

THE MUDLARK MESSENGER



APRIL 2020

Welcome to the very first edition of **The Mudlark Messenger**, a new concept that we will roll out monthly with the aim to further engage our valued players, families, supporters and sponsors, keeping you all informed of what's happening at our great club and hoping you all enjoy the read. We encourage you all to contribute to the newsletter with any news or articles that you feel the Football Community will enjoy reading. The Mudlark Messenger will contain game results (once the season commences), club news and events, sponsorship endorsement, reports from the President and our coaches, junior football news and senior player profiles to better acquaint you all with our senior squad.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Season 2020!!

What the season will look like exactly is unclear at this stage due to the COVID-19 virus restrictions and regulations. As disheartened as we all are, we must remain vigilant and proactive during the season delay in the hope that the season commences sooner rather than later, where we can again play and watch the game we all love so much. So many of our wonderful volunteers have worked extremely hard since the end of Season 2019 to ensure our club is heading in a new direction. Starting with the appointment of a new senior coach Rod Mitchell and his senior coaching team. With that we have seen several new recruits join our great club and preseason training was very impressive and very encouraging. Please join me in welcoming Rod Mitchell, Bill Matheson, Justin Richardson, Brett Margitich, Kym Dooley and their families to our club for many more seasons ahead. We are so very lucky to have these gentlemen on board and the excitement around this is just fantastic. To all of our new recruits and your families we warmly welcome you also and I sincerely thank the whole squad as a collective for your efforts thus far. As a new coaching & playing group your commitment and passion has been a pleasure to see and I truly hope you get to reap the rewards of your hard work by playing some footy this year. A huge shout out also to our great sponsors, we couldn't do what we do without your support, we will continue to endorse and promote! I'm extremely proud of our club, our hard-working committees, our players and our supporters and I encourage you all to stay safe and healthy in the weeks and months ahead.

Together we will get through this.....

Best Regards, Dean Bagshaw



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FROM THE SENIOR COACH

Rod Mitchell

After starting training back in November 2019 with their running programs the lads finally got to have a game of football on March 14th v PHOS Camden who are a Division 2 Amateur club with a proud history. Preseason training has consisted of running programs pre-Xmas with all players posting their times and other physical trainings completed on a Myponga Players Facebook page. The concept was popular with lots of buy in from majority of the group, jovial banter and genuine commitment to get fit. When we reconvened for the commencement of preseason training on January 14th,

we had the footballs out first night as the majority of the group were fit and ready to commit to skills and structures. January to March was very encouraging with large numbers at trainings, buy in by the group to the structures and game plan plus a very successful recruitment period adding size, skill and leadership to the club. The players have accepted the technology being introduced to the group with GPS units now in use at every training (thank you to the Club for your kind gesture to buy some GPS units), flying a drone behind the goals to review ball movement at training and posting the videos on Facebook and use of video footage to review game strategy and structures.

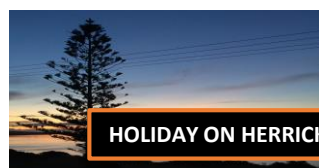


Pre-Season Training
January 2020

Back to the trial game, we had approximately eighteen senior players unavailable for this match and thanks to the Senior colts for coming up to play B grade we were able to field two very competitive teams against PHOS. The B grade game was of a good standard in trying windy conditions with many players catching the attention of the new senior coaching group. Ball movement was good and it was very evident the senior players in the group were applying the game plan they had been training for the past eight weeks. Thankfully no injuries and a little bit of confidence came from the game with the depth of the club on show and very impressive.

The A grade game was exactly what you want out of a trial game, two teams going hard at it for four quarters with less than a goal the difference at the end of the match. The only downside for us was the injuries to Stangers (hamstring) and Thorpy (concussion) but as things turned out both will get plenty of time to recover. It was very satisfying to hear the communication on the ground from the Myponga playing group with many on field leaders organising teammates into the right spots for the structures they now play as first choice in their football. The coaching group was encouraged once again to see our Mudlarks set up as required at centre bounces, stoppages, boundary throw ins, defensive press and forward structures – it may not have been perfect on the day but it was only day one and all players were buying in which will make it part of our game week in week out. Ball movement was good for the majority with some very clean passages of play. The ball movement patterns were proving the work on the track the guys had put in was beneficial and like the structures the ball movement will only get better with the more games we play. Our focus on short kicking in preseason will pay benefits later on in the season and although we did turn a few footballs over to the opposition in the trial, when we kicked short we also opened the game up on occasions to score from forward entries set up by controlling the ball.

Good players were right across the ground and none better on the day than Wade Hutchinson, it proves the pundits were correct when they commented that Wak was going to benefit from a zone defence as he did not have to play man on man mopping up everything in his area. Sam Kennedy showed his new club he has skill to burn and is a top end footballer who will please many in seasons to come. Jake Spinks worked his wing to attract plenty of the ball and he will benefit from the new team structures. Ryan Kelly lead from the front and his organising and communication was top shelf, he can also use the ball which is important to us in our new game style. Jordan Kennedy was a good contributor with is off ball pressure on the oppo pleasing to watch as was Kane Andrewartha working hard to look after teammates. JD was workmanlike and his calves eventually told him he had a good day, we will look after JD a bit better when we get going on match days. Scotty O lead from the front and even held the ball in when tackled, a change in his game that is hard to make. Luke Bruce rucked well against a good opposition player. We had many contributors and it is not fair to leave some out but overall a good first hit out with many solid contributors.



JUNIOR FOOTBALL NEWS....

We had a very positive start to Season 2020 with 4 fantastic coaches leading and mentoring our 4 junior grades. Preseason commenced in February for the Junior & Senior Colts and in March for our Mini Colts and our Modies. It was great to see some Senior Colts out on the track training with the Senior's from early January too, well done to those lads, it certainly put you in good stead for 2020.



Preseason training was buzzing, the oval was alive with our junior Mudlarks with parents adorning the sidelines supporting our coaches and our players. We had great weather and all got to enjoy a sausage sizzle after training, it was great to see so many families and some new faces and families whom we warmly welcome to our great club. A big thank you to all junior parents, your support and encouragement is second to none and it was so pleasing to see you all out at training, enjoying the great atmosphere at Mudlark Park. We will get there again!!!

A big thank you to our Season 2020 Coaches and your support staff, your commitment to our club and our Junior Mudlarks is very much appreciated and we hope you all get the chance to see some much deserved footy this year.

Auskick: Charlie Shaw-McMillan
Modies: Kym Alldritt
Mini Colts: Adam Alldritt

Junior Colts: Andrew (Wal) Hutchinson
Senior Colts: Shaun (Tilt) Hutchinson

Although the **GSFL Under 15 Academy** has been cancelled (due to COVID-19) we'd still like to congratulate our junior Mudlarks selected to try out this season: **Billy Shaw-McMillan, Jayden Heinze, Finn Holford, Josh Jurado, Sam Hrstich and Luke Keogh.** Remain positive boys and work hard for selection next year. You've many more years of football ahead of you and we're sure you'll do us all proud over the years to come.

Auskick has also been postponed from the start of Term 2 until later in the year. We will confirm the new commencement date once established.

Merchandise Kits will be arriving soon so we will advise once they have been delivered and where they can be collected from.

Junior Dinners at the Smiling Samoyed Brewery will be postponed to later in the year, again we will keep you all informed. This will be something to look forward to.

Thank you to our committee members for all your hard work with preseason preparation. We are blessed to have such wonderful volunteers looking after our Junior players. We couldn't do it without you all!!!

As we all know the start of the season has been put on hold until 20th June (at this stage) which was so disheartening for our excited Junior Mudlarks, their enthusiastic coaches and our club as a whole. We will remain positive as a club and together we will get through this. We ask that everyone stays vigilant, safe, healthy and positive and we hope to see our great game return soon. We will keep you all updated on the commencement of the 2020 Season.

Here's a few great ideas to keep entertained during the season delay. See the link below to the **Footy At Home** YouTube channel. **Stay positive junior Mudlarks and have some fun with these great backyard footy activities.....**

[CLICK HERE FOR FOOTY @ HOME](#)



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Nickname: **Steak**

Age: **21**

Guernsey #: **34**

Job: **Apprentice Carpenter**

Position: **Mid/Small Forward**

Relationship status: **Single** 😊

Favourite food: **Icecream**

Favourite sport other than footy: **MMA**

Favourite player at the club and why: **Josh Donohue**
– he does all the basics well and has an unreal
attitude towards footy



Ryan Mayes

Nickname: **Clackers**

Age: **24**

Guernsey #: **19**

Job: **Chippy**

Position: **Centre Half Forward**

Relationship status: **Married**
to **Jessie Clarke**

Favourite food: **KFC**

Favourite sport other than footy: **Tennis**

Favourite player at the club and why: **Jake Spinks** –
who wouldn't admire that absolute 10/10 rig 😊



Brad Clarke

Nickname: **Wombat**

Age: **25**

Guernsey #: **11**

Job: **Earthmover**

Position: **Mid**

Relationship status: **Engaged**
to **Lucy Dunn**

Favourite food: **Pasta**

Favourite sport other than footy: **Tennis**

Favourite player at the club and why: **Zac 'The
Blanket' Wilson** – no one can match him for pace,
stamina and technique 😊



Scott Ogilvie
A Grade Captain

SPONSOR APPRECIATION PAGE

A huge shout out to all of our wonderful sponsors, your support is extremely important and extremely appreciated. We hope you are all doing ok during this tough time and we will endeavor to support you as a club in any way we can.



Thank you to Kingsley and the staff at the Yankalilla Hotel, a wonderful family owned business who are long time and valued sponsors of our club.

The hotel is currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but they are offering takeaway meals and the bottle shop is still open for business.... The food is amazing so please call **8387 1144** to order..

<http://yankalillahotel.com.au/>



Another special and very valued sponsor who does outstanding work for our club. We are blessed to have the services of Jackie Deacon, a very talented Graphic Designer.

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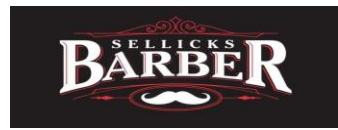
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