



# DE LA SALLE OLD COLLEGIANS AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1955, AFFILIATED, V.A.F.A  
REG. NO. A0001867L ABN 42 381 867 521

## Perfect weather – perfect day

You could not have scripted day one of the 2016 season any better as the club returned a perfect 5 from 5. A brilliant start for the unders with all three U19 teams recording big wins in a home day triple header while the reserves and seniors saluted in two very close, high class games against quality opposition. The Thirds start next week and the Supers are in action on Sunday.

Important to note that we had **three U19** teams playing competitive matches on the weekend – the first time this has been done. All had big wins and the significance of the Colts victory should not be underestimated, as they are essentially an U18 team competing in an U19 grade. They will give away size and maturity every week so to comfortably defeat the one and only underage team of an established 'C' grade club, who generally put out competitive underage teams was quite an achievement.

## Seniors

Astute VAFA followers will know that in 2015 St Kevins put up a very impressive set of numbers. A 20 – 0 win/loss record, a home and away season average score of 130 points per game and an average winning margin in excess of 10 goals. They have more ex AFL players on their books than any other club and a host of others with impressive football resumes'. While De La might have been short on big names they are an established 'A' grade outfit who have shown extraordinary resilience over the last two seasons. To the side that played in last year's first semi-final they welcomed back a talented quartet of recruits - Sam Pickett, Jake Williams, Dan Keely and Damien Rayson who return to the club after varying periods of absence.

Those missing from our first semi-final team are primarily a result of the 'travellers curse'. David Lowe, a legend of the club and one of only two current players to be named in the De La's greatest ever team, is touring Europe with hard nut mid fielder Tim Kovess. Reliable defensive duo and great mates David Convery and Garrett McDonough are off on their own adventure while club great and defensive stalwart Tom Moloney has retired. A handful still missing for various reasons but we put a strong side on the park today and in perfect conditions there could be absolutely no excuses.

The big crowd at T.H King were privileged to witness a game of the highest quality. An arm wrestle from start to finish and until very late in the game never more than a goal or two separating the sides.

St Kevins started the better and had 2 goals on the board before we had managed a forward entry. Matt Moore got us going with a couple of goals and by quarter time we trailed by just 1 point. More of the same in the second with the ball pinging from end to end. SKOBs kicked the first of the term and had opportunities to extend the lead before Keely kicked a beauty on the run from the boundary. Fieldsend then snapped



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a clever goal and when Harrison goaled on the run from the re-start we had made it 3 in 3 minutes and led by 9 points. The home side kicked 2 of the last 3 goals for the quarter including one on the bell to lead by 2 points at main break. We had played some reasonable football in patches but were perhaps overusing the ball and lacked precision going forward.

The match really opened up in the third as the teams traded goals. We started well and with goals to Pickett and Haslem and had edged in front but 2 goals in a minute to the home side wrestled back the momentum. With the game being played at a frenetic pace SKOBs were looking very dangerous and the defenders were required to do a power off work to keep them at bay. Against the run of play a nice set shot from Jacob Gotch levelled it up. Another reply by SKOBs who were going better and for a time looked like breaking it open. Xavier Murphy took a brilliant mark and goaled from a tight angle to reduce the margin to under a kick but SKOBs kicked the next 2 and the lead was out to 13 points, the biggest of the of the game and for the first time we looked a bit rattled. We desperately needed a reply and deep in the quarter Leigh Harrison obliged. Five goals apiece for the quarter and SKOBs led by 6 points at the final change.

An epic final quarter. We started well and a long-range snap from Keely after some smart play from Fieldsend tied it up. Soon after Harrison found Gotch who kicked his second and we led by a goal. We then had a couple of very good opportunities to extend the lead and rued our wastefulness when they goaled on the rebound. We found an immediate reply when once again Harrison laid it off to Gotch whose kick on the run restored an 8 point buffer. But from the re-start SKOBs answered and just 2 point separated the sides as the clock ticked towards the 20 minute mark.

With St Kevins surging a desperate chase and smother from Tom Humphrey on the goal line prevented a certain St Kevins goal and seemed to turn the tide back our way. We started to get on top through the middle of the ground and win the contested ball. Indovino laid a great tackle to draw a free 20 out on a tough angle but when the St Kevins runner ran through the mark the shot from the square made it a certainty and we led by 7. Some desperate passages of play from both sides followed before Gotch found Haslem in space who nailed a clutch set shot to extend the lead. At the 29 minute mark Pickett showed great goal sense to kick his second and we looked home. They kept coming and there were a few nervous moments but in the end a deserved 16 points victory.

Jake Gotch turned back the clock in B.O.G display while Tom Humphrey led an outstanding defence. Harrison was lively and displayed his sublime skills with some exceptional passages when the game was on the line. Vickers, Fieldsend and Haslem gave plenty of drive from the midfield and were still running hard at the final siren. Keely and Rayson were influential when the match was on the line. In a game that could have gone either way we had plenty of other good contributors. Post-game coach Paul Satterley lauded our defensive effort and our ability grind out a



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win. He noted that St Kevins are a quality team and we had to play at our competitive best to get the result.

Another huge challenge next week as we travel to Toorak Park to take on a star studded Old Xaverians under lights. Xavs dismantled the reigning Premiers St Bernards at the snake pit today.

|                    | Q1            | Q2            | Q3              | Q4               |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>St Kevins</b>   | <b>2.4-16</b> | <b>6.8-44</b> | <b>11.13-79</b> | <b>14.15-99</b>  |
| <b>De La Salle</b> | <b>2.3-15</b> | <b>6.6-42</b> | <b>11.7-73</b>  | <b>17.13-115</b> |

**Goal Kickers:** J. Gotch 3, L. Harrison 2, D. Keely 2, S. Pickett 2, S. Haslem 2, X. Murphy 2, M. Moore 2, M. Fieldsend, A. Indovino

**Best Players:** J. Gotch, T. Humphrey, J. Vickers, M. Fieldsend, L. Harrison, S. Haslem

## Reserves

Like their seniors, the SKOB reserves were undefeated across the 2015 Home & Away season and boasted a percentage north of 400. On the back of some modest seasons this was probably not the encounter we would have preferred first up!

Our theme for the day was PRESSURE. We started the first quarter full of run and our pressure was immense opening up a quarter time lead of 15 points. Jordy Bull and Ed Clinch dangerous up forward while our midfield led by the Close boys were in everything. The second and third quarters were disappointing for us as SKOBs led us to the ball, our pressure dropped off and we stopped running. Despite having two poor quarters the game was still up for grabs at three quarter time.

At the last break it was all about us. We knew we had to run and play our style. To the boys credit everyone did exactly that. Our tackle count increased, our voice lifted and this all resulted in De La kicking 5.5 to SKOBS 2.2 in the last quarter.

Tom McMahon was outstanding in the last quarter kicking 3 goals. Everyone played their role. Aaron Kneebone was full of run, Ryan McDonough was great all over the ground and our back six were terrific all day. In the end our fitness and belief in our game got us over the line. Well done to all.



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|                    | Q1     | Q2     | Q3      | Q4       |
|--------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| <u>St Kevins</u>   | 2.5-17 | 5.6-36 | 8.12-60 | 10.14-74 |
| <u>De La Salle</u> | 5.2-32 | 6.2-38 | 8.2-50  | 13.7-85  |

**Goal Kickers:** T. McMahon 3, T. Nicholls 2, R. McDonough 2, E. Clinch, D. Close, S. Hogan, A. Kneebone, J. Bull, S. Vawser

**Best Players:** D. Close, E. Clinch, T. McMahon, A. Walker, C. Dooley, J. Bull

## Thirds

Season starts next week

## 19 Blues

In every quarter we seemed to start slowly but gradually worked our way into the game with sheer persistence and constant contesting, chasing, harassment and enthusiasm. The fact that Uni Blues could rarely score even though they seemed to have some talent was probably the best aspect. We will need to score more goals from opportunities in future but a lot to like in this game.

It was sensational to see the wonderful debuts of new players and we are lucky to have some very good TAC players and new guys into the team. Congrats to Howie Persson, Aaron Trusler, Trent Shannon, Geordie Nagle, Darcy Roberts, Matt Simons, Will Taylor and Jimmy Tran who all made great contributions first up. Also great to have Will Mackie from the VFL too.

A fantastic start for all the Under 19 teams and the Seniors and we can't wait for the future challenges, starting this week with Old Xaverians who also had a massive win.

|                    | Q1     | Q2     | Q3       | Q4        |
|--------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|
| <u>De La Salle</u> | 4.3-27 | 8.9-57 | 13.13-91 | 18.20-128 |
| <u>Uni Blues</u>   | 0.0    | 0.0    | 1.1-7    | 1.1-7     |





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**Goal Kickers:** M. Griechen 5, M. Saunders 2, A. Trusler 2, G. Nagle 2, T. Shannon 2, M. Colak, D. Roberts, H. Persson, N. Catrice, L. Bisognin

**Best Players:** A. Trusler, H. Persson, M. Martinez, M. Lvovskiy, M. Griechen, W. Mackie

## 19 Golds

Terrific start to the year on a day when the weather was perfect for running footy. To be honest the Golds had no choice given that the Colts had set the scene with a comprehensive win which set the bar high and almost forced the Golds to raise their level of performance. Just as an aside - maybe the Golds performance helped to spur the Blues on - I like the fact we have more pressure on all the teams as it can only spur and inspire players and results across our teams.

The Golds burst out of the blocks to establish an early lead that seemed to put their opponents on the back foot from which they never fully recovered. There were times that the speed of movement of the ball was bamboozling to our opponents. The outcome of that was that the players could see that their efforts over the preseason were being rewarded and it gave them real confidence.

With a scuffle at 1/4 time where both sides sought to establish their manly credentials we lost focus for a period of time and as such the 2nd stanza saw the game descend into a scrap, where scores were hard to come by and the umpires tended to over officiate to try and assert some semblance of control. That said, no issue with that, as it allowed the testosterone in the boys to settle to more socially acceptable levels. As a result the previous fluency was lost and we were looking for the main break to reset our goals and get back on track. Just so the boys are aware - we need to be better than that!

The 3rd saw us again get our mojo back and we overwhelmed our opponents to again kick 8 to put the game well out of reach, but also it defused any further potential for flare ups. In the last the game petered out a bit, but we had done more than enough to demonstrate to the parents, friends and supporters that we had started the season on the right foot and we could sing the song with a bit of volume.

It is always hard to single players out when the result pans out as it did today because there are always a number of contributors, but special mention to Harry Morris & Rob Davis who led the mids, Harry Jarvis who started a lot of the run from the back and Matt Horrigan who helped give us first use from the ruck contest and Pat Cook was a constant source of worry to the opposition as a floating forward. That said I'm not really being fair to a number of other players as it was a comprehensive team performance.



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Next week we play Old Xaverians in the first game of the unprecedented quadruple header at Toorak Park and all players should look to build upon this performance and put pressure on the blokes in the premier team. Let's look forward a good week on the track and get ready to be part of history as we play our part in the quadruple header.

Well done to the Colts and Steve on their debut win for the club and to the Blues on their comprehensive win which helped to bookend a great day at the dairy dome, which only improved when the news from the Glen Waverley rail line derby result filtered through.

|                    | Q1            | Q2              | Q3               | Q4               |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>De La Salle</b> | <b>8.6-54</b> | <b>10.11-71</b> | <b>18.13-121</b> | <b>20.16-136</b> |
| <b>St Bedes</b>    | <b>0.0</b>    | <b>2.1-13</b>   | <b>3.3-21</b>    | <b>4.3-27</b>    |

**Goal Kickers:** C. Morris 4, P. Cook 4, D. Melissinos 2, J. Yosiffidis 2, J. Galbraith, S. Taranto, M. Howard, R. Davis, M. Laoumtzis, C. Northey, L. McCluskey, A. Wood  
**Best Players:** H. Morris, R. Davis, H. Jarvis, P. Cook, C. Northey, M. Horrigan

## Colts

There was a fair bit of excitement and a touch of apprehension in rooms prior to boys playing their first game of U19 footy. We started a bit slowly in both the first 2 quarters but as each quarter progressed the boys run and speed was causing the opposition problems and by halftime the boys had a 22 point lead.

The focus for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was to start quickly and take the game on and this resulted in a terrific quarter of footy where the boys gained the rewards on the scoreboard with a 7 goal quarter. All the boys kept at it in last quarter and Colts finished with a terrific first round win.

Lots to like, especially the even performance of all players and lots of areas to work on including learning the club song. Thanks to Matt for managing the rotations and Mick and Marty for their support and help. Thanks to Brian Watson for organising all team management duties on the day.



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|                    | Q1     | Q2     | Q3      | Q4        |
|--------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|
| <u>De La Salle</u> | 3.3-21 | 6.4-40 | 13.8-86 | 17.11-113 |
| <u>Oakleigh</u>    | 0.3-3  | 2.6-18 | 2.7-19  | 4.10-34   |

**Goal Kickers:** F. McCormack 3, J. Bailey 2, H. Bowen 2, N. O'Sullivan 2, R. Watson 2, R. Rando, J. Squires, P. Hounihan, O. Gunning, J. Gregory, D. Brasher

**Best Players:** H. Bowen, P. Hounihan, Z. Grundmann, A. Martuccio, M. Jakes, R. Rando