



DE LA SALLE OLD COLLEGIANS AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

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

ROUND FIFTEEN MATCH REPORT

SENIORS

Ladder positions contradict recent form with the visitors (9th) having won 3 of their past 4 while we have dropped four in a row but still sit in 5th place, outside the four only on percentage. With playing stocks taking a hammering recently nothing short of a total team effort would get us the points today. Unfortunately 8 changes from last weeks team (on the back of 7 the week before) made that task all the more difficult and the side that ran out today bore little resemblance to those we assembled earlier in the season.

The ground was in fantastic condition but a strong and blustery breeze was blowing to the cricket nets end which would make attractive football particularly difficult. We had first use and started reasonably well but taking into account the strength of the breeze the 11 point quarter time buffer was well under par. Debutant Callum Dooley and Sam Pickett the goal scorers but we missed a couple of good opportunities. The visitors really should have punished us in the second and dominated general play but a return of 2.8 let us off the hook. Hugh Nicholson managed one against the flow and we were happy to go in at half time all square.

A bright start to the third and for a time we looked like building a handy lead but seemed to run out gas half way through the quarter. Four goals in the first 13 minutes but none after that and critically we gave up two goals into the strengthening breeze. You had a sense we were in strife as the 15 point lead at the last change looked a bit skinny. St Bernards dominated the final quarter. They took control early and wiped off the deficit in no time. They were simply better than us for longer and deserved the win.

The boys are trying hard but the reality is just nine players from our round 1 team turned out for the seniors today. Despite some significant personnel challenges we remain alive but are now a game and a 20 % from 4th spot. We must win our last three games to be any chance and next weeks bye provides an opportunity to re-group and hopefully get a few back for a final crack at it. Seniors and Reserves back in a fortnight when we take on St Kevins at home but I urge all supporters to get along and watch our three U19 teams next week who will competing in some crucial, season defining games.

Footnote: Among a host of recent bad luck stories spare a thought for hard nut defender Sam Brooks. Sam was an U19 premiership captain in 2012 and has played some great football at senior level. After missing more than two full seasons through injury Sam returned to the senior line up mid season and made an immediate impact. Unfortunately Sam looks to have sustained yet another long term injury with a prolonged spell on the sidelines likely.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	2.3 - 15	3.8 - 26	7.13 - 55	7.14 - 56
St Bernards	1.0 - 6	3.8 - 26	5.9 - 39	11.18 - 84

Goal Kickers: S. Pickett 2, M. Fieldsend, C. Dooley, T. Humphrey, H. Nicholson, T. Nicholls

Best Players: B. Close, S. Williams, S. Hogan, T. Humphrey, D. Rayson, H. Nicholson

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RESERVES

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	4.0 - 24	5.0 - 30	6.0 - 36	8.1 - 49
St Bernards	4.3 - 27	7.9 - 51	10.19 - 79	16.21 - 117

Goal Kickers: R. McDonough 4, S. Lowe 2, H. Ramsay, J. McGAW

Best Players: H. Ramsay, S. Vawser, D. Commins, J. Hockey, R. McDonough, S. Lowe

THIRDS

BYE

19 BLUES

Undermanned, 5th placed De La Salle Blues took on Ladder leaders Old Xaverians away from home and came away with another heart breaking scoreboard that gives no adequate reward for magnificent bravery, courage, perseverance and commitment. Week after week we have been consistently dogged and determined or our "new normal".

As long as this is maintained as our standard practice, we will reap the rewards in the next few weeks as we take on challenges that could bring us finals. Congratulations to every single player who all totally unhinged the cocky Xav's boys, clearly stunned by our ferocity. Special shout-outs to the guys who played an extra game to help us, the guys who carried injuries and the guys who kept their cool when they might, in the past, have been selfish or weak enough to get distracted. Unfortunately, just after we hit the front, halfway into the third quarter, we started to run out of steam. Even then we still persevered and so, fortunately, we are still only one game behind but four percent ahead of 4th placed Old Scotch, who play Old Xavs this week.

This week our alleged new found discipline will be fully tested against 3rd placed Beaumaris because we always seem to "lose the plot" against them. Last time, we know it was an absolute disgrace and we have pride on the line. I can't wait for this week which could well be our best and most important win for a long time. ARE WE READY ??

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Old Xaverians	2.3	4.5	9.5	14.10 - 94
De La Salle	1.2	3.4	5.4	8.5 - 53

Goal Kickers: D. Krelle 5, A. Nyanjok 2, J. Gregory

Best Players: L. Bisognin, W. Mackie, D. Krelle, M. Colak, M. Lvovskiy, A. Lvovskiy

19 GOLDS

Each week I seem to write that we have made changes, this week was no different with 7 changes to the last weeks team, but given the result it was to no avail, for the same result occurred, where the Golds were brave, never gave up, but were overpowered by a more cohesive Old Xavs team at Stradbroke park.

Despite making 7 changes we still only had 20 and that included 2 debutants Adam Martuccio and Matt Tyquin both year 11 boys from the college as injuries, unavailability's and other commitments forced our hand. To old timers the days of 2 on the bench were the norm, but when the opposition has 24 the rotations and inevitable injuries in the game can bite deep.

The summary of the game was Old Xavs good, De La not so. Old Xavs better with the ball in hand and better with their use of the ball and work rate, De La far too many skill errors, far too many players not matching their opponents in all facets of the game and as a result justice prevailed.

It seemed that despite our best efforts we were always playing catch up. We had a really strong 1st quarter, probably didn't take some early chances we had, but despite being pleased with the efforts led by some great clearance work by Michael Canny in the ruck and our undersized mids we just weren't getting the reward for effort. However, our opponents were more fluid going forward, and more clinical in front with a couple of good targets and subsequently scored more easily.

The 2nd was marred by a shocking display of partisanship by the home team boundary umpire who transpired to impose himself over the game by "witnessing" an alleged assault by a De La player and influenced the officials to send the player off thus rendering De La already struggling against older, bigger and more skilled players to play for 15 minutes with 17. In that time the home side kicked 4 unanswered goals and the game was effectively over. After much discussion with the unsuspecting officials at the main break sanity prevailed and the "report" was correctly overruled.

The 3rd saw no let up by the home side and in many ways it was a bit of a procession as they moved the ball up and down and across the ground to stretch us and pull us apart to open up more space for their taller targets to take easy uncontested marks as we tired and chased tail. To the credit of the home team they exploited our weaknesses and our tiring bodies and drove their advantage home.

To the credit of the Golds the last saw us actually win the quarter despite having no bench as a result of injuries. In many ways this was reward for effort, as the players deserved something from the game after all that had occurred with phantom reports, not a lot of luck, and a lot of 50-50 calls going the way of the home team. However, it was scant reward and a Pyrrhic victory at best. I'm not quite sure how it happened, but there may have been some showboating by the home side, they certainly had ample opportunities, but we were quite resilient and kept them at bay and somehow the last quarter shows we out scored them. Unbelievable, but true.

Really pleasing were the efforts of Michael Canny as a lone ruckman who certainly beat his taller and older opponents, Tom Defferous, Woody, Yoss and Josh Galbraith in the back half, good to see Chris Northey back on the park after 7 weeks off, much better games from Pat Cook, Michael Laoumtzis and Jimmy Tran and tireless and selfless efforts from clearly hampered Paul Kony and Harry Morris. Thanks and well done to Adam and Matt in their debuts as they were not out of place and acquitted themselves really well.

To Matt Simons, Jimmy Tran and Matt Tyquin a great effort by you blokes to then double up and play in the Blues game straight after. Thanks.

Next week I'd like to think we get a few back, but even if we don't - we need to get our season back on track and need to actually get people on the track as we face Beaumaris at home in a vital game. It is up to the players, it's their team and they need to drive the agenda for the team.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Old Xaverians	4.3 - 27	8.10 - 58	13.15 - 93	13.18 - 96
De La Salle	2.3 - 15	4.3 - 27	4.4 - 28	5.6 - 36

Goal Kickers: P. Cook 2, C. Northey, R. Davis, k. Tran
Best Players: M. Canny, M. Tyquin, k. Tran, H. Morris, T. Deftereos, J. Yosiffidis

19 COLTS

We ventured to Mazenod with the ledger between the teams at one win each and the boys were very keen to have another crack at a finals bound team. The Colts played a great first half of footy and had a match winning lead at the main break. Mazenod were down on personnel but even allowing for this our first half was very dominant.

Against the wind in the 1st qtr, we ran the ball well despite the early wet conditions and had four majors on the board. The second quarter was some of the best of the year with 22 inside 50s, resulting in 14 scoring shots, although we did miss a number of very gettable goals. Our mids controlled the game with Trent not only dominating in the centre but he also managed to kick 5 goals. We used Jakey, Will Taylor and Jack squires as rotating mids and their strength in and under began many forward thrusts for the colts. Jimmy Mullaly was very constructive with his handball and this created space for our runners.

It was great to have Zac back at fullback where he began many attacking moves. Charlie Bird answered the call and played well through the midfield. The undermanned Mazenod boys lifted in the 2nd half and whilst we controlled the match we only kicked 4 majors which was disappointing for the amount of possession we had.

Lots of positives to take from the game but as we spoke about after the game, lots of players were tiring in the last quarter and we all need to get to training and get some run into our legs leading up to the return match against St Bedes and finals which are only 4 weeks away!

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Mazenod	2.2 - 14	2.2 - 14	4.6 - 30	6.9 - 45
De La Salle	4.1 - 25	11.8 - 74	12.9 - 81	15.11 - 101