



TAMWORTH SWANS AFC



2019 MATCH REPORTS





Tamworth Swans AFC – 2019 Men's

BACK: Jeff Talbot, Paul Kelly, Nathan Keam, Stephen Fairless, Liam Dunn, Paul Tapper,
 Todd Jones, Adam Cruickshank, Jayden Taylor, Jimmy Keir, Ryland Sainsbury,
 Nathan Bradburn, Andrew Finlay, Nicholas Bacon, Ed George.
 FRONT: Josh Cruickshank, Connor Betts, Sam Ellicott, Cooper Kelly, Sam Spokes,
 Jesse Verdouw, Ben Jaffrey, Ben Simmons, Dale Gericke.





Tamworth Swans AFC – 2019 Women's

BACK: Nathalie Joice, Grace Eppelstun, Meg Hillenberg, Olivia Climpson, Rebecca Allan, Sasha Verdouw, Bianca Hughes, Naomi Burke, Gabrielle Joice, Dani Robson, Kerrie Phillips, Hannah Lipscomb, Lara Taggart, Andrew Donohue.

FRONT: Elise Daly, Sarah Pannowitz, Billie Mitchell, Daisy George, Madeleine Pearce, Jess Kirkpatrick, Madison Sharp, Stephanie Koukides, Hayley Ryan, Lauren Lamrock, Lara McKenzie.

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SUMMARY OF RESULTS – 2019 MEN'S

R1	A	Narrabri Eagles	23.27 (165) – 3.3 (21)
R2	A	Gunnedah Bulldogs	7.9 (51) – 21.19 (145)
R3	H	Inverell Saints	5.12 (42) – 10.16 (76)
R4		BYE	
R5	H	New England Nomads	11.11 (77) – 12.17 (89)
R6	H	Moree Suns	18.18 (126) – 5.12 (42)
R7	A	Tamworth Kangaroos	16.12 (108) – 9.6 (60)
R8		BYE	
R9	A	Inverell Saints	6.2 (38) – 25.20 (170)
R10	H	Gunnedah Bulldogs	6.5 (41) – 27.15 (177)
R11		BYE	
R12	A	New England Nomads	14.13 (97) – 12.13 (85)
R13	A	Moree Suns	16.15 (111) – 5.8 (38)
R14	H	Tamworth Kangaroos	15.12 (102) – 9.3 (57)
SF		New England Nomads	2.7 (19) – 9.11 (65)

PREMIERSHIP LADDER – 2019 MEN'S

	P	W	L	F	A	%	WR
Inverell Saints	10	9	1	1327	511	259.69	90.00
Gunnedah Bulldogs	10	9	1	1242	633	196.21	90.00
New England Nomads	10	5	0	994	869	114.38	50.00
Tamworth Swans	10	5	0	793	939	84.45	50.00
Tamworth Kangaroos	10	2	8	725	1102	65.79	20.00
Moree Suns	10	0	10	430	1457	29.51	0.00
Narrabri Eagles	2	0	2	Withdrew after Round 3			

2019 MATCH STATISTICS – MEN'S

REGULAR SEASON (ROUNDS 1 TO 14)




		MATCHES	GOALS	GOAL AVERAGE	HIGHEST SCORE	TIMES IN BEST	TOTAL BEST
Bacon	Nicholas	11	4	0.36	2	5	14
Betts	Connor	10	3	0.3	1	4	7
Bradburn	Nathan	9	3	0.33	2	2	7
Cruickshank	Adam	11	12	1.09	6	10	37
Cruickshank	Josh	10	-	-	-	3	11
Doherty	Joseph	1	2	2	2	-	-
Doyle	Angus	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dunn	Liam	8	1	0.12	1	6	30
Dunston	James	8	1	0.12	1	1	2
Ellicott	Samuel	7	5	0.71	2	2	2
Fairless	Stephen	11	3	0.27	1	-	-
Finlay	Andrew	11	2	0.18	1	1	4
Fraser	Ross	5	-	-	-	1	5
George	Edward	11	6	0.54	2	8	40
Gericke	Dale	9	30	3.33	9	2	10
Goodwin	Patrick	1	-	-	-	-	-
Jaffrey	Ben	10	2	0.2	1	2	5
Jeffriess-Tapper	Jordan	7	1	0.14	1	2	2
Jones	Todd	7	1	0.14	1	-	-
Keam	Nathan	11	6	0.54	2	1	3
Keir	Martin	5	-	-	-	-	-
Kelly	Cooper	10	3	0.3	1	3	9
Knee	Gavin	5	6	1.2	3	-	-
Letton	Brad	5	-	-	-	-	-
McKenzie	Josh	1	-	-	-	-	-
Oxford	Chris	5	14	2.8	5	-	-
Sainsbury	Ryland	5	2	0.4	2	2	4
Simmons	Ben	4	-	-	-	-	-
Spokes	Samuel	6	4	0.67	2	2	5
Talbot	Jeff	2	2	1	1	-	-
Tapper	Paul	9	3	0.33	2	1	1
Taylor	Jayden	10	-	-	-	3	10
Verdouw	Jesse	11	18	1.64	3	5	23
Wendt	Damien	3	3	1	3	-	-

SUMMARY OF RESULTS – 2019 WOMEN'S

R1		BYE	
R2	A	Tamworth Kangaroos	1.3 (9) – 3.10 (28)
R3	H	Inverell Saints	0.0 (0) – 9.12 (66)
R4	A	Inverell Saints	1.0 (6) – 17.11 (113)
R5	H	New England Nomads	2.2 (14) – 6.7 (43)
R6		BYE	
R7	A	Tamworth Kangaroos	7.8 (50) – 2.3 (15)
R8	H	New England Nomads	11.14 (80) – 0.3 (3)
R9	A	Inverell Saints	10.5 (65) – 1.3 (9)
R10	H	Tamworth Kangaroos	1.3 (9) – 3.9 (27)
R11		BYE	
R12	A	New England Nomads	6.10 (46) – 2.5 (17)
R13		BYE	
R14	H	Tamworth Kangaroos	5.4 (34) – 3.1 (19)
SF		New England Nomads	4.12 (26) – 0.0 (0)
PF		Tamworth Kangaroos	2.1 (13) – 3.5 (23)

PREMIERSHIP LADDER – 2019 WOMEN'S

								
	P	W	L	F	A	%	WR	
	Inverell Saints	10	10	0	785	86	912.79	100.00
	Tamworth Kangaroos	10	5	5	263	411	63.99	50.00
	Tamworth Swans	10	4	6	257	396	64.90	40.00
New England Nomads	10	1	9	186	598	31.10	10.00	

2019 MATCH STATISTICS – WOMEN'S REGULAR SEASON (ROUNDS 1 TO 14)



		MATCHES	GOALS	GOAL AVERAGE	HIGHEST SCORE	TIMES IN BEST	TOTAL BEST
Allen	Rebecca	8	-	-	-	-	-
Burke	Naomi	6	-	-	-	-	-
Carroll	Joanne	1	-	-	-	-	-
Climpson	Olivia	6	7	1.17	2	4	10
Daly	Elise	8	-	-	-	-	-
Eppelstun	Grace	1	-	-	-	1	2
George	Daisy	8	4	0.5	3	8	36
George	Eleanor	2	-	-	-	-	-
Graham	Shania	2	-	-	-	-	-
Hillenberg	Meg	5	-	-	-	1	1
Hogarth	Amee	1	1	1	1	-	-
Hughes	Bianca	10	-	-	-	4	19
Joice	Gabrielle	10	4	0.4	2	1	1
Kirkpartick	Jessica	10	1	0.1	1	6	19
Koukides	Stephanie	8	3	0.38	2	2	11
Lamrock	Lauren	6	-	-	-	5	20
Lipscomb	Hannah	7	-	-	-	1	1
McKenzie	Lara	6	-	-	-	-	-
Mitchell	Billie	9	6	0.67	2	7	27
Pannowitz	Sarah	10	3	0.3	2	2	8
Pearce	Madeleine	8	-	-	-	2	7
Phillips	Kerrie	7	-	-	-	2	7
Robson	Dani	8	-	-	-	3	8
Ryan	Hayley	9	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp	Madison	7	3	0.43	1	3	5
Taggart	Lara	9	2	0.22	1	5	18
Taylor	Lauren	1	-	-	-	-	-
Verdouw	Sasha	9	1	0.11	1	2	10
Wilson	Clare	3	-	-	-	-	-

Round 1 Men's – 27th April 2019
Narrabri Eagles v Tamworth Swans
Leitch Oval, Narrabri

The leadup to the Swans' first match for 2019 was focused on uncertainty over the Eagles ability to field a team, with some preseason injuries savaging their playing list. A strong preseason showing at the Crossroads Cup had plenty talking about the Swans in the media, but even with some new faces the Swans were well aware of the danger of not respecting the strength of the Eagles core on their home patch. Stephen Fairless and Josh McKenzie stripped up for the Eagles to bolster their numbers on a warm autumn day on the western plains.

The Swans respect for their opponents was apparent from the opening bounce, bringing genuine pressure in the centre to get the best of the early ball. Some scratchy entries inside fifty and a determined Eagles back six saw them unable to take full toll, and the Eagles midfield lifted to even out the contest between the arcs. Struggling to promote the ball beyond half forward, the Eagles found themselves continually on the wrong side of the territory ledger, which told as the quarter wore on and the Swans skipped away to a handy lead.

The second quarter saw the Eagles able to build some pressure in the forward half, and challenge the Swans centre and defence as a result. With the visitors goaling twice and lifting somewhat in confidence, the Swans forwards found themselves under renewed pressure moving the ball inside fifty. The Swans remained on top, but by halftime the Eagles had made the Swans work for each of their 66 point advantage.

A big lift came from the Swans in the third quarter, who brought a renewed purpose at each contest to get right on top in the game. Better effort saw improved transitional play, and Joe Doherty stepped up as a forward target before Dale Gericke came into his own, kicking a swag of goals to extend the Swans lead late in the quarter. The fourth quarter saw the effort on key Eagles centremen tell, the Swans finishing full of running and extending the margin to run out winners by 144 points.

Paul Kelly was suitably impressed by his side's effort, particularly the improvement in clean ball movement in the second half. Dale Gericke produced an impressive performance in his first outing for the Swans, booting nine majors, named their best and dominating the player's player poll. Jordan Jeffriess-Tapper also impressed in his return for the Swans. The Green Ant went to Jesse Verdouw, who set a new standard in match day luggage.

FINAL RESULTS

EAGLES:	0.0 (0)	2.1 (13)	3.3 (21)	3.3 (21)
SWANS:	6.4 (40)	11.13 (79)	17.20 (122)	23.27 (165)

GOALS:

EAGLES: J. McKenzie, R. Nixon, M. Reid (1).

SWANS: D. Gericke (9); G. Knee (3); J. Doherty, P. Tapper (2); N. Bradburn, A. Cruickshank, S. Ellicott, E. George, N. Keam, C. Kelly, C. Oxford (1).

BEST:

EAGLES: L. Cunningham, R. Nixon, T. Hayne, D. Kennedy, D. Nixon, L. Darlington.

SWANS: D. Gericke, E. George, A. Finlay, A. Cruickshank, C. Betts, J. Jeffriess-Tapper.

Gillies Medal votes: J. Jeffriess-Tapper (3), D. Gericke (2).



Round 2 Women's – 4th May 2019
Tamworth Kangaroos v Tamworth Swans
Riverside 5, Tamworth

With Number One Oval unavailable due to some welcome rain, the Swans ladies would have to wait to christen their home patch in a competitive sense. Irrespective, there was a definite nervous excitement about the group who took to Riverside 5 in their first true match in the red and white. A first time local derby against the reigning Premiers, the Tamworth Kangaroos, added to the occasion.

The first women's derby stated much the same as many of the men's editions, with hard football providing little space and presenting both teams with very few chances inside forward fifty. The Swans found some space to open up with some good running footy to find Daisy George, who snapped to kick the first goal for the Lady Swans, which saw out the scoring for the first quarter.

The second quarter was much the same, with the effort at the ball from both teams presenting neither with space to create telling attacking chances. The Kangaroos fought back into the contest, but the Swans defence limited them to four minor scores to maintain a two point lead into the main break.

With both teams determined to press their claims to the game, the third quarter became more scrappy in the face of strong pressure across the ground. The Swans remained up for the fight, but the Kangaroos experience saw them able to maintain better structure to capitalise on the bounce of the ball. Finding forward targets with cleaner ball late in the game, the Kangaroos produced a strong fourth quarter to get the better of a valiant Swans team by 19 points.

A proud Swans coach Andrew Donohue was full of praise for a good team effort from the ladies, whose boundless enthusiasm saw them close to upsetting their more experienced rivals. Dani Robson was named the Swans best, with a hardworking Billie Mitchell winning the Player's Player vote. Gabby Joice won the Green Ant for making sure her baggage fetcher earned his keep.



FINAL RESULTS

KANGAROOS:	0.0 (0)	0.4 (4)	1.5 (11)	3.10 (28)
SWANS:	1.0 (6)	1.0 (6)	1.2 (8)	1.3 (9)

GOALS:

KANGAROOS: A. Brown, S. Campbell, R. Spark (1).

SWANS: D. George (1).

BEST:

KANGAROOS: N. Spark, S. Campbell, E. Southwell, N. Deaves, E. Skewes, A. Brown.

SWANS: D. Robson, K. Phillips, L. Taggart, D. George, G. Eppelstun, B. Mitchell.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: L. Taggart (3).



Round 2 Men's – 4th May 2019
Gunnedah Bulldogs v Tamworth Swans
Wolsley Park, Gunnedah

There was quite a focus on the Bulldogs-Swans match in round 2, after both had posted impressive wins the week before. Despite some key outs and some further late withdrawals, the Swans were keen to step up to the plate against the Bulldogs, a good measuring stick on the boom that had been about the Swans in the lead up. A wet Friday saw a soft Wolsley Park under foot, as a fine day greeted the two combatants.

The Bulldogs started like they were expecting a genuine contest, and the step up in intensity in the middle maybe caught the Swans a little by surprise. The visitors rose the challenge, and for the first part the teams traded even blows between the arcs. The Bulldogs cleaner ball movement and sharp entries inside 50 were a clear difference, but the Swans were still well in the game despite trailing by 19 at the first break.

The second quarter saw the Bulldogs genuinely kick off, taking charge of the midfield and pouring the pressure onto the Swans back six. Though they remained resilient under genuine challenge, the centre dominance of the Bulldogs told, and with the Swans struggling with some key match ups the Bulldogs piled on the goals to take a commanding lead of 56 points into half time.

The Swans were urged to lift their effort into the third period, and they did, and were rewarded with some genuine attacking pressure as a result. The Swans disposal in the front half continued to let them down at times, and the Bulldogs being much cleaner were able to make better use of the ball they won. The Swans battled away in the fourth quarter, but were exposed by the stronger run from the Bulldogs, and the effort of chasing became apparent. Some quality goals saw the Bulldogs extend their lead to run out clear victors by 94 points.

Though clearly beaten, and the second quarter aside, the Swans effort was not nearly as bad as the margin would indicate, and their response in the third quarter was encouraging. Josh Cruickshank was a shining light with a strong effort across half forward, and he was named the Swans' best and Player's Player. Jayden Taylor, Jesse Verdouw and Liam Dunn also impressed, with a special mention to the three goal effort from late inclusion Damien Wendt. The Green Ant went to Andrew Finlay for outlasting all except the boys in blue the previous weekend.



FINAL RESULTS

BULLDOGS:	4.4 (28)	10.13 (73)	16.14 (110)	21.19 (145)
SWANS:	1.3 (9)	2.5 (17)	6.6 (42)	7.9 (51)

GOALS:

BULLDOGS: A. George (4); M. Ewington, J. Spackman, J. Thomas (3); P. Hallin, F. Lamb (2); M. Barrow, G. Briggs, B. Maher, S. Proudfoot (1).

SWANS: D. Wendt (3); S. Ellicott (2); E. George, G. Knee (1).

BEST:

BULLDOGS: A. Curgenvan, B. Maher, S. Proudfoot, B. Hartley, J. Spackman, D. Tuckerman.

SWANS: J. Cruickshank, A. Cruickshank, J. Verdouw, J. Taylor, N. Bacon, J. Jeffriess-Tapper.

Gillies Medal votes: E. George (1).



Round 3 Women's – 11th May 2019
Tamworth Swans v Inverell Saints
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

The Swans' ladies hit Number One Oval for the first time in their second match in the AFL North West NSW, taking on the other half of last year's Grand Final in the Inverell Saints. Even the breeze coming off Hanging Rock snow on a very brisk Tamworth morning couldn't take the heat out of the enthusiasm of the Swans, who were keen to test themselves further after their first taste of competitive footy.

The Saints were fast out of the blocks though, their experience at the clearance giving them first use of the ball, and structure across half forward pinning the Swans at their defensive end. With the Swans struggling to clear the ball, the field pressure and effective ball movement from the Saints saw them skip out to a handy early lead. With a restructure late in the first quarter, the Swans backline did well into the second quarter as the Saints continued on the attack. Repelling many of their opponent's advances, the Swans midfield worked hard but struggled for clean ball and found it difficult to push the ball into the forward half. The Saints experience became telling, as they were able to make better use of the ball they had won to push their lead out to 39 points at halftime.

Despite the score, the Swans stuck to their guns in the second half. The backline determination didn't falter, and some game efforts through the centre and strong marking in the forward half saw the Saints defence under pressure for the first time in the match. Rewarded with some set shots, the Swans were not rewarded with a score, whilst the Saints structure saw them able to move the ball effectively into attack to stretch their advantage and run out decisive victors by 66 points.

Swans coach Andrew Donohue was impressed with the spirit and effort shown by his charges against a much more experienced outfit. Billie Mitchell worked hard and won plenty of tough ball in the middle, and she was named the Swans best and Player's Player just ahead of a brave ruck performance from Lara Taggart. The Green Ant went to Maddison Sharp, who got away with a text book rugby pass.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)
SAINTS:	3.5 (23)	5.9 (39)	6.11 (47)	9.12 (66)

GOALS:

SWANS: Nil.

SAINTS: C. McCosker, K. Penberthy (2); C. Baldwin, L. Gunther, C. Pay, T. Saunders, G. Strang (1).

BEST:

SWANS: B. Mitchell, L. Taggart, D. George, J. Kirkpatrick, L. Lamrock, H. Lipscomb.

SAINTS: L. Gunther, C. Baldwin, S. Press, K. Hamilton, T. Mair.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: B. Mitchell (2).



Round 3 Men's – 11th May 2019
Tamworth Swans v Inverell Saints
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

Back at home for the first time in the new season, the Swans were keen to make amends for a disappointing loss the week before. The return of some key players provided a confidence boost, but there was no illusion of the size of the task at hand, facing the 2018 Premiers and regular League yard stick in the Inverell Saints.

The Swans opened the match with a flurry, strong efforts at the early contested ball seeing them earn the best of the field position at the start of the match. Bringing numbers to the ball and moving it forward with confidence, the Swans skipped away to an early lead. Inevitably the Saints lifted their efforts, with tough challenges across each line a hallmark of the first half. The Swans took a slender lead into the first break, but with the Saints making the best of their sights on goal there was nothing separating the two at half time.

Feeling like they had the better of the match to that point, the Swans were expecting a reply from the Saints into the third quarter. The contest between the arcs remained even, both sides applying pressure to ball carriers and challenging hard for any loose ball. The Swans carved out opportunities, but failed to fully capitalise to keep the Saints under scoreboard pressure, and the visitors had eeked out a gap into the last term. Both sides became wasteful with chances to lay claim to the win, but the Saints stretched their gap and grew in confidence as the Swans faced challenges with injury and cramping players. It was the Saints who ran the match out stronger, but the Swans lost no admirers in a 34 point loss.

Paul Kelly remained upbeat after the match, impressed by what he described as the best football the Swans had played against Inverell in nearly ten years. Liam Dunn was a standout across half back, staunch in defence and launching the Swans on the attack, with a long range goal a proper highlight. He was named the Swans best along with the Player's Player. The Green Ant went to Stephen Fairless, who had some places to be over the weekend.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	2.6 (18)	3.7 (25)	5.8 (38)	5.12 (42)
SAINTS:	2.1 (13)	4.1 (25)	7.5 (47)	10.16 (76)

GOALS:

SWANS: L. Dunn, J. Dunston, S. Ellicott, D. Gericke, G. Knee (1).

SAINTS: M. Gould (3); H. Chappel, J. Desborough-Graham (2); D. Baldwin, P. Stevenson, K. Te Velde (1).

BEST:

SWANS: L. Dunn, A. Cruickshank, N. Bradburn, N. Bacon, J. Dunston, S. Ellicott.

SAINTS: W. Mozzell, T. Desborough, J. Desborough-Graham, M. Schneider, M. Gould, H. Chappel.

Gillies Medal votes: E. George (1).



Round 4 Women's – 18th May 2019
Inverell Saints v Tamworth Swans
Varley Oval, Inverell

Despite a heavy defeat at home against the Saints a week prior, the Swans ladies were keen to continue their development and face up to the same opponents in the Sapphire City. There was some disappointment in the late withdrawal of co-captain Daisy George with injury, but the enthusiasm of the Swans was still on show as they ran out onto a pristine Varley Oval.

The Saints were certainly there to play football, their experience at the clearances evident again from the start as they had the better of the early ball. The Swans worked hard but impressively clean ball movement and strong marking in the forward fifty saw the Saints post a string of goals in the first quarter. The early exchanges saw the Swans finding it difficult to penetrate into the forward half, but as the game developed they started to make use of Maddi Pearce's strong ruck efforts to gain some of the first use of the ball. With improved field position, their determination at the contested ball earned an attacking free kick, from which a neat kick and mark exchange produced a goal by Amee Hogarth in her Swans debut. The hosts clearly had the better of the first half though, and went into the main break with a 63 point lead.

The second half saw the Swans take the challenge back up to the Saints, with the clearances becoming more balanced and the Swans running into space, and able to promote the ball with more efficiency as the game developed. Defensively, strong tackling and some hard spoiling frustrated the Saints clean ball from the first half, forcing the hosts to work harder for each glimpse at goal. The Saints remained more decisive with their ball movement and were able to make better use of their entries inside fifty, which told on the scoreboard, but the Swans battled away at each contest to the end even facing a 107 point deficit at full time.

Bianca Hughes turned out a strong defensive effort at full back and was named the Swans best. Madeleine Pearce similarly was strong in the ruck to take out the Player's Player, narrowly ahead of a brave Sasha Verdouw who continued to be a key midfield contributor despite being on the wrong end of a heavy collision in the centre of the ground. The Green Ant went to Jess Kirkpatrick for some over-zealous fining.



FINAL RESULTS

SAINTS:	6.1 (37)	11.3 (69)	15.7 (97)	17.11 (113)
SWANS:	0.0 (0)	1.0 (6)	1.0 (6)	1.0 (6)

GOALS:

SAINTS: C. McCosker (7); S. Mooney (5); C. Easy, K. Hamilton, J. Pay, K. Penberthy, T. Saunders (1).

SWANS: A. Hogarth (1).

BEST:

SAINTS: C. McCosker, S. Kastelein, G. Strang, K. Sims, G. Mooney, S. Press.

SWANS: B. Hughes, M. Pearce, S. Verdouw, B. Mitchell, J. Kirkpatrick, M. Hillenberg.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: B. Mitchell (1).



Round 5 Women's – 25th May 2019
Tamworth Swans v New England Nomads
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

With two tough games against the League leaders behind them, the Tamworth Swans turned their sights back home to Number One Oval, looking forward to testing themselves against the Nomads in a match that looked likely to be more competitive. A cool morning broke into a deceptively warm early afternoon for the lunchtime start.

The game opened with the balance that was expected, the Nomads with a clear ruck advantage getting the first use of the ball, but the Swans midfield pressure stopped any easy advancing from the clearances. With some experience in the centre, the Nomads found the better of the early field position, but a stoic Swans defence kept them to only minor scores. As the game opened, the Swans found space on the counter and looked dangerous on the attack, and when Lara Taggart's hard running was rewarded with a true snap the Swans looked ready to truly challenge for their first win. With the game still evenly poised, the Swans were upbeat going into half time with a four point advantage.

With the Nomads also looking for their first win of the season, the tempo stepped up after the long break. Neat stoppage play put the Nomads on the attack quickly, and with their first goal their confidence in the forward half lifted. Strong pressure on the ball saw a tight battle between the arcs, but with the Nomads gaining clean ball in the forward half they were able to find forward targets and extend their advantage with a string of neatly constructed goals. The Swans were not without attacking opportunities, but struggled for effective ball inside forward fifty. Their effort remained, and they looked most dangerous on the counter, especially Madison Sharp, who came into her own late in the match and was rewarded with a superb long range running goal. The Nomads were stronger in the second half though, and ran out victors by 29 points.

The result was clearly disappointing for the Swans, who felt through the match an elusive first win was within grasp, and were not far off without doing a whole lot wrong despite falling short on the scoreboard. Irrespective, there was plenty to take from a game where they pushed the Nomads all the way. Bianca Hughes was strong in defence and was named the Swans best. She was in a three-way tie in the Player's Player poll with Dani Robson and Lara Taggart. The Green Ant was not awarded on the night, but a delayed award went to Dani Robson, who woke with a broken thumb after being more concerned post-game about a sore shoulder and jaw.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	0.1 (1)	1.2 (8)	2.2 (14)	2.2 (14)
NOMADS:	0.2 (2)	0.4 (4)	4.5 (29)	6.7 (43)

GOALS:

SWANS: M. Sharp, L. Taggart (1).

NOMADS: C. Cummings (3); L. Macdonald, D. McRae, K. Muller (1).

BEST:

SWANS: B. Hughes, J. Kirkpatrick, L. Lamrock, B. Mitchell, M. Sharp, D. Robson.

NOMADS: L. Raymond, C. Star, L. Macdonald, C. D'Gluyas, K. Willis, J. Moody.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: B. Mitchell (1).



Round 5 Men's – 25th May 2019
Tamworth Swans v New England Nomads
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

Round 5 saw the Swans take to the New England Nomads with renewed confidence after pushing the Saints the week before. With Number One presented in outstanding order, a pleasant day saw near perfect conditions for what promised to be a cracking game of football.

The Swans' confidence showed early as they opened the game with a strong drive from the centre to get the better of the early clearances. Pushing the ball forward, the Swans were a little wasteful and missed opportunities to fully take control of the game on the scoreboard, as the resilient Nomads made the best of theirs. Although the Swans appeared to have the better of the first half, the Nomads remained right at their heels, the difference just five points at the long break.

As the Nomads settled into the third quarter their intensity lifted and the momentum of the game shifted, the visitors dominating attacking play but a robust Swans defence seeing them kick a string of minor scores. The Swans stuck to their guns and fought to wrestle momentum back, keeping themselves within reach of the Nomads before a lapse in discipline saw them lose a man for the final thirty minutes of the match. The remaining Swans responded gamely, working hard to overcome the extra number for the Nomads, but the advantage was telling and the Nomads ran out victors by twelve points.

There was clear disappointment in losing a winnable game, however the effort from the Swans remained one of promise and saw them again extend quality opposition. The best for the Swans was Ed George, who also narrowly topped the Player's Player poll over a hardworking Jesse Verdouw. Paul Kelly wound back the clock to win another Green Ant, this time for somehow locking his keys in his truck with the engine running.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	3.4 (22)	7.8 (50)	9.9 (63)	11.11 (77)
NOMADS:	3.4 (22)	6.9 (45)	9.16 (70)	12.17 (89)

GOALS:

SWANS: D. Gericke, J. Verdouw (2); A. Cruickshank, S. Fairless, E. George, B. Jaffrey, J. Jeffriess-Tapper, N. Keam, C. Kelly (1).

NOMADS: D. Richards (6); A. Quail (2); J. Grant, H. Munday, A. Munro, A. Walsh (1).

BEST:

SWANS: E. George, J. Verdouw, L. Dunn, B. Jaffrey, C. Kelly, A. Cruickshank.

NOMADS: C. Nest, A. Gray, D. Richards, A. Quail, L. Raymond, M. Dunn.

Gillies Medal votes: E. George (3).



Round 6 Men's – 1st June 2019
Tamworth Swans v Moree Suns
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

Following on from two close home losses, the Swans went into round 6 keen to push their claims for a top four position in hosting a Moree Suns outfit that had shown improvement from last season. As a cold morning gave way to a calm and sunny late Autumn afternoon, the Swans were taking nothing for granted and held full respect for the capabilities of even a somewhat undermanned Suns.

The match opened with a willing contest as expected, but with the Swans showing genuine ball-winning intent through the centre they had the better of the early opportunities. Moving the ball well to strong forward targets, the Swans looked dangerous but the determined Suns made good use of their own attacking chances to keep themselves in the contest. The second quarter saw the Swans come into their own, getting well on top at the contest, transitioning cleanly into attack and penetrating the forward fifty with effect. Although the Swans finishing saw them spurn some opportunities to really snuff out the Suns' challenge, the dominance of the Swans in that second period saw them clear out to a 58 point lead at half time.

The Swans opened the third term strongly, still wary of the Suns ability and not wanting to give them hope of a resurgence. Again they failed to capitalise on scoring opportunities, and as Moree stepped up their efforts the Swans talk around the ball appeared to drop off and the Suns levelled out the contest. The Swans back six held strong, however with the battle between the arcs balancing the Suns were able to create chances on the counter attack. The Swans were able to hold the game Suns off for much of an even finish to the game, to seal a good win by 84 points.

With the win really set up in the second quarter, there was plenty to like about the Swans win as they look to build momentum into the second half of the season. Ed George was in ominous form again, and he was named the Swans' best as well as the Player's Player. Sam Spokes impressed in some strong running and penetrating entries in the forward fifty off the wing. The Green Ant went to James Dunston after a change of playing number (and jersey size).



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	3.4 (22)	11.9 (75)	16.17 (113)	18.18 (126)
SUNS:	2.3 (15)	2.5 (17)	3.7 (25)	5.12 (42)

GOALS:

SWANS: C. Oxford (5); A. Cruickshank, E. George, D. Gericke, N. Keam, S. Spokes (2); B. Jaffrey, G. Knee, P. Tapper (1).

SUNS: D. Richards (2); J. Nash, A. Walsh, D. West (1).

BEST:

SWANS: E. George, A. Crucikshank, L. Dunn, N. Keam, S. Spokes, P. Tapper.

SUNS: J. Montgomery, S. Hall, D. West, J. Nash, M. Lather, M. Trainor.

Gillies Medal votes: L. Dunn (3), E. George (2).



Round 7 Women's – 15th June 2019
Tamworth Kangaroos v Tamworth Swans
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

It was a big local derby day, as the Swans women prepared for their second encounter of the season with the reigning Premiers the Kangaroos. Having come within touching distance of their first win of the season in their last match, the Swans had a quiet determination about them as they took to Number One Oval on a fine afternoon.

The Swans determination was evident from the get-go, with strong ruck work from Lara Taggart and dogged roving from Billie Mitchell putting them right on the attack. Camped in the forward fifty, it wasn't long before the Swans turned that pressure into point with the first goal of the match. With confidence building, the Swans kept on the attack and produced a further two goals to push themselves out to a deserved and handy 19 point lead at the first change.

As happens in local derbies, the Swans had to expect a response for the Kangaroos, and they got one in the second quarter. Lifting their intensity at the contested ball, the Kangaroos were able to get first touch on the Sherrin, and the momentum in the match balanced. Good transition play on the counter was rewarded with the Kangaroos first goal, and saw them reduce the gap to 15 at half time.

The third quarter became a tough contest, with the Kangaroos building momentum and their more experienced players settling their play to see cleaner entries inside fifty. The Swans defence stood strong, but the shift in momentum in the game was evident, and when the Kangaroos kicked their second goal they looked set to run over the Swans. At three quarter time the difference was reduced to 10 points, and the stage set for a hectic final period.

Determined not to let the game slip away, the Swans stepped up in the final quarter. Strong drive from the centre gave them the best of the early field position, and a renewed hunger in the forward half saw them push the hardworking Kangaroos defence. The attacking pressure told, and with the Swans goaling their confidence lifted again. Some staunch efforts across halfback repelled the Kangaroos inevitable efforts in reply, and when a second goal for the quarter was followed by a third and fourth, sideline nerves turned to excitement and watched the Swans take their first women's victory by 35 points.

A proud coach Andrew Donohue and manager Nathalie Joice welcomed a very happy group of ladies back to the change room for a loud and deservedly proud rendition of the team song. Billie Mitchell was a force to be reckoned with through the middle of the ground, taking the Swans best and Player's Player along with two goals, but the team as a group were good from back to front. The Green Ant went to defensive rock Bianca Hughes, who although picking out a target interestingly chose to kick back towards the goal square from the half back line.

FINAL RESULTS

KANGAROOS:	0.2 (2)	1.2 (8)	2.3 (15)	2.3 (15)
SWANS:	3.3 (21)	3.5 (23)	3.7 (25)	7.8 (50)

GOALS:

KANGAROOS: N. Deaves, K. Greenland (1).

SWANS: S. Koukides, B. Mitchell (2); O. Climpson, G. Joice, M. Sharp (1).

BEST:

KANGAROOS: E. Southwell, S. Shepherd, T. Whitton, C. Small, T. Giles.

SWANS: B. Mitchell, D. George, L. Taggart, L. Lamrock, O. Climpson, J. Kirkpatrick.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: D. George (3), L. Taggart (2), B. Mitchell (1).



Round 7 Men's – 15th June 2019
Tamworth Kangaroos v Tamworth Swans
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

With the year's Billy Holder Cup series reduced to just two matches, the 2019 derbies were always going to be significant games. The first of the season shaped up as being a key game for both team's finals aspirations, and for the Swans it took on another element as the men looked to put the icing on a special cake and follow up the women's first win. After breaking a long run of derby defeats last year, the Swans went into the match in the unfamiliar position of probably being favoured to win.

If the favourites tag carried any pressure for the Swans it didn't show early, quickly settling into the game with the midfield taking the best of the opening clearances. Having the first use of the ball, the Swans were soon on the attack and made good use of their entries inside fifty, finding forward targets who were presenting strongly to skip out to an early lead. The Kangaroos transitioned the ball well on the counter, with key forward Elliot Bowen looking strong and leaving a late reminder that he remained dangerous even with a 12 point quarter time advantage.

The Swans stayed tough through the second quarter, hard work through the midfield getting them first to ball. Maintaining discipline across the lines, the Swans showed commitment at the contest, promoting the ball slickly to their forwards, who were moving well and made the best of good entries inside fifty. The Kangaroos managed three goals for the term, but the Swans were well on top, kicking six to take charge of the match and a 33 point lead into the long break.

The third quarter saw the inevitable response from Kangaroos, which was coupled with injuries to Cooper Kelly and James Dunston that took a little grunt out of the Swans' centre and a slackening of commitment to the contested ball. This saw a shift in momentum in the match, as the Kangaroos forwards became damaging with the increased ball inside fifty, their four goals matched by a single Swans major to see the match suddenly back up for grabs. With a clear reminder that derby wins don't come easy, the Swans went into three-quarter time with their lead cut back to 13 points.

With the contest live, the Swans effort lifted into the final term, returning to the tough contested football that had served them well in the second quarter. Getting first use of ball again, the Swans made good use of chances in attack. Holding off the Kangaroos challenge, the Swans trickle of goals became a flood as they stretched the lead late in quarter for a commanding 48 point win.

Coach Paul Kelly was proud of a good effort all round, which was particularly impressive in the manner in which the Swans lifted when challenged. The game saw some very good patches of football showing the capability of the developing Swans. Liam Dunn was magnificent off half back, being named the Swans' best and also taking out the Player's Player. Jesse Verdouw also impressed up front to be close behind in the player's poll. Andrew Finlay was a lock for the Green Ant following his mobile phone case testing and fire dancing antics the preceding weekend.

FINAL RESULTS

KANGAROOS:	1.3 (9)	4.4 (28)	8.6 (54)	9.6 (60)
SWANS:	3.3 (21)	9.7 (61)	10.7 (67)	16.12 (108)

GOALS:

KANGAROOS: E. Bowen (7); S. Snowden, J. Vallender (1).

SWANS: D. Gericke, C. Oxford (5); J. Verdouw (3); N. Bacon, N. Keam, S. Spokes (1).

BEST:

KANGAROOS: C. Frazier, C. Holton, L. Robinson, E. Bowen, J. Hathaway, A. McDonald.

SWANS: L. Dunn, J. Verdouw, E. George, S. Spokes, A. Cruickshank, J. Taylor.

Gillies Medal votes: E. George (3), L. Dunn (1).



Round 8 Women's – 22nd June 2019
Tamworth Swans v New England Nomads
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

The ladies took centre stage on a big day for the Swans, as the Gerry Griffiths End was opened at Number One Oval in front of the 2009 Premiership reunion crowd. With fine and still conditions, the Swans went into the match high on confidence after their first win and some representative football exposure, lending players to a Nomads team that had travelled light.

Strong ruck work saw the Swans have first use of the early ball, and their increased confidence with the Sherrin showed in good transition play. The Swans settled inside fifty, and with the pressure building were efficient in scoring to take control of the scoreboard early. Their dominance continued in the second quarter, the Swans looking sharp with the ball in hand and effective in finding targets. The determined Nomads worked hard, but the Swans maintained good structure to cut off any attack, and at half time were clearly on top with a 45 point lead.

The second half saw a change of team shape, with some players gaining experience in new positions. The Swans continued to move well but were wasteful of scoring chances against a Nomads team that kept on trying against the weight of possession. The fourth quarter saw the match open up further, and the Swans produced some very neat goals, including a boundary line special from Sarah Pannowitz to properly christen the Gerry Griffiths End, and seal a strong effort with a 77 point victory.

The post-game Swans were a happy crew, having progressed a long way in last month, and showing clear improvement in their match play and skills look poised for a strong second half to season. Daisy George was named the Swans best, with Jess Kirkpatrick also impressing with a genuine captain's knock. The Player's Player went to a hardworking Billie Mitchell. No Green Ant was awarded.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	3.2 (20)	7.4 (46)	8.11 (59)	11.14 (80)
NOMADS:	0.0 (0)	0.1 (1)	0.1 (1)	0.3 (3)

GOALS:

SWANS: D. George (3); B. Mitchell (2), O. Climpson, G. Joice, J. Kirkpatrick, M. Sharp, S. Pannowitz, S. Verdouw (1).

NOMADS: S. Koukides, B. Mitchell (2); O. Climpson, G. Joice, M. Sharp (1).

BEST:

SWANS: D. George, S. Pannowitz, B. Mitchell, J. Kirkpatrick, S. Verdouw, M. Sharp.

NOMADS: M. Fraser, C. Cummings, T. Gregory, N. Baylis, S. Goodenough, J. Conn.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: O. Climpson (3), L. Taggart (2).



Round 9 Women's – 29th June 2019
Inverell Saints v Tamworth Swans
Varley Oval, Inverell

Coming off a couple of good wins, the Swans returned to Varley Oval with a tangible feeling of confidence, which they were eager to test on the runaway competition leaders in the Inverell Saints. On a big day for the girls of the Sapphire City, the hosts were having their Ladies Day on a warm day that thankfully brought with it some relieving cloud cover.

The match opened with a hard battle in the centre early, the Swans tough at the contest and looking right up for the challenge. The Saints moved the ball well once they were able to gain clean possession, and the Swans back six looked slightly unsettled early with the open spaces of Varley. This saw the Saints gain an early advantage with three straight goals. The Swans ball movement looked likely in reply, pushing themselves on the attack but finding scoring opportunities hard to come by. Working hard across the ground, the Swans made the Saints earn everything, but the hosts were just cleaner when out in the open. The contest was still open at half time, with the difference kept to 18 points.

Determined efforts from the Swans saw them keep at the Saints in third term, Inverell looking good with the ball but unable to truly shake their visitors. The Swans fought back to build some attacking opportunities, but were unable to capitalise with scores to put genuine pressure on the Saints. As the match wore on the Saints took advantage, and opened up their lead with a string of fourth quarter goals to win by 56 points.

Whilst the Saints were worthy winners, the score was not reflective of the game, and the Swans took plenty out of extending the league leaders. Daisy George was very good again to be named the Swans' best, with Lara Taggart earning the Player's Player. The Green Ant went to Sarah Pannowitz for an impressive running bounce that unfortunately was in the wrong direction.



FINAL RESULTS

SAINTS:	3.0 (18)	4.1 (25)	5.2 (32)	10.5 (65)
SWANS:	0.1 (1)	1.1 (7)	1.3 (9)	1.3 (9)

GOALS:

SAINTS: K. Penberthy (3); C. Baldwin, L. Gunther, K. Hamilton, C. McCosker, G. Mooney, C. Pay, T. Saunders (1).

SWANS: L. Taggart (1).

BEST:

SAINTS: J. Pay, T. Saunders, S. Kastelein, C. Gleeson, A. Cox, G. Mooney.

SWANS: D. George, J. Kirkpatrick, S. Verdouw, L. Taggart, K. Phillips, O. Climpson.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: L. Taggart (2).



Round 9 Men's – 29th June 2019
Inverell Saints v Tamworth Swans
Varley Oval, Inverell

The Swans men took to Varley Oval ten years on from the Club's last Premiership in specially commissioned jerseys marking the anniversary. A peach of a day presented great conditions for football, as a Swans team fresh off a bye and a couple of strong wins looked to test themselves against one of the best teams in the League on one of the toughest road trips in the North West.

The form of the Swans clearly had the Saints on guard, as they exploded out of the blocks in a match with a finals like intensity. The Swans struggled with speed of game early, as the Saints dominated at the clearances to launch a relentless barrage into the Swans defence. Kicking true in front of goals, there was no mercy for the Swans as the hosts largely took the contest out of the match in the first quarter. Deeper into the first half, the Swans steadied in the centre to bring some parity back to the possession, and made good use of their limited sojourns inside forward fifty. This still yielded just two goals, and the dominant Saints were all over the Swans, leading by 80 points at half time.

Even with the contest seemingly decided, the Swans stepped up to the challenge of the Saints in the third quarter. Starting to match the Saints midfield, the Swans produced better clearance work to find some meaningful use of the Sherrin. Whilst still scrappy in their transition of the ball, the Swans effort at the contested balls lifted. The forward line again made good use of their opportunities and the Swans were rewarded with some scoreboard impact, but any visions of salvaging the match remained out of reach. The Swans battled on into the final term, but the confident Saints stepped up their run and kicked several goals late to blow out the final score and take the match by 132 points.

For the Swans it was a tough lesson in the intensity required at the top end of the League. Ed George worked hard against a strong Saints midfield and was named the Swans best. Josh Cruickshank's efforts in defence on a hard day for a backman earned him the Player's Player. The Green Ant went to Ryland Sainsbury for twice banging his head on the bus between the ground and after-match presentations.



FINAL RESULTS

SAINTS:	8.2 (50)	14.9 (93)	18.14 (122)	25.20 (170)
SWANS:	1.1 (7)	2.1 (13)	5.2 (32)	6.2 (38)

GOALS:

SAINTS: M. Gobbert (8); J. Kimmince (6); T. Desborough, L. White (3); M. Gould, C. Patch, L. Selig, T. Tollis, L. Wisniewski (1).

SWANS: J. Verdouw (3); S. Fairless, C. Oxford, J. Talbot (1).

BEST:

SAINTS: T. Desborough, J. Desborough-Graham, M. Gobbert, H. Chappel, T. Tollis, J. Kimmince.

SWANS: E. George, R. Fraser, J. Cruickshank, J. Verdouw, C. Betts, A. Cruickshank.

Gillies Medal votes: Nil.



Round 10 Women's – 6th July 2019
Tamworth Swans v Tamworth Kangaroos
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

Leading into the third local derby of the year, the Swans found themselves down on troops with a number of players unavailable due to holidays and other commitments. Regardless, the list remained a strong side of 16 to face a capacity Kangaroos team. Number One produced a fine day, with steady wind blowing to the pool end at the start of the match.

Opening positively, the Swans looked good early, enjoying space on the flanks and early ball being provided from the centre. Olivia Climpson presented a good forward target, and gave the Swans an early lead with the wind after kicking the opening goal. The Kangaroos fought back, lifting in the midfield to pour pressure onto a resolute Swans' back six. Despite strong battling efforts, the Swans' defence struggled to clear ball from the back half, and the weight of pressure saw the Kangaroos goal. At the half time break the game was in balance, with a slender 3 point advantage to the Swans.

The wind appeared to swing in third quarter to favour Kangaroos kicking to the Gerry Griffiths End. The Swans were brave early, finding the hard ball but also finding it hard to penetrate the forward fifty with any effect against a well structured Kangaroos defence. The Kangaroos backs were effective at the contest and transitioned well to extend their lead and take control of the match. The uncooperative wind swung again back towards the pool end late, and while Swans battled away the Kangaroos defence stepped up to see off their attacking efforts. In the end the Kangaroos ran the game out better to take win by 18 points.

There remained plenty to like amidst the disappointment of loss, with the Swans effort strong but lacking a little polish at some key moments. Daisy George worked hard through the middle to be named the Swans best, also taking out the Player's Player just ahead of Stephanie Koukides. Gabrielle Joice won herself a Green Ant in undertaking some late personal grooming before the game in the sheds.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	1.1 (7)	1.1 (7)	1.3 (9)	1.3 (9)
KANGAROOS:	0.2 (2)	1.4 (10)	3.8 (26)	3.9 (27)

GOALS:

SWANS: O. Climpson (1).

KANGAROOS: S. Campbell (2); L. Smith (1).

BEST:

SWANS: D. George, S. Koukides, O. Climpson, B. Hughes, L. Taggart, D. Robson.

KANGAROOS: N. Deaves, S. Shepherd, C. Small, E. Simmons, H. Bronger, S. Campbell.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: D. George (1).



Round 10 Men's – 6th July 2019
Tamworth Swans v Gunnedah Bulldogs
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

Coming off a big loss on the road to Inverell, the Swans were looking to bounce back in hosting the League leading Gunnedah Bulldogs. Strengthened defensively with some players returning to the starting side, the Swans were missing some key forwards on a day of good weather conditions for an important game of football to shape the red and white season.

Any sense that lessons had been learnt from the week before was washed away from the opening bounce, as the Swans were blown off the park early by the slick Bulldogs midfielders. Getting second to the ball at clearances and struggling to get a hand on the Sherrin, the Bulldogs ball movement was deadly in the absence of any genuine pressure from the Swans. The Swans looked entirely reactive through the first quarter and paid a heavy price, with the Bulldogs ruthless in attack and killing the contest off early. The Bulldogs' second quarter was much the same, their confidence across the park seeing positive ball movement. The Swans effort lifted, working hard off the ball, but they appeared light on confidence on the ball. The Bulldogs were full of running to take full effect on scoreboard, leading by 70 points at half time.

The Swans were challenged to find something into third quarter, and they responded, hitting the contested ball hard and, doing so with renewed confidence, began winning the disputed ball. Their transition play looked good in patches, though some unpolished efforts saw them missing targets and an opportunity to have really taken control of the third quarter. The lift in effort from the Swans did see them even out the contest even though the match was long gone. The fourth quarter opened similarly, the Swans battling away with little reward, and as the quarter wore on the Bulldogs ran rampant again, a string of late goals seeing them extend their lead to 136 points at full time.

The Bulldogs were very good, but the lack of intensity in the slow Swans start was as disappointing as it was costly. Jesse Verdouw continued his good form and workrate to lead the Swans, named their best and Player's Player. A post-shoey vomit on the bus ride the week before saw Brad Letton snag himself a Green Ant.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	1.1 (7)	3.2 (20)	6.4 (40)	6.5 (41)
BULLDOGS:	7.3 (45)	14.6 (90)	19.9 (132)	27.15 (177)

GOALS:

SWANS: J. Verdouw (3); N. Bacon, C. Betts, J. Talbot (1).

BULLDOGS: A. Sinclair (8); M. Ewington (6); B. Maher, J. Spackman (3); G. Briggs, A. George, S. Proudfoot (2); K. Harris (1).

BEST:

SWANS: J. Verdouw, L. Dunn, N. Bacon, E. George, R. Sainsbury, J. Cruickshank.

BULLDOGS: A. George, A. Hillard, B. Maher, A. Sinclair, J. Mack, J. Thomas.

Gillies Medal votes: L. Dunn (1).



Round 12 Women's – 20th July 2019
New England Nomads v Tamworth Swans
Bellevue Oval, Armidale

The Swans' ladies made their first ever trip to Bellevue Oval looking to build momentum into finals against their likely first week opponents in the New England Nomads. Unusually, Armidale turned on a lovely sunny, still, and warm winters day.

Driving out of the middle, the Swans made a good start, moving the ball with confidence and finding forward targets presenting with effect to take control of the match early. The Swans posted a handy lead before the Nomads rallied, their defence working hard in the back fifty to force the Swans forwards to work for each possession. The Swans work off the ball saw them start to enjoy space across the wide Bellevue wings, and extend their lead coming into half time. At the long break, the Swans looked well on top with a 26 point advantage.

The Nomads lifted after half time and had better of third quarter, promoting the ball well to launch themselves on the attack and forcing the Swans defence to work hard to minimize the impact on the scoreboard. Building in confidence after goaling, the Nomads continued to test the Swans backs before the Swans lifted again late, their definitive forward targets making good use of some neat midfield delivery into the forward half to extend their lead late. The Nomads were gallant, but Swans were too good, running out winners by 29 points.

The Swans good team play was a feature of match, and pleasing to see as they set their sights on the upcoming finals. Sarah Pannowitz was good across half forward and was named their best. The Player's Player was awarded to Stephanie Koukides, who tied with Lauren Lamrock, Sarah Pannowitz and Madeleine Pearce as an indication of how even the team performance was. The Green Ant was given to Daisy George for warming up in the wrong jersey.



FINAL RESULTS

NOMADS:	0.0 (0)	0.2 (2)	1.3 (9)	2.5 (17)
SWANS:	2.3 (15)	4.4 (28)	4.7 (31)	6.10 (46)

GOALS:

NOMADS: C. Cummings, G. Treloar (1).

SWANS: O. Climpson, S. Pannowitz (2); S. Koukides, B. Mitchell (1).

BEST:

NOMADS: G. Treloar, K. Brown, C. Cummings, C. D'Gluyas, S. Goodenough, J. Conn.

SWANS: S. Koukides, L. Lamrock, B. Hughes, S. Pannowitz, M. Pearce, D. George.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: D. George (3), B. Mitchell (2), M. Pearce (1).



Round 12 Men's – 20th July 2019
New England Nomads v Tamworth Swans
Bellevue Oval, Armidale

After two very disappointing efforts, the Swans men took a bye weekend to take stock and look to recalibrate themselves a month out from finals. It had been some time since the Swans had travelled to Bellevue with any genuine confidence, however the Swans were keen to assert their claims for finals and show their ability to match it with the better teams in the League.

The start to the match was even, the Swans showing intent at the contest but matched in intensity by the Nomads. Their midfield got the best of the early clearances, earning the first attacking chance that they duly converted with a major score. The Swans response was as immediate as it was positive though, showing purpose around the ball and with some positive play finding their forward targets to level out the scoring. End to end play followed, however the Swans made the best use of their attacking chances to take an early lead.

The second quarter became more balanced as the Nomads worked hard to bring themselves back into the contest, their good transition play a feature, but the tough Swans defence maintained pressure on their forward fifty entries. As a result the Nomads were not able to take full advantage of their attacking opportunities and with two goals for the quarter the Swans were in the box seat with a 17 point half time advantage.

The Nomads responded in third quarter, increasing pressure at the contest across park, and with neat switch and counter attacking movement were able to find space for run. The Swans made good use of the ball they won, but the lift in effort from the Nomads brought them back into the contest and they looked ready to run over top of their visitors. This momentum saw them take back the lead in the fourth quarter, after which the game see-sawed for a time before a midfield lift from the Swans saw them wrangle back a precarious lead. The Nomads charged hard late in the game, but desperation from the Swans defence, led by a superb smother from Josh Cruickshank, saved the day, the Swans taking out deserved win in a tough game by 12 points.

The win was the first for the Swans at Bellevue in ten years, but more importantly the performance from the Swans was a good response after a trying month, and will provide a big boost in confidence with some key matches to come. Jayden Taylor was a rock in the backline and was named the Swans best and Player's Player. Connor Betts got confused at a break between quarters, his rifling through the Nomads medical kit earning him a Green Ant.

FINAL RESULTS

NOMADS:	3.2 (20)	5.8 (38)	9.10 (64)	12.13 (85)
SWANS:	6.4 (40)	8.7 (55)	11.9 (75)	14.13 (97)

GOALS:

NOMADS: A. Quail (5); D. Richards (3); I. Graham, A. Gray, T. Moscou, J. Treweeke (1).

SWANS: D. Gericke (6); N. Bradburn, J. Verdouw (2); C. Betts, A. Finlay, C. Kelly, S. Spokes (1).

BEST:

NOMADS: J. Petrascu, C. Barker, A. Gray, D. Moore, T. Moscou, H. Munday.

SWANS: J. Taylor, L. Dunn, C. Kelly, A. Cruickshank, C. Betts, N. Bacon.

Gillies Medal votes: L. Dunn (3), E. George (1).



Round 13 Men's – 27th July 2019
Moree Suns v Tamworth Swans
Moree Showground

A rare Bellevue victory the week before saw the Swans traipse across the western plains to face the Suns with a chance to secure their first finals berth since 2010. Whilst still riding on a wave of confidence, the Swans were respectful of a capable Moree team, and were taking nothing for granted in the lead up. Despite some key position players missing, the Swans still put together a solid team for the match on a warm day in Moree.

Showing clear confidence from the outset, the Swans opened strongly and had the better in the midfield with strong attack on the ball being followed up by slick movement forward. The movement from the Swans forwards was looking particularly dangerous inside fifty early, as the Suns though working hard struggled to respond. The Swans were wasteful of some opportunities and could have really put sword to their hosts, but skipped out to a strong lead in the first quarter. Moree responded by stepping up their physicality on the ball into the second, and looking likely on the counter as they moved the ball well off the flank. They were too often caught out on turnovers though, and with the red and white forwards becoming more efficient, the Swans had established a solid 41 point lead at half time.

The match became more of an arm wrestle in the third quarter, as Moree looked to lift in the centre and the play became concentrated between the arcs. Moree were able to find some run and good ball, but the Swans back six looked solid in repelling their attacks. Their counterparts in the Suns defence also did well at the other end to negate many of the Swans inside fifties. This saw the match become more balanced, but contest itself was dead by the last break. A similarly even contest continued into the last quarter, with both teams moving the ball well across the wings but finding clean entries inside fifty harder to come by. The Swans attacking targets presented well and made better use of the ball they received, extending their advantage to run out 73 point winners.

The effort was a good win against determined opponents, who were closer in the gameplay than the score reflected, and saw the Swans deservedly take a place in the finals for the first time since 2010. Adam Cruickshank was very good through the centre, and he was named the best and also won the Player's Player. Ed George worked hard alongside, and Dale Gericke impressed in looking likely every time the ball went inside fifty. The Green Ant could only go to Andrew Finlay after he woke up in a puddle after a big Sunday session the week before.

FINAL RESULTS

SUNS:	1.2 (8)	4.3 (27)	4.7 (31)	5.8 (38)
SWANS:	4.7 (31)	10.8 (68)	13.9 (87)	16.15 (111)

GOALS:

SUNS: D. Brown (2); N. Fisher, D. Kearney, M. Lather (1).

SWANS: D. Gericke, J. Verdouw (3); A. Cruickshank, C. Oxford, R. Sainsbury (2); C. Betts, S. Fairless, T. Jones, N. Keam (1).

BEST:

SUNS: Z. Mitchell, M. Lather, D. Brown, A. Madden, J. Montgomery, S. Hall.

SWANS: A. Cruickshank, E. George, D. Gericke, C. Kelly, B. Jaffrey, S. Ellicott.

Gillies Medal votes: A. Cruickshank (3), E. George (2).



Round 14 Women's – 3rd August 2019
Tamworth Swans v Tamworth Kangaroos
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

The last round saw the women with good numbers to face Kangaroos, the ladies keen to even the ledger against their cross town rivals for 2019, but also to assert their claims as genuine contenders on the eve of finals. With minimal breeze on a warm winter's day, the conditions were likely to test the fitness of both teams.

It was the Swans who got off to a strong start, the toughness in their midfield giving them first use of the ball, which they moved fluidly to provide good service to a forward line that opened the match presenting well. This saw the Swans take an early lead, maintained by hard work from the backline who gave little attacking chances to Kangaroos when the ball was in the back half. The Swans went on with job after the first change, camping themselves in the forward half and structuring well behind ball to build pressure. Two second quarter goals followed, and with the Kangaroos kept from posting any score in reply the Swans stretched out to commanding 20 point lead at half time.

Rich in confidence, the Swans started well into third to extend their lead, but the Kangaroos effort lifted and they fought back to find a better share of the ball, which saw the start of a swing in momentum in the match. The contest had evened out by the end of the third quarter, but with the better of the scoring for the period the Swans still had control of game. The momentum shift completed in the final term though, the Kangaroos well on top as the Swans struggled to clear ball in the face of strong pressure from the Kangaroos. Fighting through long periods under the pump, the Swans defence worked well, and whilst goals for the Kangaroos followed under the weight of pressure the Swans held them off to take the match by 15 points.

The effort was a good strong win building into the finals, with a number of the Swans players showing improvement in match play and in confidence. The Swans' best was Lauren Lamrock, with Sarah Pannowitz taking out the Player's Player. Lara Taggart won the Green Ant.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	1.2 (8)	3.2 (20)	5.2 (32)	5.4 (34)
KANGAROOS:	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	1.0 (6)	3.1 (19)

GOALS:

SWANS: O. Climpson, G. Joice (2); B. Mitchell (1).

KANGAROOS: M. Barton, R. Bishop, E. Simmons (1).

BEST:

SWANS: L. Lamrock, D. George, B. Mitchell, O. Climpson, M. Sharp, G. Joice.

KANGAROOS: N. Spark, N. Deaves, E. Simmons, S. Shepherd, R. Bishop, N. Hamilton.

AFLNW Best & Fairest votes: D. George (3), B. Mitchell (2).



Round 14 Men's – 3rd August 2019
Tamworth Swans v Tamworth Kangaroos
No. 1 Oval, Tamworth

A victory on the road the week before had ensured the Swans the last finals position, but returning home to Number One the men remained keen to get a second win over their local rivals for 2019, to confirm their possession of the Billy Holder Cup and continue to build momentum into a long awaited finals campaign. A still warm afternoon had preceded, though the temperature had abated slightly for more comfortable conditions by the start of the men's.

The Kangaroos sprang into the match with a clear reminder there was never a dead rubber in a local derby, finding their key forward target early to open the match with the first two goals. The Swans showed a new composure to settle into the game, working themselves into the contest with typically strong efforts at the disputed ball, and using it well in transition to fight back and take a small lead into quarter time.

Meeting keen resistance from the Kangaroos, the Swans worked their way on top with good ball movement from half back to midfield, and effective penetration into the forward half finding their forward targets. Strong clearance work by Adam Cruickshank saw him hit the scoreboard with a series of major scores to extend the Swans advantage. The Kangaroos remained hard at it in a physical game, looking particularly strong in their forward line who took full toll of their opportunities to keep their side in the match. Going into half time the Swans had worked themselves on top, but the match was still up for grabs with the difference just eleven points.

After the long break the Swans genuinely took control of the game, their defence stepping up to restrict the Kangaroos scoring and using the hard won ball well to keep the scoreboard ticking over. As is typical in matches between the two, nothing came easy, the Swans advantage hard earned but saw them stretch out their lead and effectively remove any question from the contest. Into the fourth quarter, the Swans looked well on top as the Kangaroos continued to fight on but their challenge faded as the game wore on, the Swans kicking away for a tough but confidence boosting win by 45 points.

Coach Paul Kelly was happy with the performance, and was particularly happy to be leading a Swans team in finals after a long absence, especially with the Club seeming to do so with good momentum across both teams. A cracking effort from Adam Cruickshank earned him the Swans best for the second week in a row, Ed George extended his run of very good form, and two goals off half back saw Nicholas Bacon named the Player's Player. Josh McKenzie became only the second umpire to win a Green Ant after paying a mark from a handball.

FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	3.1 (21)	6.5 (41)	10.8 (68)	15.12 (102)
KANGAROOS:	3.0 (18)	5.0 (30)	7.1 (43)	9.3 (57)

GOALS:

SWANS: A. Cruickshank (6); N. Bacon, D. Gericke, J. Verdouw (2); S. Ellicott, A. Finlay, E. George (1).

KANGAROOS: E. Bowen (7); T. Bishop, S. Stevenson (1).

BEST:

SWANS: A. Cruickshank, E. George, N. Bacon, N. Bradburn, R. Sainsbury, C. Betts.

KANGAROOS: S. Lindsay, E. Bowen, L. Robinson, R. Nixon, J. Worpel, B. Gilmour.

Gillies Medal votes: E. George (3), A. Cruickshank (2).



Women's Semi Final – 10th August 2019
Tamworth Swans v New England Nomads
Bellevue Oval, Armidale

The talk all week in the lead up to the first week of AFLNW finals was the return of genuine winter conditions, especially with a trip to Armidale awaiting. Heading into their first ever finals campaign, the Swans women wouldn't be anywhere else, stepping onto Bellevue Oval in tough football conditions, with a strong and bitterly cold wind blowing pretty well directly across the ground towards the colleges. The Swans girls went into the finals on a strong wave of momentum, and whilst keen to live up to their promise of taking it up to the better teams knew their first step was to get the job done against the Nomads.

Getting off to a very good start, the Swans were obviously on top through middle, and as a result camped themselves in the attacking a zone. Conditions saw kicking on goal rough to start with, and it was apparent early on that any score, especially a major, was likely to be at a premium all day. An effective structure behind the ball and midfield dominance built pressure, brought plenty of chances and accordingly scores followed. At the first break, the Swans were right on top, their 14 point lead looking a strong one in what was likely to be a low scoring match.

Into the second quarter the Nomads defence worked hard to take stock of their opponents, their strong efforts seeing the Swans scoring slowed down. A lift in effort through the middle saw the Nomads try to counter attack to muster a response, but Swans defence stood staunch in the trying conditions. The strength of the wind made the game scrappy, both teams finding it hard to score, and the Swans advantage of 17 points looked a very good lead at half time.

The third quarter opened with the Swans midfield working hard and maintaining pressure, moving the ball up to forwards who were presenting well but finding it hard to get clean possession of the ball. The weight of ball in the forward half and keen efforts despite the wind allowed the Swans to keep ticking the scoreboard over and gradually extend their advantage. The Swans maintained control in the fourth quarter, and whilst the Nomads didn't stop trying their effort started to tell, seeing the Swans secure a good (and first ever) finals win by 36 points.

The performance from the Swans was indicative of their development over the space of the season, and whilst it was good to tick off their first finals win their sights were quickly set to the Preliminary Final next week. Elise Daly produced an outstanding effort and was named the Swans best, but the win was built on a genuinely good team effort with contributors across all lines. No Green Ant was awarded, however there was no disputing Sasha Verdouw and Sarah Pannowitz were best on bus.

FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	2.2(14)	2.5 (17)	3.10 (28)	4.12 (36)
NOMADS:	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)

GOALS:

SWANS: G. Joice (2); M. Hillenberg, S. Pannowitz (1).

NOMADS: Nil.

BEST:

SWANS: E. Daly, L. Lamrock, S. Pannowitz, J. Kirkpatrick, C. Wilson, G. Joice.

NOMADS: Not provided.



Men's Semi Final – 10th August 2019
New England Nomads v Tamworth Swans
Bellevue Oval, Armidale

The Swans had been such a long time out of finals that only 2 of their starting 22 had previously played in a red and white post season game, but the emergence of the current crop had been enthusiastic and they were certainly up for the challenge in travelling to Bellevue Oval to face the Nomads. The Armidale weather certainly turned one on, with the Swans facing a stern challenge not just from their more finals hardened host, but from the tough cold and windy conditions.

With snow falling as the match opened, the early contest was even, both teams showing the expected intensity through the midfield. The Nomads ball use was cleaner early and lead to them posting the opening goal. The Swans fought back, and despite finding clean ball movement difficult in the conditions stepped it up at the contested ball to push the Sherrin forward and gain field advantage. The Nomads transition was more effective, and they made better use of their chances in front of goals to post a second goal, but the match generally was still even despite the Swans facing a quarter time deficit of 10 points.

The snow eased in the second quarter but the Nomads effort didn't, as they opened the term strongly and, using their attacking chances to good effect, started to build pressure on the scoreboard. The Swans tried hard, however their intensity at the ball across most lines was too frequently not quite up to finals level. Turnovers across half forward started to prove costly for the Swans, as they were unable to take advantage of hard work from the back half. At the long break the game remained live, but Nomads looked well in control with a 25 point lead.

The third quarter saw the Swans lift in intensity, but their renewed purpose was met by the Nomads. The hosts kicked an early goal that took some wind out of Swans resurgent effort, however they continued to battle away and search for a means to drag themselves back into the contest. The Swans seemed to struggle with conditions, finding it hard to link up, and the Nomads handled the weather better to find further scores. Three quarter time saw the Nomads with a stranglehold on game and a 46 point lead.

Going into the fourth quarter the Swans were asked for a genuine effort, and to ensure they did not go out at the end of a good season with a whimper. And they responded, lifting their intensity again, and with better ball movement from the hard won pill and increased forward line pressure were able to find the big sticks for the first time in the game. The Swans had the better of much of the last quarter before the Nomads were able to find a pair of goals late, with the result never in doubt in the final term as they ran out winners by 46 points.

Whilst the result was of course disappointing, the effort from the Swans was a sound one, the Nomads just better in the conditions on the day. Regardless, coach Paul Kelly remained proud of the efforts from his charges throughout the year, with the Club making finals an achievement in itself. A hardworking Jesse Verdouw was the Swans best, with Liam Dunn also impressing with untiring efforts off half back. The Green Ant was not awarded.

FINAL RESULTS

NOMADS:	2.3 (15)	4.6 (30)	7.10 (52)	9.11 (65)
SWANS:	0.5 (5)	0.5 (5)	0.6 (6)	2.7 (19)

GOALS:

NOMADS: D. Moore, C. Nest, D. Richards (2); C. Barker, J. Grant, B. McDonald (1).

SWANS: D. Gericke (2).

BEST:

NOMADS: Not provided.

SWANS: J. Verdouw, L. Dunn, E. George, N. Bacon, A. Finlay, J. Dunston.



Women's Preliminary Final – 17th August 2019
Tamworth Kangaroos v Tamworth Swans
Varley Oval, Inverell

The Preliminary Final for the women presented a big occasion for both teams, being a 'local' derby on foreign soil that carried the bonus of a place in the Grand Final for the winner. A near full strength Swans outfit made their third trip for the year to Varley Oval, keen to grasp the opportunity presented to them and to finish off what had been a wonderful maiden season with a bang.

The Swans got out to a great start, with positive play through midfield taking them on the first attack, and leading to an early goal through Gabrielle Joice. The lead was short lived though, the Kangaroos responding quickly to level with a major score of their own as the match intensity lifted. The Swans midfield were looking strong, earning the better of the hard ball, but with the Kangaroos backline working well found it difficult to link with their forward line. A late full 50m penalty, rather than the regulated 25m, gifted the Kangaroos a set shot from the goal square, and saw them take a six point lead into quarter time.

With two backlines looking on top of their game, scoring became difficult in the second quarter. The midfield battle was willing, the Swans efforts at the contested ball good, but again the effectiveness of the Kangaroos across half back saw them turn the ball over in attempts to enter the forward fifty. The Swans looked to be slightly the better between the arcs before Meg Hillenberg and shortly after Billie Mitchell were lost to knee injuries, with the centre losing some impetus as a result. The Swans defence restricted the Kangaroos scoring to just two behinds, and kept the match alive as the Swans trailed by eight points at the long break.

From early in the third quarter, the Kangaroos thrust themselves into attack, and whilst frustrated by the solid Swans defence, structured well in the forward half to the hold ball in and build pressure on the Swans. Struggling to clear the ball or mount a counter attack until late in the piece, the Swans were kept in the game by a staunch back six who gave nothing away under mounting pressure. At the final change, the Swans remained within reach at ten points behind.

The final quarter saw a definite lift in effort from the Swans, who brought strong pressure around ball as the contest truly heated up, their lift being met in kind by the Kangaroos. The Swans midfield worked hard off the ball, getting numbers around the contest and to fetch the ball out of the backline and into attack. Building offensive pressure saw Sarah Pannowitz pounce on a loose ball, paddling the ball to effect before landing a sweet snap on goal to bring the score back to within a straight kick. With that the Swans looked poised to go on with job, but the determined Kangaroos defence stood solid, and late in the game saw them carry the ball well into the forward line to find their third goal and seal a ten point win.

In spite of a disappointing result, the performance was a great effort, with the team as a whole working well and genuine efforts noted right across park. The grit displayed to stick in the game and produce a final quarter fight back was impressive. For a first season with a team primarily new to the game, the Swans women were welcomed back by a proud coach and manager, and by a proud club, having come a long way in a short space of time.

FINAL RESULTS

KANGAROOS:	2.0 (12)	2.2 (14)	2.5 (17)	3.5 (23)
SWANS:	1.0 (6)	1.0 (6)	1.1 (7)	2.1 (13)

GOALS:

KANGAROOS: S. Jarrold (2); H. Bronger (1).

SWANS: G. Joice, S. Pannowitz (1).

BEST:

KANGAROOS: Not provided.

SWANS: D. George, L. Lamrock, M. Pearce, L. Taggart, C. Wilson, B. Hughes.



CONGRATULATIONS

AFL NORTH WEST NSW AWARD WINNERS



Edward George
2019 Gillies Medallist
2019 Sports TG Award



Andrew Donohue
2019 Senior Coach of the Year



Lara Taggart
2019 Women's Rising Star



Daisy George
2019 Sports TG Award