

## DETECTIVE BLOODHOUND REPORT

21<sup>st</sup> June 2006

The Bloodhound made a very low key entry to glorious Broadspectrum Oval last Saturday, wary not to get too optimistic after the events at Prospect the week before. Did I say 'glorious' Broadspectrum? It nearly always is, but I was confronted by a somewhat brown playing surface after the effect of the recent frosts on the usually very green grass. I managed to gain access to the rooms before the Reserves game and nearly turned around to head off to Noarlunga when I saw our Reserves warming up. "This has to be our Under 19's", I thought, but a quick check showed Mike Godden in charge and a few players over 21, so I stayed. I'm pleased I did. Our first half produced some good football, especially from youngsters Alex Hutchins, Daniel Proud and James Vanderhaak. Lance Oswald continued to impress and wouldn't be far off a league recall. We struggled on the scoreboard after half-time, but I thought there were plenty of positives to take out of the game.

The start of the league game seemed fairly low key as well. When things settled, we'd given South a bit of a start, but soon made up some ground. By mid-way through the third quarter, I thought we had more momentum than South and were in with a very good winning chance. We dropped off in the last quarter, but showed substantial improvement from the week before. Jason Porplyzia and Peter Walsh were prominent all day and I thought Charles Slattery played his best game of the year. Ross Glover, Jeremy Jaques and Ben Grieger stood up well in the backlines and it was good to see Patrick Wiggins play strongly and finish with 3 goals. Ben Haynes was a standout, putting in a top-class performance with 6 goals as a permanent forward.

Still, another loss, but with some signs that better times might be ahead. At least we got a reaction to the poor effort against North.

Managing the playing list is not an easy task and players come and go. Ashley Wedding, after an interesting short time at Westies, has moved on. I think Kerang is the destination, where I'm sure he will continue to kick a lot of goals. After my investigations, I'm satisfied that the Club did everything possible and the move is probably the best for both Ash and the Club.

No sooner had Ashley departed, than Mark Cox arrived. Starved of opportunities at Norwood, Mark showed he will be an asset to us with a polished display in his first game in the Reserves. The Bloodhound is yet to meet a Norwood fan who isn't surprised that he hasn't played more league football.

The bye is upon us again, but I'm already looking at our team for the next game. With ordinary luck, we might have some good choices. Peter Walsh and Jason Porplyzia are both playing great football and deserve a recall to the AFL, but if we keep them, we may have Luke Jericho, James Ezard and possibly Scott Welsh available for selection. Lance Oswald and Matt Illman are also close to selection and Luke Donaldson should be available, so at last there might be a lot of pressure on for spots.

Now for some more good news. The new website appears to have met with universal approval and I can only agree. The only sour note was that they removed the rather handsome photograph of the Bloodhound, although I do like the nice, new badge they've put up instead. I'm sure we can all be proud of our Club's site now and thanks should again go to Marketing Manager Angela Jacka and Lee Harradine. I have tracked down the mysterious Nathan Harding, who did all the design and technical work and can report that he is now a fully-fledged new Bloods fan, with membership on the way.

As you know, I keep a very close eye on the Fans' Forum. Lots of people on it, but obviously even more 'guests' keeping watch as well (including me). There is no doubt that it has helped some Westies fans to get to know each other and there are some very passionate and astute supporters with some interesting observations about the Bloods. I don't know that I'd really want to go ballroom dancing with 'oldfella', but apart from that and perhaps a Detective Bloodhound Fan Club, I don't think it could be improved much.

We all held our breath at three-quarter-time last Saturday. The impossible looked as if it was about to happen. The crowd was hushed, all eyes looked in one direction, supporters of both sides were anticipating a 'one-off' event, a veritable 'Halley's Comet' happening. It was so close, but it wasn't to be. What a letdown. Yes, after working all day, the time clock failed to operate for the last quarter.

Oh well, perhaps next game.

Things to watch out for:

Assistant Head Trainer John driving the mini-ambulance around the ground before and after the game.

A story and pictures of our dance troupe to appear on the website within the next week.

Who was the frustrated, vocal supporter at the huddle a few weeks ago advising all and sundry on the shortest way to goal?

Ryan Borowski's new tattoo.