

## Barnstoneworth - a spider's dinner 2007

Saturdays over 35 football match between Cudal Cobwebs and Barnstoneworth United was played at the Cudal International Sports Arena. Almost the whole village was there to support the premier sporting team of Cudal.

The odyssey of Barnies players reaching the game was a feat in itself. Most had not travelled further west than Borenore Caves but management plans were laid to ensure all attended. The first car laid a track of crumbs but the birds ate that plan. The second car had 20 kms of string but again they ran out at the Manildra turn-off. Thankfully most had the sense to follow the signs, with only 3 missing for the day. Management were pleased with this result, although at last report, family and friends were still looking for the 3.

Back to the game. With Barnies not noted for their travelling prowess, Cudal took an early lead with a good combination of passes. Minutes later and Cudal had spun another trap for a 2-0 lead and at oranges, Barnies were a rabble. Barnies management was less than impressed with the lack of commitment with several positional changes recommended for the second half.

Aidan Sugden, Dan Kennedy and Steve Adams were pushed up the park. Paul Hopkins, Sid Grindley, Phil Totten and Mick Jessop were more prominent in mid field and Phil W Hodges, Sean Brady, Kira Jacobs, Robert Young and Ed Cato more structured in defense. Phil Jackson was moved to the bench (his best position some say). Second half was a plethora of missed opportunities for Barnies, who seemed to adjust to the warmer climes of Cudal. With minutes remaining a Cudal player left the field in a tired and emotional state. This spurred the Cudal team to a final effort and at rehydration time, Cudal had prevailed 3-0.

Post match discussion was who would pay for the damage Barnies keeper, Stu Ryles did to the Cudal goal post. His back and head dented the posts as a result of one of many fine saves. The ref did contemplate abandoning the game at the time and subsequent to the game, Cudal officials were discussing sending the bill to Barnies management. Good luck!

The only positive on the day was the significant win by Barnies in the boat race. This surprised both teams. Barnies usual captain and anchor, Dan Kennedy, was not available due to a diet regime – to align his size with his Barnies team shirt. Cudal were reliant on Geordie but he left his best effort on the park.

## Farewell to Coliseum Barnstoneworth 2007

With Denly Moor forced to travel several hours to Cudal and the YADS players fiddling with the Pink Bits of Canobolas, Barnstoneworth United were given the 'final rites' of playing the last ever game at Fortress Barnstoneworth (Bloomfield) against Canobolas Cardiacs.

It was befitting the fact that the Orange Soccer Association arranged the semi finals to overlap the APEC meet as several of the world leaders insisted in being at the last game at this picturesque ground. As a huge crowd was expected and the fact that both Barnies players and some of these world leaders are worshipped by all, the Association decided to purloin some of the 15 metre high Sydney crowd control fencing, used so effectively against the trash and rabble, also known as Sydneysiders.

Unfortunately, due to the extensive crowd control in place several players from both sides were not able to reach the ground before kick-off. Barnies started with a restructured side. The ever reliable Stu Ryles was keeper. Kira Jacobs, Ed Cato and Phil Jackson in the defense along with APEC leader, Phil W Hodges resplendent in his red and white 'drizabone'. Paul Hokins, Sid Grindley, Mick Jessop and Greg Vinall were in the midfield and Eric Jacobs and Steve Adams as strikers. Many in the crowd thought that this team was the strongest fielded all year with several of the Barnies 'show ponies' not able to play. Steve Adams, who is currently working with English doctors on human cell technology and cows, looked a little different than previous games with some additional legs sprouted since last week. He was given a challenge, 2 goals each half. After a clinical display, by oranges Barnies were up 4-0 with Steve scoring 2. The sell-out crowd were horse from calling, 'calcitro qu horreum lapis dignitas' (kick it Barnstoneworth) and 'Barnstoneworth, the legend continues'

At half-time, Russian President Putin gave Barnies a rousing speech and insisted that Barnies players just give the ball to Steve, who he nicknamed 'Chernobyl, the cow boy'. Barnies players continued to feed Steve the ball and with 20 minutes remaining, Steve was put out to pasture in the backs after scoring a world record 5 goals. With the game in hand, defender and synchronized swimmer, Phil Hodges, was promoted to striker. Several players had to show him were the other half of the field as he had never ventured past half way in all his 281 games for the club. Kira Jacobs, Ed Cato and hitman Jackson were also moved from the defensive engine room to the rarified atmosphere that forwards think they play. Eric Jacobs and Sid Grindley, who had also scored 2 goals each, were forced to work in the backs. Phil Jackson slotted home a goal with ballet dancer Hodges the only challenger in the box. Some in the crowd, who could see over the 15 metre high fence, were disgusted that a goal hungry Hodges would attempt to take glory from the modest, yet hard working Jackson. Ed Cato rounded out the score with a nice chip over a distraught Cardiacs keeper. At rehydration time, Barnies had prevailed, 11 bloody nil and now progress to their 22<sup>nd</sup> Grand Final in >35s. Club historian, Dan Kennedy who was missing for the game due to some misguided loyalty to Denley Moor, checked the record books. After 312 games at the Coliseum, Barnies had never scored more goals and the individual performance by Steve 'Chernobyl' Adams of 5 goals was also a record. As the players filed from the field and the demolition of the 'Phil W Hodges Ablution Block' soon to commence, Steve was last seen happily grazing on this once fabled ground.

## Barnstoneworth Celebrate in style – 2007 Presentation Night

Parkview Hotel was the venue of the Barnstoneworth Presentation for 2007. Parkview, the marquee sponsor for Barnies in 2007 ensured that the ticket only affair went without a hitch. CWD were on hand to photo the festivities. Barnies plan to frame these photos for placing in The Barnies Lounge at Parkview for future generations to admire. It was the usual recalcitrant's, however, that attended with many a yarn about the goals, scored and missed, poor passing and lack of structure that befits most Barnstoneworth teams. High on the discussion was the impending development of Fortress Barnstoneworth, previously known as Bloomfield Oval. The development has already dismantled the Phil W Hodges Ablution Block, but this contentious position is whether the new ward, being built on top of the oval, will be named in honour of the great club, Barnstoneworth.

Government lobbyist and political insider, Ewan Powell, was confident with the position on naming rights. 'For some reason Tony Abbott was a bit busy last week to respond but I think it will be his key policy statement on health. It is expected the Federal Government will announce that the grant for the construction of the new hospital wing must be linked to the naming rights, which Barnstoneworth rightly deserve' Powell was quoted.

The other point of debate was the spending of the generous Federal Grant from the 'Future Fund'. "We have already a tax break for being a non chartiable organisation" quipped Hodges "but the spending of the grant led to argument over where it should be spent. Some want to set up a Barnstoneworth Superannuation Scheme, others a Barnies Family Trust for the retired and retiring players while other suggested a Mr Whippy Van, ice cream van, just in time for summer".

The prized trophies on offer for each of the teams will be treasured by those that were lucky enough receive on the night. On a more sobering note was the shock announcement that key mid fielder for United, Sid Grindley, will be relocating to Sydney. "I thought it appropriate to announce the move tonight as my manager just completed the transfer conditions this morning" said Sid. Barnies Management were tight lipped on the impact it will have on the salary cap for 2008 if Jose Dioses transfers from Denley Moor. Management did say that an award will be issued in 2008 to recognise the contribution of Sid. "It will be called the Sid Grindley Pastoral Care Award' for those players that replace divots during the game". The upside of the night was the shock decision that in 2008 Denley Moor ( DMA) will disregard the blue and gold that DMA and Brazil have made famous to the traditional red and white of Barnies. The owner of Barnies Menswear and Night Apparel, Dan Kennedy is negotiating with Megan Gale to display the new red and white strip early in the new year. "I've put the debacle of the 2007 thong trial behind me, in a manner of speaking, and I want to make amends to Management" said Kennedy.

## **Barnstoneworth United 2007 Grand Finalists >35**

**Top left to right**

**Aidan Sugden, Eric Jacobs, ?, Robert Young, Dan Kennedy, Phil W Hodges,  
Stu Riles, Phil Jackson, Ed Cato**

**Front Left to right**

**Paul Hopkins, Kira Jacobs, Sean Brady, Mick Jessup, Sid Grindley, Steve Adams**

**Absent: Phil Totten, Dennis Hodgkin, Gary James, Sinisia Kovrav**

