

ELHC Grand Finals News

Essendon Ladies Vets A lead the grand final charge

Vets A set the scene on Monday 15 September for what is poised to be an epic conclusion to the 2008 season for the ELHC with a 1-0 golden goal extra time win over Camberwell. A group of gutsy players squared off against a Camberwell team who were undefeated for the season and had held the Winter A Grade Veterans Premiership Cup since 1999. Fuelled by a determination to defend anything Camberwell threw at them, the team faced a barrage of penalty corners in the first half which were skillfully deflected by Jo Siketa in goal and defenders Woody and Sonya who often put their own bodies on the line! The pressure mounted in the second half leading to a number of cards being handed out in an attempt to calm the intensity of the game. With the score locked at nil all at full time it was do or die time. Finding another gear, the team lifted and were awarded an all important penalty corner which was precisely deflected in by Jennifer Monk for the victory. CONGRATULATIONS & WELL DONE TEAM!!

In other finals news... This weekend sees both the SL1 and PA teams face off against Hawthorn in their respective grand finals and Metro 1 North takes on Southern United. M1 took the easy road this year defeating Greensborough in their qualifying final to progress straight through to the grand final. In a tit-for-tat game, Sharon Occhipinti score first only to be equalised within a few minutes. Lara McGeary reclaimed the lead only to have Greensborough claw back a goal late in the second half. In golden goal extra time, Lara wasted no time getting the job done, slotting the winning goal in the first two minutes. In their preliminary final, PA took on a TEM side seemingly out for revenge after a hammering from Hawthorn the week prior. But they found themselves up against an Essendon side that is hitting its straps at the business end of the season. The first half saw possession and territory traded frequently. Georgia Salanowski got the team on the board at the 20 minute mark seeing the team take a 1-0 lead into half time. Early in the second half a well timed intercept by Laura Abbey saw the ball exchange sticks through the midfield to find Sarah O'Shannassy with an open goal to take the lead to 2-0. An unfortunate deflection in the dying stages of the game saw TEM claim an undeserved goal. But the team put their heads down and maintained composure and possession in our attacking half allowing the clock to wind down to full time and propel PA to the grand final. The SL1 team left it until the dying stages of their preliminary final against Camberwell to secure their position in the grand final. In a game that wasn't without its controversy, Kate Sandry slotted the winning goal with two minutes to play with a superbly executed penalty corner deflection. Camberwell opened the scoring early in the first half and Helen Spinozzi tied things up before half time. Controversy came last in the second half when a goal scored by Anna Burns was awarded and then overturned. This only hardened the team's resolve and a penalty corner in the final seconds of the game secured ELHC's fourth grand final berth of the 2008 season. Get down to the SHC this weekend and support the teams. M1 play Saturday 20 September at 10:00am, MHS PA play Saturday 20 September at 4:00pm, S1SL1 play Sunday 21 September at 2:00pm, S1 Good luck girls... and GO BOMBERS!!