those that get motion/travel sickness can watch the United vs Denley Moor game at 1.30 at Brahbam. With a number of players out, United will do well to win, however, the gloss may be off the Denley side as they have a deferred match on Friday night. All United eyes are on the rehabilitation of Mick Jessop.

Barnstoneworth report 23rd August 2008

As most in Orange would know, the fabled red and white colours of Barnstoneworth Football Club are renowned throughout the town and surrounding villages. In the All Age C Division, Barnies Youth and Development Squad (YADS) were up against the green machine from Cudal. In a close encounter, YADS prevailed 4-2 to win the minor premiership, however some unique and unusual events unfolded. With the game poised at 1 all, a through ball by Cudal was stopped by the man in black. Rather than have a drop ball or just play on, he decided to control the ball then pass through to the attacking Cudal forwards for Cudal to score. For some reason, YADS players became a little confused, bemused and uncertain and it took a goal by David to settle the situation at half time. With Matt Hatzl unavailable, again, no oranges were on offer and with Karl Braybrook offering a rub down for those indisposed, David took control of the situation. He mentioned Chris Cameron as an inspiration to the team. 'Chris broke his nose two weeks ago and last week T boned a car and broke some ribs. 'Let's win the game for Chris' he said. In the second half the silky skills of David continued, scoring a hat-trick, the first for YADS since the last Barnies hat-trick. Jason Robertson, however, continued to discuss the circumstance of the earlier Cudal goal with the referee and was yellow carded, which from all reports, this yellow card resulted in a record number of cards for one Barnies player in one season. Well done Jason. The other issue raised during the game was the request from the man in black for Barnies substitutes to remove their playing shirt on the sideline. Barnies club curator and archaeologist, Dan Kennedy, believes this was a first for any club in C Division in Orange. For some reason, yet to be sensibly explained, Mark Aheimer thought he also needed to remove his shirt on the field. Thankfully the cold weather kicked in and he quickly rekitted. For future games, counselling, smelling salts and macramé will be on offer prior to play.

As advised last week, all three Barnies sides were playing at JB Stadium on the Saturday. With YADS next door and Denley Moor up against the football icons of United in the >35s, crowd numbers were at an all time high. Print journalists and TV camera crews were on hand and crowd control officials and caterers were stretched to the limit with the spectator numbers at the game equal to the halcyon days at Stadium Barnstoneworth (AKA Bloomfield, now the Reba Maher Legacy and Community Sandpit).

In the >35 competition, Denley Moor had already played a deferred game on the Friday, winning 4-0 against FB's, so United thought the Saturday would be a walk in the park against Denley. This is exactly how it panned out – but in reverse. With the sweet taste of victory on Friday, Denley decided to attack early and try and defend an early lead. With this, some of the Denley players tried the physical tactics against some of the smaller, yet more skillful United players. This intimidating style did not sway the result. United 'enforcers' of Steve Adams, Phil Totten, Ian Carter, Patrick Driver, Sean Brady and Keira Jacobs were not available for the match but Sinisa Kosarac and Hugh Lukins were introduced to counter the size and vigour of Denley. United started well with Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs having some early chances up front. The reliable midfield in Aidan Sugden, Richard Hogg, Peter McClymont and Mick Jessop having some great combinations. Defensive team was led by Phil W 'Kamikaze' Hodges (also known as Kazie from his ablution block days

at Bloomfield), supported by Gary James, Robert Young, Phil Jackson and Andy Rolfe. Stu Riles continued his record sequence as keeper.

With the number of United players missing, it is true to say that the combination of Denley looked sharper. Darrin Chambers, Bean and Bruce Hogben were strong in the midfield and Lino Manca, Scott Shepherd and Ed Cato tireless in the Denley defence. Denley keeper, Alan Sharp played a dominant role however, there is some question about the medication the doctor administered to address his back condition. Alan indicated in was cortisone, although the ever 'late for the game' Aidan, thought it was double dose (or halfsone), such was the performance of the youthful Sharp. Darrin Chambers was replaced mid way through the game requiring back manipulation. Denley scored first from what can only be described as a typical Dan Kennedy strike. 17th century poaching and Kennedy goals are always mentioned in the same sentence.

At oranges, United were upbeat, being down 1-0 but playing against a tired opposition and with the wind in United's favour. Coach Hodges remarked 'if history repeats itself, we can expect the same thing again' and with that uncanny pearl of wisdom, the game recommenced. Denley scored a second from a great strike from Chris outside the box but United continued to press. Richard Hogg was pushed from midfield to help the well marked United forwards. A clinical strike by Hogg (his first for the fabled red and white) and the game was on, briefly. Denley's Bruce Hogben had a number of great strikes during the game but was denied by a combination of good defence and bad luck but a great strike nearing fulltime and the game was won - three bloody one!.

At rehydration time at the 'View' or Parkview Hotel, hotel caterers put on a 'victors banquet' to celebrate the efforts of YADS being minor premiers. This was well appreciated by all in the club. As usual, discussion continued on the finer aspects of each game. United were a little concerned that Mick Carpenter from Denley was trying to 'verbal' the United players during the game, although post match discussion indicated the verballing was not directed to United players (a most unusual tactic). Denley's Phil Davis is recovering well from what has been described as a 'Mardi Gras podiatry disease', a disease not normally known west of Bathurst but apparently common in the jewellery industry. Next week, YADS play a strong Millthorpe in C division. In >35, Denley play Saints and United travel, again, to Cudal. This annual event between the Cudalian Cobwebs and United is the pinnacle of the >35 matches each year. Cabonne Council arrange a BBQ and a special bus for Cudal townsfolk to attend and appreciate this game of skill, dexterity and commitment, with many players committed at the end of the game.

Barnstoneworth report 30th August 2008

This week was the culmination of a number of years of strategy and development by the management of Barnstoneworth Football Club. Many in Orange have been aware of the blatant poaching and recruitment campaign instigated by Owner Phil 'Iguana' Hodges after the significant funding injected by the marquee sponsor, the Parkview Hotel in 2007. Hodges was remorseless in his drive to achieve his ultimate goal – all teams reaching semi-final status in the Orange competition. After this week's results, as George W Bush once claimed, now Barnstoneworth management can claim 'mission accomplished'!

The three Barnies teams were up against some formidable foe this week. Barnies Youth and Development Squad (aka YADS) were against the strong village team in Millthorpe in the all age C Division. With the '2008 minor premiership' recently embroidered on their shirts, YADS experimented with a number of differing combinations. Mark Aheimer was given the gloves and Dave Coates the striker role to test their abilities in unfamiliar positions. It is true to say that both were a success with Dave scoring the crucial goal and Mark being active and almost saving a spot penalty. As for the other positional changes, some were not as successful with Jason Robertson, again, receiving the wrath of the referee to extend his yellow card exploits by another card. It was great to have Chris Cameron return from a number of recent injuries. The end result was 1all.

In the more flamboyant >35 competition, Denley Moor were up against the resurgent Saints. Denley had numerous opportunities to score but their Christian compassion came to the fore with a nil all result.

As for United, they travelled again to Cudal, for the away game against the 'cobwebs'. United had a few missing due to a number of reasons. Manager Hodges was less than amused as Cudal has had the wood over United for the last few games. Thankfully, United had the services of Aidan Sugden. First goal was scored by Peter McClymont from a pinpoint cross from Aidan and United were on the board. A second goal by Eric Jacobs was a screamer with even the Cudal players applauding the clinical finish. With the game poised for a frantic final few minutes, Aidan was cleaned up for the seventh time in the match but as luck would have it, the last tackle was just inside the box. Aidan slotted in the winner for a well deserved and hard fought 3-2 victory.

At rehydration time at the 'View' or Parkview, management and staff celebrated in style befitting a successful club. United were the toast of the club as being the only winning side for the day – a most unusual position for United players and one which modesty and bragging were in equal portions.

As for this week, YADS are up against Canobolas Pink Bits in the C Division Major semi. Pink Bits have been the nemesis for YADS over the last few years but YADS believe 2008 will be the year of the YADS. In the >35 semis, Denley Moor play against Cym Blue and United against Cym FB's. For Denley, it is a must win game but with a number of players returning from injury, a great game is expected. As for United, this time of the year is when we sort the men from the boys. This is quite difficult when all players are >35 but you get the drift. United will be at full strength and a great game is anticipated. Parkview Hotel, the marquee sponsor, has doubled the match payments for the achievement of '3 teams in 3 finals' performance with additional funding being discussed for any grand final performances. United players

will just go through their usual pre game preparation as finals football is nothing new to this great team.

Barnstoneworth report 6th September 2008

At the time of writing this report, the belief was that all games last week were cancelled and the lower teams were deemed as the losing side. Orange Football Association amended this position earlier this week but at the time of reporting, the stories reflected the initial understanding. Denley Moor players would like to applaud this compassionate and common sense approach achieved through negotiation with the Association.

This weekend Barnstoneworth Management was in turmoil over team loyalty, commitment and mateship. For many players on Saturday, it should have been the culmination of years of dedication and sacrifice to the club but many were despondent about the circumstances of the day. Unbeknown to many, Orange District decided to cancel all games at JB Stadium due to an unforeseen drainage problem. Unfortunately, many of the Barnies crystal sets did not pick up the cancellation announcement and those that still rely on carrier pigeons also missed the cancellation due to some magnetic field changes caused by the meteor shower on Saturday morning (affecting the gyroscopes of our feathered friends). The 'Mick Jessop Supersponge', owned by Orange Council, was also not able to cope with the 15mm of rain on Friday and the grounds were considered unplayable. At 2.30pm Saturday, many Barnies players arrived with the ground bathed in sunshine and the fields looking the best they have all season.

Once advised that the games were cancelled the shock, visible on the faces of the Denley Moor players, was palpable. Denley had finished 4th in the >35 competition season and had been competitive against all teams above them. They were buoyed that they could 'go all the way' and such was the commitment to that ideal, supporters had travelled from all regions of Orange in anticipation for their match. The cancellation meant their season was over. As a consequence of the cancellations Barnstoneworth, Youth and Development Squad (YADS) progress straight to the All Age C Division Grand Final (as they were again Minor Premiers for 2008). The comment about mateship fell on deaf ears when United, who finished 6th in the >35 competition now progress to the 'B' final next week against the old foe of Cudal Cobwebs. Denley Moor players could not hide their grief and frustration that United, who finished lower down the competition, will be playing longer in the finals season than Denley. Thankfully crowd control officials and caterers that were still at the ground managed to separate the emotionally impaired Denley players from their brethren United players. Some United players were almost taunting Denley, a sight not seen for many years.

After a few minutes of verbal abuse that only John Della Bosca and Phil W Hodges have been alleged to use, Barnies Management decided to call for a club meeting at the marquee sponsors tent, also known as the Parkview Hotel. It was here that the term loyalty was thrown out the window. As with the NSW Government, a number of players in the Barnies club were disillusioned with the management this year. The game cancellation was the catalyst for a 'spill' motion (not a pretty sight at a pub). Barnies Club Management team, also known as the 'Sussex Street Right' aka 'Lords Place Luminaries' called a spill motion, confident that the players would fall into line. Ed Cato was first to be rolled after his south coast affair earlier this year. From all

reports the Wollongong Council issue was a tea party compared to the exploits of Ed. The second scalp was that of Phil 'Iguana' Hodges. Many could see that his John Howard type control of the club was not in keeping with the more democratic processes of the 21st century. The diatribe and vitriolic venom was intense between the many that spoke about the pros and cons of management but the new blood spoke with compassion and conviction. 'Mate' was used in many conversations, along with 'you owe me, remember the love boat episode and Renee Rivkin had no dirt on me'. The count was close with scrutineers for each faction, counting and challenging each vote. Club Electoral Officer, Ewan Powell, removed any voting papers that had residual 'chads' and any with an X (some thought they were signing for new lounge). The new alliance used their numbers to roll the Cato/Hodges team. The alliance was headed by Phi Davis and Sinisa Kosarac, a most unusual and unexpected combination. Phil had just returned from his Oxford St specialist in Sydney and Sinisa is still on medication after the City to Surf, so many players were not aware that the numbers men of their 'group' were counting the numbers and seeking support during the afternoon.

With the ballot complete and the emotion of the event behind them, the word commitment, was used in speeches of the victors. The new management reinforced the need for loyalty and support in these difficult times, although the commitment to curb and gutter outside each players house was seen as a commitment too far. Not even Orange Council will agree to such an outrageous and extravagant commitment. Barnies United live again for the game next week in the >35's with YADS a special for this years Grand Final in All Age C Division in 2 weeks.

Barnstoneworth in turmoil before Grand Final 13th September 2008

Barnstoneworth United should have been focusing on the Grand Final in the >35 competition this weekend, however, both management and players have had some off field issues to address.

Barnstoneworth owner, raconteur and bus driver, Phil W Hodges has had to travel to LA for the next episode of Californication. Hodges had recently been involved in an El Macpherson lingerie shot for her 2008 series and his obvious talent was spotted by a LA director. Hodges said this opportunity has opened a number of doors to his budding career. 'A few weeks ago I was negotiating a game against Nerds FC and Barnies with SBS but my focus has now moved from the club to a move personal nature' he said. 'Barnies players had not known my hidden talent until the club G string fiasco earlier in the year' he mused. 'I told club tailor, Dan Kennedy, a one size fits all is just the wrong idea. You can get away with it at Denley Moor but Barnies are several cuts above our sister team' he fumed.

This, along with the potential take-over of the club by Robert 'APEX' Young has also unsettled the club. His pledge to the board of directors was quoted as;

"Barnstoneworth Club and its players, management and supporters agree to an understanding on accepting the possibility of an aspiration to an undisclosed and non binding target to a date yet defined by a process yet determined". Most took this to be that he did not have either the numbers or ticker to carry out his bid for a take-over.

Phil Totten, from the Kev 07 Foundation, was also a potential bidder during the week for the sale of the club. When asked of his bid, he was quoted as saying, 'that is not the question you should ask. If you are asking do I have a vision, the answer is yes. If, on the other hand, you are asking whether I have a thought, the answer is no. This is not a pre-requisite for the control of this club', he said.

Sid Grindley, Barnies trusty mid fielder, ex Austrian solidier that was also a part time member of Jumbo Islamiah, was livid. 'We just want to play footy against the OPEC Canobolas team but we just keep getting distracted' he moaned, before falling down the stairs.

Barnies are hoping that the distractions will not impact the numbers of supporters and the passion usually displayed at each game. Barnies have decided to depart from the usual dancers and drummers to be replaced with a troop of mime artists. Their aim is to continue with encouraging the crowd to call out the Barnies mottos 'calcitro qu horreum lapis dignitas' (kick it Barnstoneworth) and 'Barnstoneworth, the legend continues' in mime. White gloves will be issued as spectators pass through the crowd control. Management wishes to advise that any liquids more than 5 ml and any sharp objects, such as footballs, are banned from the game.

Barnstoneworth report 20th September 2008

Barnstoneworth were buoyed coming into the games last Saturday. All three teams had qualified for the Final with the aim of all three qualifying for their respective grand final. As with any aspiration, performance and results do not always align. Barnies Youth And Development Squad (YADS) went into the All Age C Division Final against the Tamil Tigers from Millthorpe with confidence. During the season the games between both teams have been intense, however, YADS were confident that, as Minor Premiers for the last 2 seasons, the consistency of performances would hold true. It is with regret and deep sorrow that Millthorpe were too good on the day, with YADS bowing out 5-1. It was a case of missed opportunities and a stronger Millthorpe. The upside that Barnies management were quick to point out is that YADS have a strong nucleus of capable players. With some astute buying off season, YADS will be stronger for 2009.

In the >35's both Denley Moor (A division) and Barnies United (B division) were competing for the spoils of a grand final berth. Denley Moor were against Canobolas Rangers with no love lost between each side. Denley Moor started with some of their skilled players not available due to injury however the team on the paddock was a capable team. With the score at nil all at half time, Denley Moor were confident that the prevailing wind would assist in the second stanza. Rangers and Denley had a few clear chances to score but were thwarted by the defensive structure for each team. Rangers scored midway through the second half and a second after a rebound off keeper, 'Sharpie'. This was cruel justice for man of the match Alan Sharp as he repelled many a Rangers chance during the game. With Denley Moor pressing, tempers flared and a number of verbal exchanges were repelled by determined Denley Moor play. Denley Moor were defeated but far from disgraced.

As with many clubs, commitment and dedication are supported by deeds of a few. Barnies United were against the fancied Saints team in the >35 B Division Final. United were missing a few players with one unnamed player going on a trek to Queensland rather than returning for this crucial game. It was rumoured that this unnamed United player (with the initials of RY) was the instigator of the Brisbane Bronco's extra curricular activities early last week. No apology was forthcoming from the United player, leaving Darren Lockyer to carry the burden of media attention. The second and potentially more unsettling issue mid week was the rumour that Brendan Nelson had sort early release from the lack lustre Liberal team and was keen to be a part of what, he thought, was a team of the future. 'I wanted to be in a team that had "united" as part of their name' he was quoted to say 'with no Abbott and no Costello' although who and what was Barnies, Nelson said he did not know. United played with some early vigour with Phil Jackson promoted as striker along side Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Eric Jacobs, more on Eric and Phil later. Mid field was as strong a line up all season with Hugh Lukins, Mick Jessop, Aidan Sugden, Steve Adams, Keira Jacobs, Phil Totten and Mr Perpetual Motion in Peter McClymont causing chaos in the Saints defence. The United defence was Phil W Hodges, Gary James, Sean Brady, Andy Rolfe with ever reliable Stu Riles as keeper. Discussions about the impending signing of defender Nelson steeled the back 4 for a strong performance.

Saints first raid after 10 minutes almost resulted in a goal, however, Stu Riles pulled off a great one-on-one save. After the initial failed experiment by United, Jackson was dispatched from striker to the central defence. This was almost a fatal mistake. A long through ball by Saints and Riles and Jackson collided outside the box with Jackson pole axing his courageous keeper. The Saints striker slotted in the goal and United were less than amused by the exploits of a few. United regained their structure and composure and a terrific strike by Aidan Sugden levelled the score mid way through the half. United felt in control, although Steve Adams had to retire due to injury.

At oranges, game strategist, Phil 'pim verbeek' Hodges discussed the best way playing the second half with Steve Adams not able to return. Peter McClymont and Aidan Sugden were pushed into a more forward role and chinks appeared in the resolute Saints defence. Aidan Sugden was carving up Saints until a sickening tackle ended his day just outside the Saints box. The subsequent penalty by Gary James over the defensive wall hit the upright and the rebound was just missed by the quick thinking Tony Cavanagh. With only a few minutes left, Peter McClymont scored the crucial goal for a well earned 2-1 to United.

At rehydration at the Barnstoneworth Marquee sponsor in Parkview Hotel or 'the view', Barnies from all teams gathered to discuss either the season ended or the grand final yet to play. Mick Jessop was resplendent in his suit and tie but there was an unsavoury moment when Eric Jacobs arrived in his mankini, ugh boots and vertical striped pants and horizontal striped shirt (photographic evidence already sent to Ralph magazine). Eric, not know for his sartorial elegance was quick to point out the he was dressed by Dan Kennedy from Armanis R Us in Orange. Commiserations to YADS and Denley Moor for the loss as both teams had a very competitive season. Good luck to United for this Saturday's grand final against FBs. It is befitting that as both United and FB's were selected to open the 2008 Orange competition this year, they will also complete the season.

A note from both the Barnies Management and their marquee sponsor that all club ticket holders for 2008 are assured of seating but those wishing to obtain the few remaining tickets, they are a few available from either Ticketec or Armanis R Us, Orange's premier adult book emporium and clothier, specialists in home evening wear.

Barnstoneworth Celebrate in style – 2008 Presentation Night

With the recent election of Barack Obama in the US presidential race earlier last week and the winning of the Melbourne Cup also finalised, Orange movers and shakers were on hand in droves for the all ticket black-tie event, also known as the Barnstoneworth Annual Presentation. As with more recent events, Parkview Hotel, Barnies Lounge and Grill was full to capacity on Saturday where the less fortunate players, partners and friends able to mix with the rich and famous award winning players of 2008 and to seek an elusive photo and autograph. Crowd control was a breaking point outside the Hotel with the red carpet used for the arrival of the ticket holders for the first time in Orange since the Royal visit in 1953.

Inside the Parkview, Barnies Management scrutineers were finalising the count. They had only just returned from counting in the States, so they knew what pressure they would be under. Their job was an unenviable one in trying to determine valid ballot papers from some more dubious 'back of the envelope' submissions but the count was complete with the opening of the doors.

With votes cast and counted tension and excitement was obvious with nail biting and nervous twitches the order of the day. Many a player could not hold their drink, due to the tension of the night. One player was noted to be practising his acceptance speech in the Mens such was the pressure of the occasion.

The night commenced with the awards for the Youth and Development Squad or 'YADS'. YADS had another terrific year in being Minor Premiers for the second successive year in All Age C Division only to fall in the grand final (again for the second year).Presenter for the YADS awards, Ewan Powell said Yads recruited well this year and it is hoped that recent experience in finals football will give them strength for 2009. Player of the year was Jason Robertson , Goal Scorer of the Year, Dave Cuello (YADS only allowed import player) and Players Player, Mark Aheimer.

The next team on stage was Denley Moor Academicals or Denley. Presenter Lino Manca said Denley had a terrific season in the >35's, especially the wins against CYMS in the semis but just being beaten in the A Final by the eventual winners of the season. Denley player of the year, Scott Shepherd was awarded Player of the Year to win the prestigious Eric Olthwaite award issued on the night. Goal scorer of the year went to Bruce Hogben, although his left foot looked unwell on the night – and for the last few weeks. Players Player was Mr Dave Craig, the only player in the team not noted to have stood still in any of his games – a worthy winner. Allan Sharp won the 'Needle replacement Award' for the number of injections required prior to each game. Phil Davis won the Bisexual Toe award – no further comment required.

With the formalities of the minor awards now complete, Barnstoneworth United, the thinking mans team in the thinking mans club, stepped to the podium. Presenter Phil W 'Obama' Hodges was full of praise and admiration for the dedication and commitment United players offered in 2008 with the team just being beaten in the >35 B division grand final. His emotional speech was similar to the passion of the 'yes we can' speech that was heard earlier last week such was the occasion of the night. Player of the Year was Steve Adams. Steve played the grand final on one leg, such was his dedication to the common goal and was a well deserved winner of the Thirkill Dowgill Award. Goal scorer of the Year was Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh. Tony

had a mixed season in just returning from a recent holiday to Lebanon and Greece to play his first season for United. Players player winner was a tight affair with two winners, Peter McClymont and Mick Jessop sharing the spoils. Peter and Mick were both accomplished sports people in their earlier years and both showed the many qualities and obvious skill during the season. Ed Cato was awarded the 'Barnies Royal Papparazzi Award' for services to Barnstoneworth 's photographic history with the extent he goes for 'that' photo is folklore in the club. Phil Jackson completed the award ceremony with winning the United Marcel Proust award for Barnstoneworth literature, accepting his award with the following quote, 'As long as men are free to ask what they must, free to say what they think, free to think what they will, freedom can never be lost and science can never regress'.