

2009

Return of phoenix Barnstoneworth. 3/3/09

Barnstoneworth Football Club, the thinking mans football club in Orange are primed for their 2009 season in the Orange Football Competition. Performances in 2008 saw a resurgent club with all three teams prominent at the pointy end of the season. 2009, however, will not commence without the usual off season theatrics.

Club owners, Phil 'Obama' Hodges and Ewan Powell have been significantly impacted by the decline in the stock exchange recently but like their Russian billionaire counterpart in Roman Abramovich at Chelsea, both have pledged financial support for the iconic Orange club. It is true to say that the extravagances that Hodges and Powell exhibited during the last few seasons will be a more sobering affair. The sickening sight of Barnies players cavorting in baths filled with caviar and bubbly post match at the Parkview will be replaced by green tea, ice water and lemon slices. The other downside of the off season was the rejection by Tropfest of the documentary about Barnies. Unfortunately the Barnies submission was rejected as no obvious reference to springs, overtly or otherwise, were included. This was a requirement for the 2009 submission. Barnies referred to the fact that the legs of the players were like springs (AKA Gallipoli movie reference) but this flimsy defence was rejected by Tropfest Management.

The other upheaval was the unsuccessful sponsorship negotiated by Hodges with Pacific Brands. Barnies players were due for new outfits this season and Hodges had negotiated with the cash strapped PB Board a sound deal. There was some discontent, however, that the 2009 team name would have been Berlei's Barnies. Recent rumours that players would have to migrate to China to fulfill their part of the contract have been rejected outright by Barnies Management and so a new sponsor is being considered. Hodges is courting the NSW Department of Agriculture or Central Western Health Services as each could fill the Barnies breach.

The upside in the off season has been the strict training regime each Sunday with children and non-playing neighbours boosting the attendance into the 10's, Barnies players are rigorous in following the individually 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). The other upside is that our marquee player, Glen Harpley has signed for Barnies in the off season. Management were looking at also signing others but Harpley's match payments could only be covered such is the financial position at Barnies.

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, tea leaves read and in the Year of the Ox, Barnies team song could be a top 40 hit (if only Barnies had a rapper in the team).

Barnstoneworth – trial game 30/3/09

As with other world leaders at the G20 summit, Barnstoneworth Football Club, the thinking mans club in Orange has had issues to deal with in the last week or two. Chief financier and club strategist, Phil ‘Obama’ Hodges has been working tirelessly to address the critical concerns that currently confront the membership.

As players would know, Phil has been trying to shed the football clubs ‘toxic assets’. Everyone would be aware, ‘toxic assets’ are a blight on our financial books. Phil is trying to offload the 3rd mortgage held by Barnstoneworth Enterprises of the football clubhouse and stadium (yet to be constructed). This ‘toxic asset’ may be addressed by the \$900 Rudd handout. As every player within the club are eligible to receive this well meaning gesture, Phil is looking towards a share option scheme were players donate their cheque to Barnstoneworth Pyramid Scheme No. 23, St Kits. This, he said, would free the club and its members of the ‘toxic asset’ (and their cheque)

The second issue to hand is the potential concerns related to the Barnstoneworth Bokie Club (aka ‘BBC’). BBC are a well meaning club where football, knitting, kind deeds within the community at large and bike riding are the common thread amongst the club members. This along with the local tattooist parlour (ink designs that look like the tread of a Harley bike tyre) and body piercing boutique (discreet female piercing a specialty) are their only legal activities. The concern is that members may not be able to fraternize with more than 1 member at a time, which makes playing football as a team a potential criminal offence. ‘Is this proposed law for our Australian society one that really should be considered’ was the common call amongst law abiding BBC members. Yes was the muted response.

As for the trial game on Sunday organized between Denley Moor and Barnies United, it was a rousing success. Players from both sides were there to play and no love was lost between many players. The game started in the usual fashion with players still coming to grips with new players and differing positional play from previous years. Pat ‘Mexican’ Driver was prominent in the early proceedings with tackles on both friend and foe alike both frequent and non-compromising. Barnies United started well with some great combinations. Alan Sharp and sons were able to repel some early attacking moves. Tony Cavanagh (aka ‘Mokbel’ , no, he is not in the BBC) played his first game for Barnies for some months. Some great combinations between Mick Jessop and Ed Cato down the right flank led to an early goal. Mick Carpenter restructured the mid field and Denley came right back into the game. Some great touches by Phil Davis were Maradonna like, a class above most on the field. Phil, playing in new white shoes, did have to stop every few strides however, to pull out the chamois to clean the boots. Heaven help his team mates when the game is on a heavy track.

Denley’s colourful Scott Shepherd, playing in Ananda Marga red and orange was finding some gaps out wide and Denley equalised with a clinical finish. With scores locked at 1 all and the temperature around the 25 degree mark, drink breaks were frequent. The second half was a scrappier affair although Glen Harpley showed some of the skills that have made him the folk law figure he is in the Barnstoneworth fraternity. A final one all result was pleasing to coaches, managers and players alike.

At rehydration time, talk did meander towards the free trip to China one of the managers had in the off season. Some were a little concerned about the close relationship he has with a certain business woman (we all know business people are not the type of people one should fraternize with) but more concern that Barnies were being propositioned for the next AFL franchise.

A reminder that nominations for the executive and key operational positions in Barnstoneworth will be decided at the AGM this Saturday at 4pm at the marquee sponsor, the Parkview Hotel. It is believed some associates from the right side of Sussex St have been working on the numbers for the franchise, so a spill is in the offing. For those that do not agree with these Sydney interlopers that Barnstoneworth becoming the next AFL franchise, please attend in numbers. Let us keep the club in the hands of the locals. Your vote counts!

The Year of the Ox is upon us and the yoke of history is with Barnstoneworth.

Barnstoneworth 2009 season commences 2/5/09

Panic! What panic? Crisis! What crisis? During the week leading up to the opening of the season, Barnstoneworth Management met several times to discuss the introduction of the Barnstoneworth Pandemic Preparedness Program (BPPP). As Barnstoneworth players are well read on topical global issues, specifically the swine flu situation (aH1N1 virus), club medical specialist and pandemic expert, Hugh 'Hugo' Lukins met with the management to discuss the club's willingness to play this weekend. It was rumoured that a number of CYMS FB players had recently returned from a spiritual retreat in Cancun, Mexico and as Barnies United were to play against them, the preparedness strategy was put in place. Playing was never in doubt! Befitting the circumstance of the flu problem, Barnies adopted the Mexican flavour for the day. It was true to say that a number of the newer members of the squad were in awe of the commitment and thought Barnies had put into the first game and true to the pandemic program players commenced the game wearing surgical masks.

The >35 game was a master stroke of planning by Phil 'Pancho' Hodges. As CEO, manager, club guru and team strategist, Pancho started with the tried (or tired) and true structure. Stu 'Silverio' Riles kept in goals, Andrew 'Angel' Rolfe, Gary 'Gustavo' James, Phil 'Ponce' Jackson, Sean 'Santos' Brady and Pancho in the back line. Midfield consisted of Aiden 'Arturo' Sugden, Mick 'Marco' Jessup, Phil 'Pedro' Totten, Dennis 'Diego' Hodgkins, Peter 'Picilo' McClymont and Bruce 'Benuto' Middleton.

The front line of Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Steve 'Stefano' Adams were strengthened by the introduction of Mick 'Miguel' Flynn, Tim 'Teodoro' Hewitt and Nick 'Neron' Milham.

The game started well for the United team. Marco and Diego were controlling the midfield and Angel and Gustavo strong in defence. A lovely through ball by Miguel to Arturo and GOAL!. A number of counter attacks were thwarted by Silverio, strong in the goals as ever. Ponce was pushed forward and a beautiful ball from Stefano to Ponce was well controlled for a nice touch to Mokbel – GOAL!. FB's looked a little feverish by this stage. A great individual play by Pedro and GOAL! 3-0.

At oranges, United checked all players for flu like signs such as sweating or lethargy. Sweating was not that common at all but lethargy was symptomatic of all players. The second half was an arm wrestle with neither side dominating. Some great defence by Santos and Diego kept the FB's at bay while Ponce continued to be fed on the left by some great through balls by Gustavo, with one shot just over the top. 3-0 was a well deserved victory considering the use of the masks. Picilo was just the shot in the arm for United with another fine display.

The other Barnies teams are YADS (Youth and Development Squad) and Denley Moor in >35's. YADS had the bye in B division this week but many had a trial game and watched their fellow Barnstoneworthians. Denley are in the restructure stage with a number of positional changes and new signings introduced. This restructure, plus some poor options gave Waratahs a well deserved win 6-2. Denley will regroup however.

With all players rehydrating at the marquee sponsors room, also known as the Barnies Isolation Room at Parkview Hotel, players continued to wear their masks. This made rehydrating a more difficult task than normal but one the Barnstoneworth brigade

managed. Kiddies, wearing of masks is important. One must be always vigilant under these trying conditions.

As in recent years it is expected that both Denley and YADS will have a strong season. YADS also have a number of changes from their 2008 minor premierships team. United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club have started in flying colours. One can hope that this win was not an aberration for season 2009. If not, aH1N1 may be used as an excuse for poor results in 2009.

Barnstoneworth 2009 State of origin 23/5/09

In the recent weeks subsequent to the introduction of the Barnstoneworth pandemic preparedness program (BPPP) related to swine influenza, yes, you read about this issue weeks ago and hopefully have taken all the precautionary measures required, Barnstoneworth held the annual 'mate against mate' game when the slightly more youthful Denley Moor took on the fabled Barnies United on Saturday in the >35 comp. The usual banter prior to the game was one kiddies hair would have curled or cheeks blushed. The amount of bile and venom made Ricky Stuarts tirade after the world cup seem like a sermon on public hygiene.

Denley Moor, as the younger but less talented, started well. Dan Kennedy, a goal thief at every home derby, slotted home a goal from long range after some strong team play by 'the Moors'. This lifted the performance of United for Steve Adams to score an equaliser within minutes. Brett Hazzard scored from a pearler of a header to give United the lead but a second for 'the Moors' and then a fortunate third, also by Marc Gagalo gave the Moors a 3-2 lead. Undeterred, United rallied but at half time the score was 3-2.

At oranges, the usually placid Phil Obama Hodges was livid about the softness of some of the goals with his remonstrations at United players cutting and direct, typical of previous pep talks Barnies players have come to expect (and admire). "Remember Eureka, remember the Country Party and remember no kiddies will live in poverty" was his pleas at the break.

For some reason, this spurred United and in the second half 'the Moors' were devoid of any penetration with the United backs more stern in defence. United pressed and struck the bar with shot from Phil Totten. Patrick 'taxi' Driver was torn between his old playing club in United and his new team in 'the Moors' during the game. He commented how he now knew what it was like to be born with a mother from Queensland and a father from NSW. This discourse continued on the pitch with 'Taxi' mentioning something to Hodges about his family heritage, with Hodges replying 'are you talking to me?' Common sense prevailed after a quick look at some birth and marriage records. A second strike by United's, Aidan Sugden also hit the cross bar and luck were with 'the Moors'. Some stern defence by Mick 'Magic Carpet' Carpenter on Aidan and the result favoured 'the Moors', finishing a well deserved but also a lucky victor.

At rehydration time at the marquee sponsor, Barnies Bar and Grill at the Parkview Hotel, tensions and recrimination was the order of the day. A usually placid and ever thoughtful Mick Jessop lost the plot with a number of comments about the size of the goals at 'the Moors' end of the pitch in the second half with calls for goal measurement being sort through Orange Football Association management. Phil Obama Hodges was seeking a cancellation of the issuing of points for the game until it was advised 'Moors' club surveyor, Scott Shepherd conducts the measurement on behalf of the Association. The result was reconfirmed, 'the Moors' take the points. The remainder of the discussion centred around the proposed extension of the age of retirement from 65 to 67. The understanding from some players that this outrageous and ill conceived idea will mean that Barnies players will need to play an extra 2 years before retirement. 'What a disgrace' was the catch cry that night. United will be buoyed by the return of some players that were absent from the 'mate vs mate' game.

It is believed Phil Jackson will be making a welcome return although his trip to South Africa. Unfortunately his return also includes a form of flu. Although the strain is not the topical aH1N1 swine flu that ex Telstra boss Sol Trujillo left in Australia (along with falling share prices) but the more virulent H2N237 ostrich flu (a close link to the penguin and kiwi flu strain).Life is full of mystery.

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Barnstoneworth 30/5/09

Barnstoneworth Football Club, the thinking men's club of Orange competed in three games on the weekend. The Barnstoneworth pandemic preparedness program (BPPP) continues a pace with each player tested for fever and performing enhancing substances.

In the very competitive and large All Age Division B, Barnstoneworth Youth and Development Squad (YADS) improved their position in the table with a hard fought 3-1 win over Orange East. It was true to say that Easts had the better of play but some outstanding work by keeper, Ewan 'Tiny' Powell gave YADS the winning result.

In the more prestigious >35 competition Denley Moor were against Orange Saints. This was seen by the 'Moors' as a potential walkover but some resolute defence by Saints kept the score to a respectable 1-0 win to 'the Moors'. Barnstoneworth Management was thankful that their marquee signing for 2009, Glen 'Harps' Harpley continues to show that is more than blind faith that led to his signing, with yet another goal to his name this year.

For the other >35 game, Barnies United were against the much improved Cudalian Cobwebs. Barnies started with a number of players unavailable due to work commitments with Manager, film director and club bookmaker, Phil Obama Hodges not available due to his trip to Cannes. The game started in a physical form with defender Phil Jackson collecting a wayward horizontal arm and then a tackle from behind. Mick Flynn was pole axed by a firm but fair body check soon after. Mick and his opposing number had their eyes fixed to the ball and the collision could be felt by all. After this initial flurry of physical tackling from each side, both team settled into some good, open football with both team combinations offering good goal scoring opportunities. Midway through the first half Cudal scored from a well crafter corner, using the wind and the sun to their benefit.

At Oranges the usual talk by Obama was missing. It felt like Paul Robson singing 'I feel like a motherless child' such was the melancholy of the Barnies camp. No talk, no team plan and no Obama. There was talk, however, of the growing injury toll with Nick Milham, Aidan Sugden and Steve Adams injured and keeper Stu Riles and striker Phil Totten playing on one leg in the second half. Mick Flynn thought he was at the MSG such was his concussion from the initial hit. Under this situation, club man of the year, Mick Jessop strapped his boots on to assist with the numbers.

The second half was a real arm wrestle with a number of opportunities missed by both teams. Cudal scored a second and the game looked over for the Barnies outfit. Barnies scored with 20 minutes remaining from what can only be described as a header. A cross from Phil Totten struck Peter 'Flaccido' McClymont directly in the family jewels. The ball, or balls, trickled over the line for a goal and Peter promptly dropped to the ground. After a few minutes of searching, Barnies resident doctor, Hugh Lukins managed to reinsert the missing bodily parts. Unfortunately Peter, previously known as a bass baritone, now had the voice of Tiny Tim with Tiny being the appropriate name. Cudal hung on for a win and Peter just hung on. Barnies were defeated but not disgraced.

At rehydration time at the marquee sponsor, Barnies Tapis Bar at the Parkview Hotel, the obvious discussion was on the mounting injury list and the unique way that

Barnies have managed to score goals in the last 2 weeks. Moors players were already discussing post season trips with a number of options proposed. Swimming across the harbour at 9pm was one that was promptly rejected as most did not own navigation lights. As with the Marx Brothers, a day at the races was considered the best option. With the recent change to Peter there was also discussion about players being in the audience for 'who wants to be a star' just to hear Peter sing (or just walk). A joke at another team members expense is just how Barnstoneworthians excel in life.

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Barnstoneworth – reversal of form 12/6/09

Last week Barnstoneworth had some mixed fortune in each of the three teams competing in the Orange Football competition. It was fortunate that Ewan ‘Little Monk’ Powell (for YADS) and Stu ‘ Praying Mantis’ Riles (for United) had managed to free the shackles of the David Carradine bonding session in Bangkok to play this week, however Scott ‘ Master Sun’ Shepherd was still in Thailand, carrying some plastic bags and masking tape at last report. Some people just push the envelope for excitement when just playing for Barnstoneworth should be excitement enough.

As for the games. Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were up against their arch rivals in Canobolas Pink Bits the All Age B Division. Apart from John ‘Flappy’ Parker, Pink Bits had shaven for this usually tight contest. Pink Bits started the better. A good goal by ‘Rooster’ to get YADS back into the match was not enough and Pink Bits prevailed 2-1.

In the more thought provoking >35 competition, Denley Moor were up against a resurgent CYMS FB’s (Fat Bastards). Denley had to deal with the unexpected loss of keeper Shepherd and Mick Carpenter was given the honours. It was great to see that the weeks training with Mark Schwarzer paid off for Mick, one of the icon (no, not a Russian religious figure) players of Denley. Denley scored early from a nice cross, headed home by Dan ‘Armanis R Us’ Kennedy to give Denley a 1-0 lead. This goal surprised everyone as Dan missed a simple header the previous week. Dan did say that the cross was not good, just that his head was in the right position. After oranges FB’s pressed for an equaliser but some resolute defence from Phil Davis, Bruce Hogben and Lino Manca and some forward runs by Glen Harpley was enough for Denley to hold onto a 1-0 victory. It was true to say that a number of Denley players were recovering from an intense meeting at ‘party central’ earlier in the week and the skill level reflected a slow recovery from that meet. Pole dancing and alcohol has that effect on players but try telling that to Denley Moor players!

In the top of the table >35 game, CYMS Gold were up against a slightly depleted United side. It was true to say that Gold had the better of play during the match but some resolute defence in the first half kept the score to 1-0 to Gold. Nick Milham, back from country carnival in Albury and Mick Flynn were working well up front with a shot by Milham just skimming the bar. Tim Hewitt had a terrific game but was unlucky to give away a penalty for Gold. Gold were up 1-0. Stu Riles, back from his trip last week, played strongly with some fine glovework in the game. Andy Rolfe, the photogenic player from last weeks CWD report also had a terrific game as did Gary James and Aidan Sugden. Mid field in Hugh Lukins, Mick Jessop and Denis Hodgskin were tireless and Steve Adams, returning from injury was a tyro, as ever. Ed Cato was everywhere on the field with some good interplay with the forwards.

At oranges, United were upbeat about the first half with counter attack and continued strong defence the order for the second half. Unfortunately players did not heed the request from Captain, birthday boy and CEO Phil ‘Obama’ Hodges.

A great turn and shot by Gold had them up 2-0 and a third shortly after and United on the back foot. Some continued good combinations with Milham and Flynn almost resulted in what would have been a well deserved goal for United but no to be (as

Shakespeare would say). Gold scored another for a final score of 4-0. This did not reflect the effort of United.

At rehydration time at Cafe 666 Barnstoneworth, the room still under redecoration by their marquee sponsor, Parkview Hotel, a number of the YADS players were crest fallen on yet another defeat at the hands of Pink Bits but true to their spirit they were already planning the defeat of their foe in the next game. As players sipped their latte and ate their iced vovos discussion did centre around the continued absence of Scott Shepherd. Players did say that the world is full of many differing ideas, cultures and mind altering opportunities but his prolonged absence, even after the burial of 'Grass Hopper' Carradine, is most disturbing. Management emphasised to players to concentrate on playing football and not to ask Shepherd about his exploits overseas. Although not actually stated I think this position was taken as Barnies Management were concerned many of the players may follow Shepherd's lead.

Barnstoneworth – a week to forget 19/6/2009

This weeks Barnstoneworth report is nothing but bad news. After the turmoil of the Scott Shepherd incident with David Carradine thankfully now in the past, Barnies Management had to deal with some off field incidents prior to the games on Saturday. Some players had a training session with 'Freedy' Fittler earlier in the week in Townsville, as part of a strategy to learn coaching skills from the best in football. Players involved were quick to point out that all the rooms looked the same and all doors had the same number on them so trying to remember which room was theirs was the most demanding activities they had to conquer. Thankfully the less tired and emotional Barnstoneworth players had no issue – a first for Barnstoneworth.

As for the games, Barnstoneworth Youth And development Squad (YADS) were out to make amends of their recent slump in form and were up against Saints in All Age B Division. Saints scored from two unstoppable shots and within minutes a third dented any enthusiasm that YADS were displaying. YADS did score from a terrific header by Dave Coates but the second half was more of the same and Saints prevailed 5-1, the worst defeat of YADS since they were established as a team in 1921. Goalie Ewan Powell was lost for words about this lamentable results and Management have sort a crisis meeting with some of the senior players to address this embarrassment within the club.

In the thought provoking and well supported >35 competition, Denley Moor were up against the strong Waratahs outfit. Scott Shepherd managed to play after several weeks in a Bangkok night spot know as Carradine's Hangout. Mick Carpenter was out with a hernia to his knee. Not a typical place for a hernia, but then Mick is not typical. After 30 minutes, Denley were well placed but some terrific strikes by Waratahs and any resistance by Denley evaporated. 3-0 was the final score.

In the other match, the thinking mans team of Barnstoneworth in United were looking to cement their position in the table against a well drilled CYMS FB's team. United were still under strength with Gary James, Andy Rolfe and Phil Totten still on the injured list. Usual striker in Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh has not been sighted since his meeting with the Moran family in Melbourne a few weeks ago. Sean Brady, Phil Hodges, Dennis Hodgskin and Phil Jackson were the defenders in front of keeper Stu 'Preying Mantis' Riles. Mick Jessup, Tim Hewitt, Peter McClymont, Aidan Sugden, Brett Hazzard and Hugh Lukins were midfield while Nick Milham, Steve Adams and Mick Flynn up front. Even with the absence of some of the senior players things started well for United with a penalty spot converted by Aidan Sugden. There was some conjecture about the penalty. Not why it was issued but when the last penalty was awarded to United. Some thought 2002 while others had not remembered ever seeing a penalty offered to United. Some fine skills were on display by Brett Hazzard in midfield and Sean Brady in defence.

At oranges with the wind at their backs and being 1-0 up, United thought of playing a more expansive game in the second half. Phil 'Obama' Hodges was up beat about the game but a little concerned that the mid fielder Hugh Lukins suffered an injury in the first half.

The second half was one where FB's started to play wide with some nice combination now starting to work. FB's equalised and then scored a second in comical fashion and repeating the details in print will not offer any solace to the United players involved. United pressed for an equaliser with a shot by Mick Flynn just missing the mark from very close range. A loss snatched from the jaws of a victory but full credit to the FB's outfit.

At rehydration time Barnstoneworth licked their wounds (and drinks) at their marquee sponsor, Parkview Hotel. Players were melancholy about the days when Barnstoneworth had three wining sides each week but things have changed. There was some consternation about the loss of form, missing players and the worlds financial woes but Barnstoneworth, the thinking mans club of Orange will be back – hopefully next week.

Barnstoneworth – Lamentable performance 27/6/09

As politics mimics life, football mimics politics. Who would have thought that in the week of internal wrangling and false testimony that Barnstoneworth would be embroiled in the heady world of national politics. After last weeks debacle of 3 games for 3 losses, Management met with a number of key players in each team to discuss ways and means of conjuring up some wins for the fabled club of Orange. With hidden agendas rampant amongst some in the club, the use and abuse, of an obviously doctored email to undermine the current management structure was one that beggars belief. Owner and Grand Wizard of Barnstoneworth in Phil Hodges was quoted as saying 'the email was that patently doctored you could drive a bus, or small ute through it. Here I am up to my armpits in internal bickering and some card sharp was trying to pull a swiftie'.

As for the games, Barnstoneworth Youth And development Squad (YADS) were up against the strong CYMS in the All Age B Division. It was true to say that the team structure has undergone a number of forced changes and this reflected in the result. 4-1 to CYMS with YADS so disappointed, no-one took ownership of the solitary goal. This is amazing as YADS players in games earlier this year would argue about who scored but such was the despondency in the team, no scorer was nominated. Captain Powell has pleaded with management for more faith and time for the boys to find the early season skills. All eyes will be on YADS this week to see if the skill level has been found and what camaraderie they can find.

In the >35 Division where all right thinking and talented players of Orange compete each week, Denley Moor were playing the stronger Rangers team. Denley were confident that they had the measure of Rangers early on, particularly as Rangers started with just 8 men. This was just a typical conjurers trick by Rangers and Denley were soon down a goal. To the credit of Denley, an equalised was scored by none other than Phil Davis. Phil has had a season of mixed fortune and it was heart warming that this stalwart of the club scored. Denley had an opportunity to score from a penalty but a Mr D Clarke missed.

At oranges many were in tears, such was the emotion at the time with many seeking autographs and many souvenirs and mementoes of the occasion. In the second half, with Rangers now at full strength, a further 2 goals were scored for a 3-1 result. Davis was carried from the field but truth be known, 3-1 was a disappointment.

In the other >35 match, the thinking mans team of Barnstoneworth in United were looking to cement their position. Exactly where the cement should be laid and what it props up is one for further discussion. United were a little undermanned with a few players not available due to flu. United started strongly against the pretty boys of Waratahs. Some astute positional changes by Phil Hodges paid off early with United weathering the early onslaught by Tahs. Stu 'preying mantis' Riles was again the master of his own goal box and with Sean Brady, Gary James, Phil 'Obama' Hodges and Andy Rolfe in the backs, goal scoring was difficult for Tahs. Midfield in Mick Jessup, Steve Adams, Dennis Hodgskin and Tim Hewitt were elusive and strikers Nick Milham and Mick Flynn toiling manfully.

At oranges, Hodges was effusive in praise for this restructured team. It was then that some of the 'flu' effected players arrived to watch the remainder of the game at it was true to say that United players were scathing in disgust that some players are capable of watching but not playing. Unfortunately, either due to the number of oranges consumed or the distraction on the sideline, United lost the plot in the second half. Tahs scored two quick goals and a pearler of a third and United were vanquished 3-0. United marched to the sideline and the flu ridden bystanders took a discreet exit.

Rehydration at the marquee sponsor Hotel Parkview, soon to be renamed 'Barnstoneworth on View', many lamented the loss of the three games and the way in which some of the goals were scored. Club statistician and historian identity in Ed Cato was quick to point out that two weeks in a row with no wins was a first for the exclusive and proud club. The club also was rocked by the death of the clubs musical director in Michael Jackson. 'It shook us to the core. This was just an annus horribillis of a week' Hodges was quoted.

Barnstoneworth – turned the corner 4/7/09

As CWD readers may have noted, Barnstoneworth club had lost in all grades for the last two weeks and Management were clutching at straws. It was commented by a few that a lot can be learnt from reality TV series. From that simple suggestion the quest to find the series that offered some direction, any direction, was to be embraced. One of the sceptics in the club had heard that a Turkish reality show included a rabbi, monk, pastor and priest trying to convert 10 atheists in a week. He thought that Barnies could modify this thought process to employ footballers that could pass, tackle, defend and score goals to try and convert the ‘playing staff’ of Barnstoneworth. What a terrific theme show! The appropriate training field was arranged in under the gaze of many at channel 10 with makeup, lighting and cameras in the right positions, training commenced. It was true to say that a number of TV executives at first thought that no player was worthy to continue past the first show but as each player was evicted then returned the next show, all players managed to gain some valuable lessons during the week. This was to show at the weekends matches.

All age B Division

With Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) recent position in the league dropping quicker than a brides nightie, the team were up against a strong Ex – Services team. Play went from one end of the field to the other with both teams defending stoutly. It was noted that a number of players stopped to show their better profile for the cameras and other played, carrying a comb but most showed and improvement and commitment when previously ‘being committed’ was more appropriate.

The game hinged on a penalty. Ex Services were given a penalty and Ewan ‘Little Monk’ Powell was given the task to show some of the skills learnt. A shot, a full stretch dive to his left and a save. ‘You bloody beauty’ was the call from the players and even TV people were thrilled by the spectacle. Ratings are bound to sky rocket. A fitting nil all draw and Barnies were back.

>35

Denley Moor vs Cudal Cobwebs

In the second game, Denly Moor were against the travelling Cudalian Cobwebs. As many know, >35 in Orange is rated as MA, so the type of play and language is a little more colourful. Kiddies that were there to watch their talented fathers were moved to the park where they could see the game but not hear the commentary (either by TV staff or by the players). Denley scored first through Daryl ‘Kiwi’ Guise after a nice through ball. A second shortly after by Guise and it was obvious the trek from Cudal to Orange had taken the sting out of Cudals play. Word had travelled quickly that something had changed in the week and even SBS staff were rumoured to be on there way. The influence of reality TV, what can you say?

After oranges and a new coat of make-up, played continued like the first half with further goals by Geoff ‘ Premier’ Dunstan and Dr Bruce Hogben (just call him Bruce) and a fifth goal by Drew ‘Printhie’ Tuckwell. Cudal were in awe of the lights of the big city and TV publicists. Barnstoneworth had their well deserved victory.

United vs Canobolas Rangers

In the final >35 match, the thinking mans team of Barnstoneworth in United had recently cemented their position – near the foot of the table, so expectations were not high against another of the seasons favourites in Rangers. United started with a strong team with the reliable Stu ‘preying mantis’ Riles in goals. The defensive pattern was the usual Andy Rolfe, Gary James, Sean Brady, Dennis Hodgskin and Phil ‘Obama’ Hodges. Midfield included Sinisa Kosarac, Brett Hazzard, Peter McClymont Steve Adams and Phil Jackson with Nick Milham, Tim Hewitt and Mick Flynn up front. The early stages were set. Stage fright took the better of Peter McClymont with his first shot for goal sailing closer to the corner post than the goal and many glances amongst the players and thoughts of previous games flooded back. Some nice interplay in the halves and Tim Hewitt ran down the left flank, a cut inside the keeper and a shot from an impossible angle and United had the lead. Rangers pressed for an equaliser and it presented itself from a swirling shot that beat Riles in the top corner. Both teams played to the cameras and neither side dominated.

At oranges, SBS had arrived and Craig Foster was over the players like a rash trying to prize a signature from United players for the SBS Sunday show. Hodges was like a mother duck trying to keep brood from the clutches of this multicultural icon.

Second half saw Brett Hazzard totally dictating the midfield and Aidan Sugden was given a cameo role in defence. Barnies pressed and were rewarded with a penalty, the second penalty to United since 2002. Gary James was given the honours and his shot had the Rangers keeper Luke Bingham bemused and beaten. 2-1 and United looked the goods. With minutes remaining Rangers tried some long through balls and snared a second with seconds remaining. A draw but the TV crowd were in raptures. United though, lamented the missed opportunity that would have been a stunning victory and Logie winning TV.

Rehydration at the marquee sponsor Hotel Parkview, soon to be renamed ‘Reality View Hotel’, the usual iced water and chips were replaced with caviar and champers. Many commented about the master stroke Management had conjured using a reality TV concept as the catalyst for change. 3 games and no losses had club statistician Ed ‘Plato’ Cato looking long into the club history books. Club owner in Hodges was quick to point out that the annus horribilis of a week last week was a thing of the past. ‘It’s all about the ratings’ said Hodges.

Barnstoneworth – tanked up 25/7/09

Many learned readers would understand what ‘tanking’ means in football. Many an AFL team have been known to ‘tank’ during the season for a better draft in the following year. With a number of Barnstoneworth Youth and Development Squad (YADS) players eligible for the prestigious >35 competition in 2010, management in the Barnstoneworth senior team in United have sunk to levels not seen since Foxtel tried to buy the Orange >35 competition in 2002.

During the week, Denley Moor advised that their key players in Patrick ‘taxi’ Driver, Dan ‘amarnis’ Kennedy, Scott ‘master sun’ Shepherd and Bruce ‘bruiser’ Hogben had still not recovered from Louise Davis’s disco party from the previous week. It is believed a number suffered slipped discs from the gyrations of belly dancing that night. Unfortunately United management were tipped off that Denley were under strength and with some recent fine United performances, United decided to hatch a plan. A quick ring around by the United manager with a request the teams gun players in Aidan Sugden, Mick Jessup, Sean Brady, Hugh Lukins and Tony ‘Mokbel’ Cavanagh not to play. This clandestine operation by Hodges, in advising the United’s iconic players that they had been omitted from the team for this crucial game was met with disbelief. The rest of the United team were blissfully unaware of the callous and thoughtless decision of management to omit these fine players from the game card.

The match was billed as a mate vs mate game and with the off field selection shenanigans not fully appreciated; players still gave 100% commitment. With the Friday ‘canobolas’ strategic plan in place, Denley started like a house on fire with the United defence of Andy Rolfe, Gary James, Phil Jackson and Phil Hodges struggling to keep the Denley attacking line of Drew ‘Printhie’ Tuckwell, Daryl Guise, Glenn ‘harps’ Harpley and Ed ‘Plato’ Cato at bay. The first 10 minutes was all one way but United held firm with some stout defence and good keeping by Stu ‘preying mantis’ Riles. Slowly United started to make some inroads. United’s midfield in Steve Adams, Dennis Hodgskin, Bruce Middleton and Brett Hazzard started to take control with some terrific interplay with forwards Peter ‘spud’ McClymont, Sinisia ‘cigarillo’ Kosarac and Phil Totten. A fine corner had Denley’s defence beaten but the header by United’s McClymont just missed the top corner. Denley regrouped with some good skills on display from Phil Davis, Dave Craig and Andy Brown. With Denley pressing a wayward clearing kick by United’s defence resulted in an own goal. The scorer was distraught but Hodges surprisingly upbeat. To ensure no further embarrassment the scorers name will not be mentioned in this article for fear of further retribution to his family, pets and well established shrubbery.

At oranges with United down 1-0 talk centred on missed opportunities by both sides, the no holds barred tackling and the absence of fit United players. Hodges was quick to scotch any rumours about their absence and suggested positional changes and to continue the good interplay on display in the first half.

The second half was a real arm wrestle with both teams changing their team structure. United changed the forward line with Nick Milham, Mick Flynn and Tim Hewitt pushed forward. Tony Haines was having a stand out defensive game for Denley with Lino Manca and Mick Carpenter also strong in the backs. Some terrific skills were on display by both keepers with Denley’s Terry ‘thrill’ Brill called on for a number of saves. With several minutes remaining a great through ball had United’s Steve Adams

in the clear only for a crude tackle from behind by Denley's Jason 'chooka' Ingham. Adams hobbled off and the penalty shot outside the box was cleared. As the game opened up Denley pressed for another goal with a fingertip save by Stu Riles from a Drew Tuckwell shot the best opportunity for Denley in the dying minutes. The crowd, nearing 100, were thrilled by performance and commitment of the players in the hard fought competition. Denley prevailed but most United players were upbeat. At least United had scored the only goal.

Rehydration at the marquee sponsor Hotel Parkview, discussion centred around missing players, 'that' tackle on Adams and the own goal that determined the match. Many stories about the heroics of various players on both sides, especially the heading skills of Haines and one touch football from both teams. The own goal scorer was in tears about the goal but United Manager Hodges were somewhat sombre during drinks. He left the recovery session beaming. Unbeknown to his team mates, his cunning plan had worked. United will get first pick next year.

Barnstoneworth – mixed allsorts 1/8/09

With the turmoil of ‘tanking’ from the previous week now behind the thinking mans club of Orange, all eyes were on the performances of the three teams that compete for this fabled club.

In the Orange All Age B Division, Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) had the difficult task away to Millthorpe. The previous week YADS had travelled to Blayney and many of the players were not impressed with the Association for having consecutive away games. Many in the football profession complain about away games, the tyranny of distance, to be away from loved ones and to play in front of hostile crowds but twice in two weeks was a difficult task. Many players would also be aware that the playing field at Millthorpe has a bias at one end that is so pronounced players feel like they will fall off the end of the earth, and let’s face it, Millthorpe is the end of the earth. YADS started well and finished well with a hard fought 2 all draw with David and Luke the goal scorers. To finish with a point and all players accounted for is a bonus leaving Millthorpe.

In the pinnacle of weekend sport in Orange, the >35 competition, Denley Moor and United had varying tasks. Denley were up against CYMS gold and United against Saints.

Denley Moor had a few players returning due to a number of reasons, apathy being one. With a full squad to call on, great expectations were considered for a strong showing by the improving Denley outfit. CYMS looked like the competition leaders with some good clinical play but Denley matched them in most facets of the game for the first 40 minutes. With the smell of freshly cut citrus wafting from the sidelines, CYMS scored with a well struck shot. At half time, the hunger of victory diminished with the last second goal and Denley were disappointed. The second half started like the first. Scot Shepherd was going well in goals, defenders Ed Plato Cato, Tony Haines, Lino Manca and Jason Ingham strong in defence and Phil Davis, Dave Craig, Andy Brown and Mick Carpenter working well in combination in the midfield. Denley strikers in Glenn ‘marquee’ Harpley and Daryl Guise were finding the Gold defence a difficult nut to crack. Late in the game a solid and somewhat suspect tackle on Andy Brown was met with a response that led to a red card. Club statistician, Ed Cato found it difficult to find the last red card on a Barnstoneworth player and 2003 was the last report of a card. Brown was rueful, as both his reaction to the crude tackle and leaving Denley with just 10 players. Gold scored again with a few minutes remaining and Denley were defeated 2-0 by the competition leaders.

In the other important >35 game United were against the old foe of Saints. It is true to say that the excitement of United getting first draft pick from YADS in 2010 was at the fore front of players minds and many were also thinking whether their position in United safe as a consequence. This led to a rejuvenated start to the game. Stu Riles maintained his position as the premier keeper of the team with Andy Rolfe, Sean Brady, Gary James and Phil Hodges the back four. Phil Jackson was pushed into the halves along with Brett Hazzard, Hugh Lukins, Dennis Hodgskin and Peter McClymont. The strikers were Phil Totten, Tim Hewitt, Nick Milham and Mick Flynn. With Saints down a player at the start, United’s senior player in Mick Jessup

was asked to don the Saints shirt until a full contingent of Saints players arrived. More on this decision later.

United started on fire with Rolfe, Jackson and Totten combining with some good play down the right hand side. United had a number of early scoring opportunities but the Saints keeper was having a blinder. A quick counter by Saints and a chip over Riles and Saints took a lead. With Jessup in Saints colours carving up United down the left side a bit of panic took hold with United. Some stern talking by Hodges steadied the ship and United equalised soon after with a clinical reply by Totten. McClymont scored a second for United and United looked the goods. A second counter by Saints and a swirling shot scored off the upright and Saints were upbeat. 2 all at oranges and Saints had the breeze.

It was then the master stroke came into play. With Saints numbers now 11, Jessup went back to United. It was Jessup who was able to gain the game plan from playing with Saints in the first half and United were huddled around Jessup at oranges, listening to his every word.

At the start of the second half, some players were repositioned to counter the Saints plan. Jackson was pushed into the backs and Brett Hazzard pushed into a more forward centre role and Sean Brady pushed into a centre position to leave just three at the back. United looked more impressive with this combination and dominated the second half. The concern was the number of scoring chances missed, although Phil Totten scored his second for the match to put United up 3-2. With just a minute remaining the most bizarre of events occurred. A through ball by Saints and Hodges looked to have the ball covered only to fall over. Saint's Russell Green ran through for a terrific strike at goal with only a fine save by Riles denying Saints a draw. Many in the United team were staring daggers at Hodges as there was no-one with metres of him when he 'took a dive'.

Rehydration at the marquee sponsor Hotel Parkview, all three teams discussed the results and opportunities. You could see on the faces of the YADS players that returning from their long road trip to Millthorpe had taken its toll. Denley were a little disappointed about the card but were upbeat about the overall performance. United were ecstatic with their win and glory days of past victories flooded back. The 'dive' was all but forgotten with players planning next weeks game strategy by the end of the night.

Barnstoneworth – two out of three (is a pass) 8/8/09

During the week, Barnstoneworth football club management were insistent to players, that to celebrate the opening of the new clubhouse at party central, AKA Dan's on Anson, all teams were expected to win. This should have been sufficient enough a reason for all teams to do their bit but, as usual, someone had to spoil the party.

In the Orange All Age B Division, Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) returned from their two weeks away at Blayney and Millthorpe to the more familiar ground at Orange. Many of the players and their partners and friends were pleased that the return home meant players could see their loved ones once again. YADS were up against the skills of Saints Impulse All Age side. YADS started well with combinations between players honed during the two weeks on the road. A fine goal by the ever reliable Rooster and a second by Karl from a pile driver from 2 metres had YADS in front. With Ewan Powell in goals and the midfield dominant, YADS continued to press. Saints replied with a consolation goals but YADS were well deserved 2-1 victors.

Now to the important competition, the Orange >35 competition. Speaking to a number of well established Orange businessmen, it is rumoured that significant amounts of money are being wagered through an illegal Vanuatu on line betting agency on the outcomes on recent >35 matches. At last report there is no truth to this rumour but some in Barnstoneworth are not so sure. More on that in the article.

Denley Moor had a strong challenge against CYMS FB's. Both teams usually have a close encounter but Denley Moor were almost at full strength with a full compliment of reserves also available for the game. Denley started the stronger with some good combinations up front with Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Dan Kennedy, Daryl Guise and the marquee player of the club in Glenn Harpley. Midfield were well serviced with Bruce 'Bruiser' Hogben, Ed 'Plato' Cato, Phil 'toe' Davis and Dave 'metronome' Craig with the defensive pattern of Mick 'knees' Carpenter, Scott Shepherd, Lino "La Mancha" Manca, Dan Shepherd, Jason Ingham and Tony Haines strong in the defensive wall. Some early one touch football and Daryl Guise scored from a clinical strike. Harpley was closely guarded during the early stages. A good Harpley hip and shoulder challenge was considered a push by officialdom and Harpley yellow carded. This, in hindsight was just the tonic Harpley needed to concentrate his efforts and a cracking shot by Hapley had Denley in front at oranges 2-0. In the second half, CYMS FB's continued to show their spirit by pressing the Denley Moor defence but a second from Harpley and then a pearler from Goeff Dunstan to give Denley Moor a well orchestrated 4-0 victory. Printhe, Thrill and Bruiser continue to improve with Toe, Metronome and Plato the pick of the team. 'Marquee' Harpley had any thoughts of best on ground quashed by his indiscretion.

In the top of the table >35 game United were against CYMS Gold. Top of the table games are not the typical games that Barnstoneworth United play but with the minor premiership on the line (for CYMS), both teams were 'up' for the crucial match. Barnies had a full compliment of players and reserves but Aidan Sugden, Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh and Steve Adams are still out with injury and Mick Jessop having a well deserved week off. Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in goals knew he was in for

plenty of work and some good saves early in the match a taste of what was to follow. Defensive pattern was the reliable Andy Rolfe with his less photogenic defenders in Phil Jackson, Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Gary James and Sean Brady. Mid field was well balanced with Brett Hazzard, Hugh Lukins, Dennis Hodgskin, Peter 'Spud' McClymont, Tim Hewitt and Sinisa 'Cigarelo' Kosarac with the front three in Nick Milham, Mick Flynn and Phil Totten. Gold were playing an expansive game with both wingers prominent early. Some good work down the Gold left with the shot unstoppable and Gold were up 1-0. United midfield started to find some space with some good combinations but a second raid down the right flank had United stretched with a second goal hitting the top corner. United pressed for a goal but with few opportunities in the first half United were down against the competition leaders, 2-0.

Mick Jessop was watching on the sideline and suggested to management a few positional changes during the oranges break. Tim Hewitt was pushed to a more forward position to free up the midfield play of Brett Hazzard and Peter McClymont.

In the second half Gold continued to press and a miss kick cross flew across the United goal for a Gold player to snare a third. This prompted United into some forward play and Tim Hewitt scored from a difficult angle. 3-1 and United looked more positive. Another forward thrust had Gold giving away a corner. An inch perfect corner from Gary James hit the foot of Tim Hewitt and United had a second. United with a sniff of a possible point pushed players forward and Gold looked rattled. The forward thrust by United led to some gaps opening up and Gold's Zoran sliced through the United defence to be met by Phil Jackson. Although tackled by Jackson, Zoran still had control of the ball but the tackle but considered illegal by officialdom. The resultant penalty was beautifully saved by keeper Riles but again, Jackson erred in entering the penalty box early. It was then that United players, in particular keeper Riles, started to wonder about the exploits of the seasoned United defender. The second penalty shot by Zoran was also saved and Riles immediately showed the ball to Jackson. Jackson asked officialdom for a third attempt and Gold players were quick to ridicule the penalty taker but Riles efforts were supreme. With United still striving for an equaliser, a forth goal from a turn and shot by Gold was enough for victory. 4-2 the final result and United were pleased overall. United tongues were, however, wagging.

During rehydration time at Barnstoneworth marquee sponsor, the Parkview Hotel, YADS and Denley Moor players were quick to relive the results of the day. Players from these teams were quick to point out that they fulfilled the wishes of management in securing victory this week. United players were more reserved but shouted beers to keeper Stu 'preying mantis' Riles for his saves. Not one, but two penalty shots saved and a brace of goals by Tim Hewitt, who improves with each game.

Ridicule comes in many forms and Jackson has had his share of detractors over the years at United but his arrival at the rehydration centre was met with a cacophony of abuse not heard since Ricky Ponting lost the Ashes in 2005. Jackson sat alone in the corner with one eye on his abusive 'mates' but one eye on those that entered the hotel. When a suspicious man arrived in a black Hummer Jackson was gone, his rehydration fluid untouched.

Barnstoneworth – What a roller coaster ride 15/8/09

During the week with many in Orange now changing their sporting focus from Orange >35 football to English Premier League, Barnstoneworth Management had been negotiating with the International Olympic Committee in Lusanne for the possibility of >35 football being included as a display sport in future Olympics. Manager and Barnstoneworth IOC representative, Phil 'Duck' Hodges was sent with implicit instructions to support the >35 concept, but if pressured, align with men's synchronised swimming. You can understand the disappointment this week when the IOC announced the 2016 Olympics will have women's boxing but not >35 football. Although women's boxing, or the boxing of women is a topical issue in some parts of Australian society, particularly with a certain football code, Barnstoneworth Management were disgusted that the second option proposed by Barnstoneworth to IOC of mens synchronised swimming being completely ignored. It was only on his return from Switzerland that the truth was known. On the plane to Switzerland, Hodges met his life long mate in Arthur Tunstall. Under Secretary of Barnstoneworth in Lino Manca was shocked when told. 'We thought we had a great argument to the IOC about the strength of >35 football world wide. Our position to IOC should have been that even in Orange, the premier football code is >35 football. To have this proposal not tabled and the second option of men's synchronised swimming also rejected out of hand is such a sinking feeling but we are gutted by the decision of Hodges to 'sell' his vote to Tunstall and women's boxing.' "Hodges was also probably behind the decision by Mongolia to continue to support whaling" an obviously livid Manca was quoted.

'Lets move on as our focus now is for each of the three Barnstoneworth teams to make the semis in each of the competitions in Orange' said theorist Manca. 'If we keep turning up to play and play well, anything is possible'.

YADS against Canobolas Rangers.

It was a sobering situation with the Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS). Many would have been eligible for the >35 competition at the 2016 Olympics, had the vote been successful. Team morale was low prior to the game but stalwart keeper, Ewan Powell rallied the players to focus on the immediate task in the All Age B Division against a competitive Canobolas Rangers. YADS started well with Andrew slotting in a great goal. David scored a second and YADS looked the likely victors. Ex Barnies player, Alan Sharp rallied his Rangers players to score for a competitive score line of 2-1. Late in the game, Alan was felled when several players went for the same cross. At last report, Sharpie was slowly recovering and Management wish him a speedy recovery.



Denley Moor at Cudal > 35

In the thinking men's competition, Denly Moor travelled to that far away kingdom named Cudal where unfortunate things can happen to unwary strangers. Denley needed the victory to secure their current position in the table and Cudal were playing for pride. Denley were at full strength with Keeper Scott Shepherd behind an imposing backline of Lino Manca, Ed Cato, Jason 'general' Ingham, Tony Haines and Mick Carpenter. Mid field was held together by Dave '5' Clarke, Phil Davis, Bruce Hogben, Geoff Dunstan, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Dave Craig and Dan Kennedy with the front striking role of Daryl Guise and Barnstoneworths marquee player, Glenn Harpley. Glenn Harpley started proceedings with a great strike and followed up with a second before the break. At Oranges, some positional changes with Davis and Hogben pushed forward to free up the great skills of the canny Clarke. With the 'General' commanding his troops in the backs, Denley looked the part and Davis slotted another goal, a pearler that we expect from Davis each game. An unfortunate rebound from a Hogben shot hit a Cudal player in the lower torso with his natural reaction to protect his vital parts by catching the ball. The penalty was slotted home by Hogben and Denley were triumphant 4-0. The subsequent boat race was a disaster with the Denley Moor marquee player sipping his drink like a martini and Cudal had some pride restored.



United against Canobolas Rangers

In the other crucial and arguably more important >35 game, Barnstoneworths' thinking mans team in United were up against the higher placed Canobolas Ranges. United had a number of key players still out injured in Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh, Steve Adams, Phil Totten, Andy Rolfe, Hugh Lukins and Peter McClymont but truth be known, Rangers were also decimated with injuries. United started with Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in keeper with the back four of Phil 'boxer' Hodges, Gary James, Sean Brady and Phil Jackson. Mid field was the ever improving combination of Mick Jessop, Dennis Hodgskin, Tim Hewitt with Glenn Hazzard controlling the centre. Strikers were Nick Milham, Bruce Middleton and Mick Flynn. United started stronger and were rewarded by yet another goal from an acute angle shot from Tim Hewitt. Apart from a display of football skills by Jackson down the sideline that looked more like 2 uncoordinated people in a three legged race, United dictated play with Rangers forced to counter when the numbers allowed. At oranges with United up 1-0, Phil 'jab' Hodges was upbeat on the expansive game and asked for more of the same.

Second half started like the first with Nick Milham and Mick Flynn finding some space down the flanks. A fine through ball by Hazzard and Tim Hewitt scored his second. Hewitt's fourth goal in just two matches. Rangers replied with a penalty outside the box that curled into the top corner and at 2-1 the game was on. United

pressed and Flynn had a great shot which hit the upright. Another run by Flynn with the ball rebounding off the keeper for Bruce Middleton to slot in the third for United. United's Aidan Sugden made his cameo appearance but it was true to say that his return from injury was short lived. 3-1 the final result and United had already placed Sugden in cotton wool for the semis.

At the end of the game, Barnstoneworth players and supporters arrived at their marquee sponsor, the Parkview Hotel. Players, supporters and sponsors were all upbeat about the win by each side on the same weekend, a feat not achieved for many years. Many were still angered by the IOC position on womens boxing and Hodges defection to the Tunstall corner with many of the YADS players confronting the usually level headed Hodges.

As part of Barnstoneworth 'body awareness' program, players are required to attend the mandatory rehydration session after each game. Club medical guru and naturopath Phil 'swami' Hodges insists that for inner peace, spirituality and an outward positive aura, rehydration is an essential part of ones weekly ritual. 'It is not just part of ones introspection each week' said Hodges. 'The Parkview rehydration fluid offers a balance folate, Vitamins B6 and B12, magnesium, selenium and potassium without the western influences of fat, nitrate, caffeine or cholesterol. This is just the tonic after the debacle with IOC this week. A debacle I take full responsibility' said Hodges. Many were not amused.

Barnstoneworth – Back to the cellar 22/8/09

With the celebrations of club winning all grades the previous week now a dull memory in the minds of the players, other activities have taken the focus from this momentous time.

Last week, the debacle of the 'Hodges' Barnstoneworth IOC position on the boxing of women has all but subsided thanks to some smart talking by the Barnies icon. The focus continues apace for the end of season festivities. It is rumoured that Hodges is negotiating with Football Australia for the curtain raiser to be played between Denley Moor and Barnstoneworth United prior to the Australia vs Netherlands game. 'This should remove any sour taste about the IOC rejecting >35 football as a sport in the 2016 Olympics' said Hodges. The down side is that the YADS players, most affected by the IOC decision last week, are still out in the cold with the proposal. Further negotiating to include the concerns of YADS is anticipated.

All age B Division YADS vs Waratahs C

As for the football results, in the All Age B Division, Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were up against the strong Waratah C team. YADS were decimated with a number of injuries and non attendance due to family and macramé commitments. Tahs started the better, finished the better and were stronger for the remainder of the game. Sonara scored for YADS but Tahs dominated for a final score line of 7-1, a result that left all in YADS shocked and embarrassed. Their worst defeat for many years and Management were asking YADS players to take stock of their team performance and the positional play adopted for this game. It just did not work this week.

>35 Denley Moor vs Canobolas Rangers

In the premier football division, the >35 competition of Orange, Denley Moor were up against Canobolas Rangers. Rangers were completely outclassed by Barnstoneworth United last week and Denley players thought it would be a walk in the park this week.

Denley were at full strength with a full complement of reserves also available. Rangers started with just 7. As the Rangers player numbers increased during the next few minutes, the frustration of Denley players in not being able to score with the superiority of player numbers did not help the team structure. Everyone wanted to score and as a result, positional play went out the window. Gaps appeared for Rangers to counter and a goal from the only foray into the Denley half by Rangers reflected the upheaval in the Denley team.

At oranges, Denley Management was livid about the tactics of up and under football with soul searching the order of the day.

No soul was found as the second half was more of the same. A long range attempt by Rangers and 2-0 the final score. I have deliberately failed to mention players names in this article, although Dave '5' Clarke can take no responsibility for the Denley performance. He was the only player that stuck to any purposeful game plan. Embarrassment and recriminations were in copious quantities at the end of the game with little sympathy shown by their brothers in arms in United. Denley players were emotional but for all the wrong reasons.

>35 United against Waratahs

In the other, more influential >35 game, Barnstoneworths' thinking mans team of the thinking mans club in United were up against the show ponies in Waratahs. United started with eleven as a number of players were still on the injured list or unavailable for no obvious reason. United started with Stu 'preying mantis' Riles in keeper with the back four of Phil 'Obama' Hodges, Sean Brady, Phil Jackson and Andy Rolfe. Mid field were the tried and true Mick Jessop, Bruce Middleton, Hugh Lukins and Sinisca Kosarac with Tim Hewitt and Mick Flynn the strikers.

United felt confident after the stunning victory against Rangers the previous week and started well, thwarting some early Tahs attacks. A nice through ball by Middleton to Hewitt and United hit the lead. It was true to say that Tahs Management in Mr Centofanti thought United were off side but the quick feet of Hewitt and his shot so well struck, Tahs keeper Sinclair had no chance. Tahs were stung into attack after the early goal but Riles and the United defence were working overtime. It was then that disaster struck. Riles came out from his line to catch the ball, his calf muscle snapped and Riles hit the ground in agony. Tah's attacker was quick to pounce on the loose ball to score. With Riles escorted from the field, Tim Hewitt showed his versatility by moving into the keeper role. Tahs pressed and scored a second not long after but Hewitt also saved a number of shots.

At oranges and United down 2-1, players were despondent. 'Preying mantis' Riles out injured just added to many now sidelined for the season. In the second half Tahs superior field position was evident. Some fine early attacking play by Tahs, with a terrific shot cleared off the line by Mick Jessop. What a player! Sean Brady went down injured and then Mick Flynn went off with melot flowing from a facial cut and United struggled with just 10. Brady was pushed to the forward role to recover and Kosarac moved into a central defence role. Injured Brady almost scored with a turn and shot but Tahs countered for a third. Tahs scored again with the last touch of the game. 4-1 the final score but United were more concerned about the injury toll.

After the game at the rehydration centre, known by some as Parkview on McNamara, each player gathered to ponder the plight of Barnstoneworth. 2 goals for and 13 against in the three games was an ugly week for Barnstoneworth. The upside is 5 goals in 3 games for Hewitt makes him a late favourite for the prestigious 'United Golden Boot' or UG Boot for 2009. Many in local football would know, previous winners of this iconic award include many famous locals names; Jacobs, Harpley, Sugden being a few. For future local trivia nights, these names should be remembered as they are asked at every social event, just like Melbourne Cup winners. Tim Hewitt, 2009. Remember that name and date.

United pondered the situation of the mounting injury toll, YADS were thinking long and hard about the disastrous positional plan this week and Denley were just a rabble.

Next week the penultimate round prior to the semis, Denley take on the injury riddled United. With talk of the Australia vs Netherlands curtain raiser on the table, players will be out to show their many skills. As with all derby games, spectator attendance is an all tickets game. Some tickets may still be available from respectable haberdashers.

Barnstoneworth – 29 August, 2009

Barnstoneworth management were thrilled at the continued interest and potential to increase the number of teams for the 2010 season. With all three teams destined for semi final positions in both the All Age B division and the more glamorous >35 competition, management have been fielding calls as far away as South Africa about the potential of fielding a fourth team for the fabled red, white and black. Club recruiter, Phil 'IOC' Hodges said that even the woman middle distance runner from South Africa, Caster Semenya, called to see if she or he was eligible to play. She or he had heard of the strength of Orange B division and the high altitude of the venues in Orange were just the right conditions to improve her or his skills. The open minded Hodges, not one to reject anyone as a potential player, was keen to confirm Caster's credentials and if compliant to the local Orange Football Association bi laws, Barnies are considering Caster as the pin-up player for the team. Hodges was quoted 'as we already have YADS, Denley Moor and Barnies United as the existing and well respected teams in Orange, to accommodate the new team with Caster as our captain, the team name considered will be 'Hermaphrodites Athletic' '. There are already a number of highly respected people from Orange and surrounding villages interested to move to 'Athletic' next year. A number of existing players are not impressed by the position the open minded Hodges has taken and a spill motion to eject Hodges and his plan is already rumoured. It is believed this years marquee player in Glenn 'Harps' Harpley is filthy about the decision and believes that Hodges has dropped the ball on this issue.

As for the games

YADS against Saints Turbulence in All Age B Division.

Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were fielding a depleted team against third place Saints Turbulence on Saturday. With a number of players missing due to a wedding of one of the YADS players in quaint Millthorpe, commitment to the club took a back seat. This plus the inclement weather at the time of the game made playing an expansive and free flowing game impossible. Only keeper, Ewan Powell, was kept warm with the amount of ball retrieval from the back of the net. 6-0 on top of last weeks thrashing and YADS are looking towards mad Monday early this year. With next week crunch game against KWS to determine the fate of YADS season, YADS will be looking for victory and KWS will be looking to address their 110 goal differential for the season. Good luck to both teams.

United against Denley Moor in >35

In the thinking men's competition, Denly Moor were up against their senior and more seasoned 'friends' in United. As many that attend these local derbies, long held friendships and commonsense take a seat in the back stalls. Some believe it is the different brands of liniment that each team uses prior to the game that effects players senses but truth be known each team loves the combative nature of these games. Denley Moor had a few key players missing in Ed Cato, Lino Manca and Phil Davis, however, Denley still took to the field with an impressive outfit. Scott Shepherd in goals with the defensive structure of Tony Haines, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Jason Ingham, Mick Carpenter and Andy Brown. Mid field was Dave 'metronome' Craig, Patrick 'taxi' Driver, Ian Carter, Geoff 'premier' Dunstan, Dan 'Armani' Kennedy and their

go to man in Bruce Hogben with a potent attack in Daryl Guise, Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell supporting the clubs 2009 marquee player of Barnstoneworth in Glenn Harpley.

United had nearly all their key players in Phil Totten, Aidan Sugden, Steve Adams, Stu 'preying mantis' Riles and Hugh Lukins out due to continued injury issues. Gary James returned to take the keeping role with his defensive structure of Andy Rolfe, Sean Brady, Phil 'free thinking' Hodges and Phil Jackson. Mid field included Peter McClymont, Mick Jessop, Dennis Hodgskin and Brett Hazzard with strikers Mick Flynn, Nick Milham and Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh returning after several weeks on the injury list. Barnstoneworth icon for many years in Chris Jacobs also donned the boots for this crucial game for United.

The game started apace with Denley pushing forward with United counter attacking. Some early attacks by Denley through Hogben, Guise and Tuckwell was well repelled by the keeping of James. United's McClymont and Hazzard were sending some terrific through balls for the speedy Cavanagh and Flynn and Denley were stretched a few times. A nice shot by McClymont flew across the Denley goal in the early stanza. Denley regrouped and a through ball to Guise down the left wing and Guise met a strong tackle by Jackson. Another tackle soon after by Jackson on the taller Tuckwell and everyone knew the game was not for the faint hearted. A terrific cross by Denley's Harpley just skimmed the cross bar and United were under the pump. United gave away a penalty near the edge of the box and a well crafted cross was well struck by Tuckwell. James had no chance and Denley were up 1-0. Another body clash between Denley's Terry Brill and United's Flynn left both groggy with Brill needing some sideline assistance. Hazzard and Jacobs for United started to dictate the mid field and United still looked competitive.

At oranges, United were still positive of a successful outcome. With the weather closing in, the sideline shed was not a place for polite conversation between players. With the extra reserves on the sideline, Denley players looked more refreshed but United were still upbeat.

The second half started like the first with Denley the more pressing but United held firm for long periods. Brady, Hodges and Rolfe were under the pump and the contest between Denley's Kennedy and United's Jackson alone worth the price of admission. Hogben hit a pearler that rebounded off the cross bar, the closest Denley were to a second gaol. United still pressed forward and a McClymont shot just missed the mark. Denley were victorious but United claimed a morale victory. With the injury toll and the lack of reserves in United, Denley could manage just 1 goal.

At the end of the game, Barnstoneworth players and supporters attended the sumptuous feast of chips at the marquee sponsor, the Parkview Hotel. YADS were disappointed about the result and insisted next week would be the start of the end season revival. Denley were plotting the game plan for the semis game against Rangers in two weeks and United were spent. So many players out injured, winning games will be a task for the next few weeks for them. Talk did centre around some Brut Big Hits and the decision making of Hodges on the possible new team name and the potential for a fourth, fifth or sixth team in 2010 (such is the interest in the thinking mans football club of Orange). United were also disappointed that the Barnstoneworth Shield, presented by the BUFC Women's Auxiliary to the winning team, will have Denley inscribed for 2009. Not a pretty sight, again.

Barnstoneworth – 5th September, 2009

At the start of 2009, the newly established 'Hodges Ticket' was elected to the Barnstoneworth Board based on a number of commitments to the members and share holders. At the time, it seemed too good to refuse. His 'team' included a number of prominent local businessmen and their portfolios of promises were four fold. Increase the support staff and introduce new blood into the club. Second was that each team would be semi-finalists in their respective divisions. The third was an increase in player payments for 2009, based on an increase of sponsorship by local and important businesses. The forth was to return to the principles and ideals of the fabled red, white and black in scoring goals, ideally more goals than the opposition in each game. After the last round of the competition, clubmen and women had mixed feelings about these lofty dreams.

YADS against KWS in All Age B Division.

Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were pumped for the final game of the season proper against KWS. All players that had been missing in previous weeks due to injury, apathy or both were at the game in droves on Saturday. With KWS having a negative goal differential that was best described as 'similar to the Roosters', Barnstoneworth players that had no skills or no goals this season were up for the game. YADS needed to win to secure a semi spot. Needless to say that KWS were unable to attract enough players interested for the game and YADS won on a forfeit. Barnies players were disappointed overall, especially those that had not scored a goal this year.

Denley Moor vs Waratahs in >35

In the thinking men's competition, Denley Moor were up against the show ponies of the >35 competition in Waratahs. The game was brought forward to an earlier time as part of a double header promotion by Tahs management. It was promoted as 'watch the more important >35 game first and if you stay for the premier league game, Tahs would provide a free sausage sambo'. This proved to be a financial nightmare as both Tahs and Barnies being the two teams that have the largest supporter base in Orange. Spectators were there in numbers for the double header with the all ticket promotion sold out hours before the match. It cost Tahs thousands with many still missing out on lunch.

Denley Moor was almost at full strength to show their obvious skills in front of the huge crowd. Denley took to the field with a strong outfit. Scott Shepherd in goals with the defensive structure of Tony Haines, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Jason Ingham, Mick Carpenter, Ed Cato and Andy Brown. Mid field was Dave 'metronome' Craig, Patrick 'taxi' Driver, Ian Carter, Geoff 'premier' Dunstan, Phil Davis, Dan 'Armani' Kennedy and Bruce Hogben with an attack trio in Daryl Guise, Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell supporting Barnstoneworth's 2009 marquee player in Glenn Harpley.

Tahs started well but Denley were competitive for long periods of the game. Tahs scored twice but Denley were not disgraced as Tahs were pumped for the boys in the premier game. Tahs prevailed in the important >35 game but could not consolidate this win in the lesser premier league.

United vs CYMS FB's

I am not sure what I should comment in the article this week. The result was a total debacle and a ICAC inquiry is rumoured. It is true to say that United were undermanned with a number of key players missing due to injury but pride and passion should have won the day for United against FB's. Who would have predicted the result? Bookmakers closed their books hours before the game as the punting plunge on FB's looked odd. Some punters were putting thousands on FB's to win by seven or more goals and the bookies were worried. It beggars belief that a Barnstoneworth team would roll over for a few pieces of silver and a meat pie. Some in the crowd were crying, such was the shame of the game. 8-0 the score line. Not even the historic 8 bloody 1 score line of 1922 could be achieved such was the lack of interest by the Barnstoneworth players. 5th September will go down in Orange Barnstoneworthian folklore. It will be like 11th November. It was just not right hanging Ned Kelly on Armistice Day but a great trivia question in the years to come. Remember these numbers - 5th September, 2009.8-0!

At the end of the games, Barnstoneworth players and supporters flocked to the marquee sponsors tent, aka Parkview Hotel to review the week and competition just completed. United players were shouting the bar like there was no tomorrow and based on the bookies waiting outside the pub, that may well be the case. Team Hodges and the four commitments were discussed at length. Yes, there were new players that joined the club in 2009. Yes that all teams play next week in the semi finals. As for the two other commitments of more pay and more pride, many debated these points. This week, Barnstoneworth teams, technically scored no goals, a first since 1927, a year still known as the 'Barnies drought season'. Apart from the recent 'inheritance' that a few in United received on Saturday, no match payments have been received by other players, other than to the marquee player Glenn Harpley.

Many players from each team were disappointed at not having the opportunity to score a goal prior to the semis. With the number of players that had not scored for the club this year into the hundreds, the nude run on Sunday was like the start of the city to surf. Not a pretty sight, except for the BUFCWA (Barnstoneworth Women's Auxiliary). They were there in similar numbers. I wonder why?

For the semis next week, YADS will play their nemesis team in Canobolas Pink Bits (reminds me of the run on Sunday) in all age B Division, C group. Denley will be against Canobolas Rangers in >35s and United will have a replay against FB's. Apart from United, Denley and YADS are upbeat about the games next week. Good luck to all playing next week.

Barnstoneworth – 12th September, 2009

After all the off field antics that Barnstoneworth Management had thrown at the players during the season, it was terrific that all Barnstoneworthians were able to be part of the Orange Football semi finals on the weekend. This week was no exception for off field controversies with Barnstoneworthians main shareholder and part time franchise salesman in Phil 'Sol' Hodges being branded as indolent by his critics within the club. Hodges response was that all teams made the final series and all fit players will get a run this weekend. 'I can't be fairer than that' said the media shy numbers man.

YADS vs Canobolas Pink Bits (All Age B division major semi final) 0-2

As with previous seasons, Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were against the old foe of Canobolas Pink Bits in the major semi final. Pink Bits, led by John Parker (or 'flappy' to those that know him) have a strong combination with Troy Parker a major contributor to their success. Needless to say that the game on Saturday was no exception. YADS played a strong and open game, using their skills down the flanks. Pink Bits kept it tight with the focus on the gun striker in Troy. Scores were locked at nil all at half time with manager and goalie, Ewan Powell positive about the performance of the boys. In the second half some loose defending and Troy Parker pounced with a fine one touch strike across goal. A second shortly after and YADS were defeated but not disgraced. YADS will regroup for the Final next week with a return match against Pink Bits predicted for the Grand Final.

Denley Moor vs Canobolas Rangers >35 A minor semi (1-2)

In the more demanding and thinking mens competition, the >35 competition of Orange, Denley Moor were out for revenge against their main foe for the season in Canobolas Rangers in the >35 minor semi final. With the loser out for the season, passion and pride was evident leading up to the start of the game. Denley started with their tried and true with Scott Shepherd in goals with the defensive structure of Tony Haines, Terry 'thrill' Brill, Jason Ingham, Mick Carpenter and Andy Brown. Mid field was Dave 'metronome' Craig, Geoff 'premier' Dunstan, Phil Davis, Dave '5' Clark, Dan 'Armani' Kennedy and Bruce Hogben with an attack trio in Daryl Guise, Drew 'Printhie' Tuckwell supporting Barnstoneworth's 2009 marquee player in Glenn Harpley. Both teams played some good flowing football with the last line of defence thwarting attacks from both sides. Canobolas broke the deadlock with a controversial goal that left Denley players stunned. A throw in that was missed by all went into the goals without a touch by any player. The goal was awarded and Denley looked bewildered. Much to the pleasure of the huge crowd, Denley lifted the intensity in the last few minutes. Some strong defence from Terry 'thrill' Brill had the Canobolas tongues wagging. Rather than be distracted, Brill passed a nice ball on to Phil Davis, who, in turn linked with Daryl Guise. A great ball to Bruce Hogben and Denley had equalised from a terrific strike from the hard working mid fielder. With extra time required, both teams knuckled down to finding that combination that would break the opposition. Canobolas found that combination at the right time and Denley were gracious in defeat. 2-1 the final score but many on the sideline were impressed by the improvement in teamwork and support within the Denley ranks. Denley are out but can be pleased they finished with many positive aspects with the team.

United vs CYMS FB's > 35 B major semi (1-2)

What was said in last week's article must have struck home during the week as training leading up to the major semi final was one of focus. Last week, United were beaten 8 bloody nil against FB's, so the omens were not positive for the depleted United side. United had an 'annus horribilis' of a season with injuries with their gun players in Steve Adams, Stu 'preying mantis' Riles, Phil Totten, Brett Hazzard and Gary James all not available due to injury. United were strengthened, however, by the return of Ian Carter, Ed Cato and Pat Driver.

With the result of last week in mind, management of the thinking mens team of the thinking mens club had to rely on some Harry Potter style witchery and Aidan Sugden aka 'Albus Dumbledore' was the main conjurers trick. Returning after several weeks on the injured list, Aidan's return was just the injection of experience United needed to bolster the mid field. The second piece of magic was to position Tim Hewitt, aka 'Professor Quirrell' as left back to counter to fast running right winger of FB's. The rabbit out of the hat was where to position Phil Jackson aka 'Rubeus Hagrid'. With the usual United keeper in Stu 'preying mantis' Riles out due to injury, second string keeper Gary James also out and with third string keeper in Tim Hewitt playing a key role in the defensive structure, Phil Jackson was given the gloves. 'This was a calculated risk' said grand wizard Phil Hodges. 'Winning the lotto would be better odds, but I do not have another potion or position for Jackson'.

United started well with the defensive line of Tim Hewitt, Phil 'Severus Snape' Hodges, Dennis Hodgskin and Andy Rolfe. Midfield included Mick Jessop, (playing his 200th semi game in all sports), Ian Carter, Peter McClymont, Aidan Sugden, Ed Cato and Pat Driver with Mick Flynn and Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagh the striking duo. United looked composed with Hewitt thwarting the right attack line and Hodgskin and Hodges combination working well in the centre defence. Andy Rolfe continued his good form as right back. With Sugden and McClymont commanding the centre, United pressed for an early goal. Some great play by the forwards and Mick Flynn pounced on a nice ball and United were up 1-0. A second was almost scored and along with some stout play by Driver, FB's looked a little rattled. Keeper Jackson had some shots to save and United defence looked the goods. At oranges and with a handy lead, discussion was more of the same for the second half.

Second half was an arm wrestle with keepers from both sides having plenty of work. With United still up with 5 minutes to go a FB's corner was scrambled over the line after a valiant attempt to save the goal by Aidan Sugden. A nice through ball by FB's had the FB's striker, Tim Hewitt and Phil Jackson sprawled on the turf. In the mix of players, Jackson had managed to head Hewitt in the stomach with the shot going wide. Hewitt was replaced, Jackson continued and FB's pressed for the winner. With extra time looming, FB's were awarded a corner. The FB's striker hit it perfectly with Hodges attempting to head the ball off the line, almost collecting both the upright and ball. FB's were last second victors but United were pleased that the 8-0 defeat the previous week replaced by a great team effort. With a number of players still out due to injury or work commitments, next week's final against Cudalian Cobwebs will also be a test for United.

With all teams regrouping at the marquee sponsor, Parkview Hotel aka 'Hogwarts', players, club financiers and BUFCWAC (Barnstoneworth Women's Auxiliary

Committee) were there in numbers to discuss the issues of the week, the goal awarded from a throw in and the spell that Pink Bits has over YADS. United were upbeat about the improvement from the previous week. With the season for Denley now over, all eyes will be at Jack Brabham next week for the YADS and United games. Both need to win to progress to the Grand Final. Good luck to both teams.

Barnstoneworth – 17th September, 2009

With the games at the finals stage of the Orange District Football in 2009, the thinking mans club of Orange in Barnstoneworth United were represented in two finals. As with other weeks, external distractions did not assist for the lead up for the crucial games. Chief recruiter for the club, Dr Phil Hodges was crestfallen at the outcome of the sexuality tests for Caster Semenya conducted early in the week. Those in the know were aware that Dr Phil had managed to secure the services of Caster as the marquee player for 2010 to counter the blatant masculine profile within the realms of Club Barnstoneworth. 2009 marquee player in Glen Harley is now confused on whether his remonstrations with the International Athletic Committee to test Caster were successful. 'It wanted Barnstoneworth to stay the bastion of free thinkers with all players having an open mind' said Harley. 'I was perturbed, however, that Hodges had not sort Committee approval prior to signing Semenya or sort a second opinion from club doctor, Hugh Lukins and that all the normal protocol of signing international stars for Barnstoneworth had not been followed.' Management are now in crisis meetings with Barnies Legal Team, led by Mick Carpenter and the Executive to understand the legal position of the signing. Hodges was livid and suggested that Harley was only interest was staying Barnies marquee player for 2010. Harley would not be drawn on this valid question, nor his gender bias.

All Age B Division (C Level Final)

YADS 0 - Ex Services 3

Barnstoneworth Youth And Development Squad (YADS) were up against Ex Services in the All Age B Division final. With both teams scoring the same number of goals for and against in the entire season, a close match was expected. Mentor to the YADS team in Ewan Powell was talking up the possibilities of another crack at Canobolas Pink Bits for the grand final but knew the first hurdle was the experienced Ex Services team. 'Let's not put the cart before the horse' said Powell. 'As Barnstoneworth Yorkshire founder, Thirkill Dowgill always said, 'lads, if team score more goals than opposition theye 80% chance winning' a fired up 'Yorkshire' Powell said to his troops. Unfortunately, YADS were unable to score a goal and with Ex Services scoring three, Thirkill's prediction was correct. YADS will be hardened by this result as the third consecutive year in which YADS have made the final or grand final, only to lose at the last hurdle. 'Our players can empathise with St George Dragons players' said Powell. 'It is something about September that we can not get our head around'. Good luck to both Pink Bits and Ex Services for the grand final.

United vs Cudal Cobwebs > 35 B final (0-1)

Those dedicated followers of fashion, and Barnstoneworth United, the thinking mans team of the thinking mans club would be well aware, 2009 was a year of great turmoil and disruption. United were able to blood a number of new players into the team early in the season but

with an injury list as long as you're your children's Christmas wish list, United knew the game against a well disciplined Cudal outfit led by Paul O'Brien would be a hard fought affair. Historic sporting family names in Orange such as Riles, Totten, Adams, Hodgskin, Kosarac, Jackson, Cavanagh, James and Hazzard were all missing due to injury but United still managed to run on with a competitive team. Scott Shepherd was promoted to keeper, the fourth keeper United have used in 2009 due to injury to players. The back four were Phil 'Gyno' Hodges, Andy Rolfe and Sean Brady with Mick Carpenter bolstering the backs. Midfield was a restructure with Aidan Sugden and Peter McClymont, well supported by Mick Jessop, Tim Hewitt, Ed Cato, Phil Davis and Hugh Lukins. Strikers were Nick Milham, Mick Flynn and Dan 'Amarni' Kennedy. Spectators that were there were thrilled by the spectacle of the game. With United down to a number of walking wounded a number of players had to play in unfamiliar positions. Aidan Sugden and Peter McClymont were looking good early on until disaster struck. McClymont went down injured from a recurring back injury which resulted in further team restructuring. Cudal started to gel and United were on the defensive for a good portion of the first half. Scott Shepherd had a number of fine saves to make and with a Cudal header just skimming over the bar, United were on the back foot. A nice combination by United had Mick Flynn in the clear and with the keeper beaten a save off the line by the Cudal defence was required.

Nil all at oranges and Hodges was still upbeat his charges could win the day. With the large Barnstoneworth supporter's contingent on the sideline pleading for a goal, United seemed primed for the second half. With Carpenter and Brady stern in defence and Sugden and Davis impressing on the flow of the game another mishap for United. Sugden was felled in a firm tackle and minutes later yet another strong tackle. To his credit Sugden continued on but Cudal pressed for victory. With minutes left a cross or shot flew into the top corner and Cudal snared a goal. 1-0 the final score to Cudal. Cudal play CYMS FB's in next weeks >35 B division grand final and best wishes to both teams.

With all Barnstoneworth teams now out of the competition, mad Monday started early at the marquee sponsors establishment, Parkview Hotel on Saturday night. Players were quick to back slap each other (Jason Taylor take note of the position on the body to slap) and contemplated the season that was 2009. Injuries and missed opportunities the base of most discussion. The United game was discussed at length on those that toil each week for the fabled red, white and black. Some comments about the success of new blood, who played well and who were committed to the cause of Barnstoneworth, as well as those that should be just committed. A rumoured franchise of Barnstoneworth teams was openly discussed but not sure whether that meant donuts, coffee, kebabs or chicken wings being part of next seasons logo.

The out going Management would like to especially thank those that show up each week to support the team. Barnstoneworth Womens Auxiliary and Mrs Sugden were always present at games and it is great to see the Barnstoneworth Club going from strength to strength with player numbers.. With the AGM and black tie awards night in October, all eyes will be on who will be announced the 2010 marquee player.

Barnstoneworth Celebrate in style – 2009 Presentation Night

With the surprising return of many of the players from the end of season trip to Sydney the week prior, Barnstoneworth Football Club, the thinking mans club of Orange, held their annual presentation night at that well known 3 hats, crossed knives and forks, award winning Basil's restaurant. With the red carpet rolled out for the dignitaries and local police on call for traffic and crowd control, Barnstoneworth Social team led by Louise Davis and Louise Manca arranged a terrific night for those that attended. The three teams of Barnstoneworth were there in numbers befitting such an occasion. Major businesses were also there to celebrate their increased business due to sponsoring Barnstoneworth teams during the 2009 season. People in the know from Orange attended and supporters that wanted to rub shoulders of people in the know were there in droves for this black tie event. Players mingled, had photo opportunities with supporters and other just signed autographs during the night.

Some special awards were on offer and the bookmakers were busy determining the favourites for each award early in the night. In the Youth And Development Squad, (YADS) Andy Hume scooped the pool winning the players player, best goal and best dressed on the night. A fantastic achievement with Andy stating his excitement at winning was almost surpassed by his recent wedding.

In the arguably more prestigious >35 competition, Denley Moor and United had specific awards on the night. 2009 marquee player for Barnstoneworth, playing for Denley Moor in Glenn Harpley was top goal scorer. This was vindication for CEO, Phil 'Obama' Hodges as many thought the signing of Bosnich would have been a better buy in 2010. Best goal scored went to Bruce Hogben. Those that remember the article in the CWD reflected 'the best goal ever' statement and it was the second successive year that Hogben pulled out the 'pearler award' during the season. Some thought that it reflected his big game performances while others thought he only scores one goal a season. Players player went to the ever improving Scott Shepherd. A quiet achiever that always puts in each game as the keeper for Denley Moor .

For the awards for the thinking mans team in Barnstoneworth in United, Tim Hewitt was players player and also top goal scorer with Mick Flynn best goal. Tim, a new comer to Barnstoneworth was a worthy recipient having played admirably as defender, midfield, goalie and striker during the season (and was top scorer). Mick Flynn was also a new starter in 2009 and his commitment in the goal scored was one of pure and unadulterated determination.

There were four other recipients for special awards during the night. A special award went to Dave Craig from Denley. Dave had the dubious honour of being carded for substituting from the wrong spot. Although technically correct, this referee decision was one not seen since 1927 in the Bloomfield vs Barnstoneworth game. Dave took the award without flinching and his therapist his also happy with Dave's improvement since the incident. The second special award went to Ed Cato for his skills in photo documentary news for the club. His skills have been overlooked by the Walkley Awards selectors but Ed should be a special to win in 2010. The third and more obscure award went to Phil Jackson from United for reasons unspecified or undignified while in the red, white and black colours but also for the game reports. This literary award, the only won on offer in Orange Football circles, is second only

to the Booker and Miles Franklin Awards for literary brilliance and Jackson was quick to thank the support and guidance from Tim Winton during the season.

The Man's Man award went to that effervescent stalwart in Mick Jessop. Mick has the knack of looking after friend and foe alike. Such is the hard working United player respected, no one present could think of a better recipient for the award.

At the conclusion of proceedings, players, friends and groupies all attended the musical interlude at the Canobolas headed by the Converts. The Converts is THE band at present in Orange. They are led by drummer, Tony 'Mokbel' Cavanagah, yet another Barnstoneworth player showing skills in addition to just scoring goals and kicking balls.

Management were quick to point out that changes to players, team structures and playing strips will be evident in 2010 with pre-season training to commence this week with touch football, futsal or 7 a side soccer options available. Thanks to all in the club and have a festive and safe off season.