

# ANU SCUM

Volume 32 • Issue 2 • April



AUSTRALIA  
CUP RUN:  
ANU OUT IN  
5-0 LOSS TO  
MONARO



**MATCH REPORTS:** STATE LEAGUE • COMMUNITY LEAGUE • MASTERS



# HAT TRICK HASSAN

SCUM TALKS ALL THINGS FOOTBALL WITH ANUFC'S BREAKOUT CPL STAR HASSAN ALNUWAYSIR, INCLUDING A CAREER SPANNING THREE CONTINENTS, CUP HAT TRICKS, AND HIS HOPES FOR ANU IN THE 2022 CAMPAIGN



**Bayliss Exclusive:** The ANUFC President in his own words as season 2022 gets underway

## 2022 AT ANUWFC

SCUM chats with sister club ANUWFC about what this season has in store (page 23)



## ANNIVERSARY MERCH

After much leadup and some fanfare, 2022's new merch is here in all its glory (page 38)





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# ANU SCUM

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GOOD

TIMOTHY HARRIS

# ~~DAD~~ BOYS

# FOR LIFE

An ANUFC/Onions Production



**DVD**  
VIDEO

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**G** General

SCUM • 2

ANUFC's friendliest faces are all business in season 2022, with their eyes firmly on the prize in CLM5. But don't think for a second that they'll be letting their spotless fair play record interrupt what promises to be an intense title-tilt!



# MATCH REPORT

After three years of middling success, the ANUFC 'Onions' are seeking to overcome the heights of CLM5, one step at a time. With a long preseason having culminated in a fine 7-3 win over one of the ANU Masters sides, the squad was prepped and eager to get going.

From the off, ANU dominated possession of the ball, created several chances in the first 15 minutes and allowed Lanyon very few opportunities to get out of their half. However, as the half progressed and chances were missed by the home side, Lanyon grew in confidence, threatening on multiple occasions from corners and free kicks. But ANU did not rue the opportunities they had missed as the introduction of midfield powerhouse Daffa 'Tom Cruise' Widjanarko led an immediate foray forward and a lovely outside of the box finish on his behalf. The Onions followed up the moment of magic with a second shortly before half time, as a through ball from the backline found Maxwell Corcoran for a classy finish under the goalkeeper.

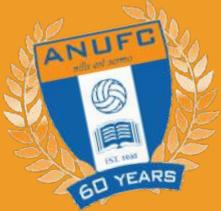
Following the break, Lanyon finally made their physical presence felt, as a well taken volley from a dubious corner put them right back in the game. A well fought second half ensued, with the Onions finding two late goals, one from a Jason Yang tap in courtesy of a fine Max Corcoran cutback, and the other from Isaac Norden scoring the team's first direct free kick in well over two calendar years, an early contender for goal of the season no doubt. It could have been even better for the home side with seconds left on the clock, as the selfless play of Josh Hampson provided left back Tim Harris with an all too easy open goal opportunity that was squandered as the frame of the goal spared Lanyon blushes.

A well-rounded performance and a series of 8/10 displays across the pitch have the Onions starting the year as they mean to continue, with three points in the bag and no cards picked up.

Fair play award and league title double, here we come!

TIM HARRIS

FINAL SCORE



4



1

Match Details:

ANUFC v Lanyon  
Community League 5  
Matchday One (2 April)  
Willows 1

Scorers:

Daffa Widjanarko  
Max Corcoran  
Jason Yang  
Isaac Norden



HELLENIC CLUB  
Where Canberra Meets

# THRILLER IN LYNEHAM

A cold and drizzly day greeted ANU SL2 for their opening round of the season, a match against last year's table toppers Yass. ANU were beaten considerably in both meetings last season, a 7-2 loss on Willows and 6-1 loss away, so it's safe to say ANU were out for revenge. With pre-game preparations focused on defensive responsibilities and the opponent's penchant for direct football and 'bully-ball' tactics, the lads were raring to go. However, a loose pass in the first minute of the game hinted otherwise, and provided the Yass striker (last season's top goal scorer, as their coach constantly reminded) an opportunity on a silver platter which he duly took, sliding a cool finish past the helpless Leekspin in goal. The Yass team thought they'd won the game already, 'just like last year lads we've, got 'em' was sufficient to stir the students from their slumber. From that point on we really took a strong foothold in the game. With Row and Gus (and Seb) getting their heads to any long passes, and the midfield keeping the pressure on, Cam Thomas unleashed a wicked shot from outside the area that skidded past the Yass keeper. 1-1. ANU kept going, and after a cynical shirt pull from a Yass defender denied a clear goal scoring opportunity a red card was shown. Felix was graciously allowed to take the resulting free kick and tucked it away from 30yds with the assistance of a Yass defender's glancing deflection. 2-1 at the break. The half time talk focused on keeping the pressure on - "We let off and they are going to f\*\*\* us".

The second half started brightly, and some wonderful link up play from new season acquisitions Matthew 'Tal' Lyons and Nishanth saw Nish smash an outside-of-the-foot volley past the keeper at his near post. 3-1, and the boys on the sideline were loving it. Yass then showed just how quickly these games can turn after some wonderful wingplay and movement from their strikers resulted in two almost identical goals at the other end. It was 3-3, and we needed some inspiration. A corner narrowly avoided the tall timber at the near post and saw Andy 'life member' Christie turn a firm header into the back of the net. 4-3 and we weren't done yet. After some questionable decisions to pass rather than shoot from an unnamed ANU striker, and some direct running from Tillack and Ed, Row put the game to bed with a header at the back post, shoring up a well-earned 5-3 win.

FELIX FRECKMANN



FELIX'S  
STATE  
LEAGUE TWO  
CHARGES  
SLAY THE  
DEMONS OF  
SEASON 2021  
AGAINST YASS

## MATCH REPORT

### Match Details:

State League 2  
Matchday One (2 April)  
Lyneham 207

### Scorers:

Cam Thomas  
Felix Freckmann  
Nishanth Ashutsoh  
Andy Christie  
Rowan du Toit

5



3





# *HAT TRICK HASSAN*



Brought to you by



Football is an international game – this we know. It spans continents, languages, cultures, and peoples in a way that few other things could. If anyone was to embody football’s international spirit, then surely it would be ANUFC’s new skilful Hassan Alnuwaysir, the quietly spoken goal-scorer with only one thing on his mind: promotion.

## FROM CANADA TO CANBERRA

Hassan certainly hasn’t had the typical path to Capital Football competition, having made his way from his home in Saudia Arabia to the frosty shores of Canada, before uprooting again in 2019 to study physio at the University of Canberra. Despite the relatively recent introduction, he’s no stranger to football in the Territory, with successive stints at UC Pumas, Canberra White Eagles, and, in 2022, ANUFC. As he puts it, ‘everywhere I go, I’m always looking for a club to play for – that’s the most important thing for me’. Of course, anyone who’s been lucky enough to see him play knows that for sure. He’s not short on pedigree, either, with an appearance in Saudi Arabia’s under-17 national side to his name back in 2010 during a four year stint with his hometown club. Where that’s a very skilful footballing environment, focused on speed and talent, his impressions of Canberran football are markedly different. ‘In Canada, and here in Australia, I feel there’s a more physical game and a more physical way to play. Here I feel it’s much more physical – I’m not a big guy, and I had to adapt to that and deal with it. [Australia] has a more English style, with long balls and physicality, whereas Saudi is all about passing and skill. There are a few differences, but over time I’ve gotten used to it.’ As the unwashed masses of ANUFC – down in the argy-bargy doldrums of the State and Community Leagues – will attest, this observation is bang on the mark.

*There’s only one goal in this year – just promotion. Nothing less than that. That’s my goal, and the team goal, and it keeps me motivated for every training and game.*



## TRADING WHITE EAGLES FOR WHITE STRIPES

Hassan's long list of clubs is by no means a mark of impatience, however – even the briefest chat with him reveals a genuine ambition, and a careful plan to achieve as much as possible through his football. His decision this term, to swap the red of White Eagles for the blue and white of ANU, follows that exact same motivation. After two seasons in Phillip, ten goals, and several close results against the side he now suits up for, the decision was an obvious one. 'I played ANU like two years before I joined them, so I know they have a good team. Maybe if you change your team, the first year it will be difficult to engage with them...but I can tell when I play against them that they're good people. All the senior players and new players are very welcoming, and it makes it very easy for me to join the team and feel part of the team.' Being in the position to observe ANU at close quarters (a 2-0 White Eagles win in 2020, and tight 2-1 and 2-2 results in 2021) also offered another perspective. 'Last year [ANU] was a good team, and I joined because I know that they only have one goal, and that's just promotion. I met Talal a couple of times before I joined, and he talked to me about the project, which is not only to get promoted this year, but to get competitive next year – hopefully in NPL1.'

## SINGULAR FOCUS

ANU have already reaped the rewards of Hassan's brand of laser focus, with a clinical hat-trick against Weston Molonglo in the Australia Cup marking a deliberate statement of intent in both the Cup and the league. For all the fanfare, he's modest about the achievement – more of a team man than most I know – and reiterates that 'our team goal is to win, to reach further, and to hit at least that semi-final. We took that game very seriously, regardless of the opponent, and we didn't stop in the second half, because we wanted to give other teams the impression that ANU this year is not an easy team. We want to win every game, in the league or the Cup'. Having been injured last year, and only experienced the then-FFA Cup once before in a sound defeat with the State League UC Pumas, ANUFC's ability to play at that level is a novel experience which Hassan has relished, even if this campaign ended in defeat against Monaro. As the season continues, and the results begin to stack up, this sort of resolve is a clarion call to the rest of the CPL. If Hassan's ambitions are anything to go by, ANU fans can rest assured – the only way is up.

JOSHUA WOODYATT

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## HASSAN: AT A GLANCE

2019

14 games  
10 goals  
SL1 champion



2020

9 games  
4 goals  
4<sup>th</sup> in NPL2



2021

15 games  
6 goals  
3<sup>rd</sup> in NPL2



Have you got any pre-game rituals?

*In the warmup, before every game, I just try to meg every player!*

# WITH THE TINTINNABULATION OF ALUMINIUM CANS

Capital Football are the much-maligned local organisation charged with administering the world game to Canberra's footballing mugs. I say that because, inasmuch as they...have their moments, they still surprise you at times. The lead-up to the first Masters Over 45 game of season 2022 was one such occasion.

It had been a strange week at home. I was editing my new novel (published September 2022 in all good bookshops and online retailers) and the editor, who was otherwise very competent and helpful, didn't like some of the highfalutin literary language I was using; 'highfalutin' itself being one such example, 'inasmuch' another. As a consequence, I will proceed to retrieve all such orgulous phrases from the cutting room floor and include them in this sempiternal match report. Play along at home and see if you can identify (*SCUM* editor's note: it's good to see I'm not the only editor who does wordsmithing battle with Plastic!)

The exordium to round one brought the typical registration madness, draw psychoses, plague shenanigans, and associated psychophysical conditions surrounding the management of local football. But, to Capital Football's credit, they approved our request to include 18 names on Masters match cards and impregnated MO45 with ten ruddy-cheeked newborns. A ten-team competition! What was once taken for granted as a State League player is no longer as such. Since playing Masters, I haven't participated in a ten-team competition for a decade. It felt like a luxury, I felt almost guilty with satisfaction, as if I'd somehow stolen my own car.

But ay, there's the rub: a ten-team competition, albeit with cluster venues in Canberra's most far-flung, wind-blown, rotgut-infested corners. Sigh.

Late in the week brought a minor bingle in a local suburban car park, followed by a major altercation. Mate, I can admit that I was reckless in scratching your car, sure, but you have to acknowledge that you parked a good drunken metre over the line in a crowded car park with only one remaining space, so don't piss on my back and tell me it's raining. A couple of hours later at a local basketball court for some 2 x 2, I was forced to intervene when I spotted an unkindness of raven thugs beating up a poor galah in a seemingly unprovoked and atrabilious attack, its beak covered in ichor. It seemed the animal world was almost as cruel as its human counterparts. And then on Saturday evening, one of my kids went ghost-white and randomly puked in the bathtub. Following intense discussion, forensic scrutiny, and a RAT, we discerned it was due to the consumption of MSG many hours earlier (a likely genetic link). But enough chaos, ample ataxial! Please, oh please, bring on the normality and merciful relief of semi-competitive club football.

To Sunday, then. Soon after cockcrow when the reigning MO45 premiers arrived at Kambah opposite the Burns Club to take on \*checks draw\*...Belnorth. It was hard to know what to make of this flaxen-and-azure mob; they were newly-promoted to MO45, and round one always threw up such unexpected results. The virescent field was in decent nick, but ay, there's the rub again: it was unmarked. We were informed that it would take a good hour for the line-marking robot to complete its pre-programmed duties due to a busted satellite, the war in Ukraine, and incorrect coordinates from Elon Musk, who was apparently a Belnorth fan. Everyone stay warm, fellas. Some of our blokes proceeded to do so by spending the next twenty minutes kicking off the freshly-mown clods of greensward that covered one of the future sidelines.

By the time we finally kicked a ball in anger, the skies had cleared, only a set of clouds streaked thickly and furbelowed. Despite our many travails, the game itself never reached any real heights. Belnorth forced some early incursions into our half with their handful of speedsters, and at the same time managed to somehow maintain a force field around the nacre of their goal. But it was only a matter of time before their witchy spell was broken. We went into the break up 0-2, following goals from a lightsome Matt Cuttell and a refulgent Ravi. The second half was much the same, only worse...for Belnorth, who were suddenly running uphill and into the wind. We pinned them in their half, our idolatry of football on full display, and piled on four more goals to Matt Cuttell (in an MVP performance from left back), Macca, Cosmo, and the reigning MO45 Golden Boot 2021 in Pat, his snake hips all rubbery and flexuous, who was nonetheless dirty to wait 85 minutes to open his 2022 scoring account. Oh, the ignominy. Macca's goal was especially bamboozling, the ball somehow tethered to his kangaroo leather slippers in a manner that defied physics, and which perhaps surprised no one more than Macca himself. We could've scored so much more but, on this day, it seemed we were more interested in nestling footballs into the field's sylvan surrounds.

With the tintinnabulation of aluminium cans opening, and gentle susurrations of the wind through the bosky Tuggeranong trees, we were left to celebrate the win around the much-vaunted MO45 esky with an endless stream of gloriously crapulent drivel. Our only lament was the brittle condition of Benno's groin, which was the only real casualty of the day, waving the white flag after 25 perineum-tearing minutes. He hobbled off into the afternoon, trucker's cap tilted at a forlorn angle.

Ambling from the ground with a sated belly but disquiet air, my many thoughts floated serenely in the empyrean. Approaching the Burns Club, I saw a paddy wagon pull up; it was barely lunchtime. But perhaps it was only a fitting sight as I boarded my automotive steed festooned with a trio of booster seats and returned to the safety of the northside with just as many competition points in my back pocket.

PETER PAPATHANASIOU

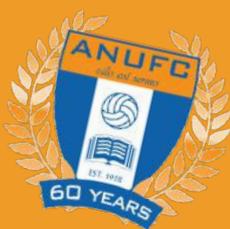
# MATCH REPORT

## Match Details:

ANUFC v Belnorth Masters League O45s  
Matchday One (3 April) Kambah 1

## Scorers:

- Matt Cuttell (2x)
- Lalit Prasad
- Steven McIntyre
- Raoul Craemer
- Patrick Walker



# 6

# Belnorth

Football Club

# 0

## FINAL SCORE



# BUILDING BLOCKS

After a whirlwind of league changes and match cancellations, ANUFC 11 were finally able to take to the field for their first game after an ADFA postponement in round 1. The unlucky side to face a new and improved ANUFC 11 were Majura FC. The opening ten minutes of the game were unsettled, but still put ANU firmly in the driver's seat until, out of nowhere, Majura scored directly from an inswinging corner which hit the top bins. Although flustered, ANU were able to settle and, near half time, captain for the day Nick (1) Burton hit a curling shot from outside the box to level the game. The next five minutes were frenzied, with ANU pushing for another through a Henry Campbell shot and several of Finn's delectable through balls which repeatedly split the Majura defence. Alas, they were pushed wide by the keeper. The second half began, and ANU were hit hard with heavy challenges from Majura – an effective tactic which saw us concede many a set piece in the second half. For all their crunching tackles, Majura were clinical, tucking away four goals including a penalty conceded by a courageous Andrew Barr (no, not *that* Andrew Barr). We were able to get another back through Tomas, but it wasn't enough to get a result and ANUFC11 went down 5-2. With many new signings making their debut and becoming more settled in the side, ANUFC 11 can only go up from here.

## Scorers:

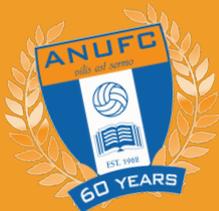
Nicholas Burton  
Tomas Mitchell-Storey

## Match Details:

ANUFC v Majura FC  
Community League 1  
Matchday Two (9 April)  
Willows 1

NICK (1) BURTON

MATCH  
REPORT



2



5

FINAL SCORE

# GETTING TO KNOW: PRESIDENT LACHIE BAYLISS

The second issue of *Getting to Know* takes us to the very top of the ANUFC pyramid, in Club President and all-around good bloke **Lachie Bayliss**. From a not-so-subtle leading question about how good club volunteering is, to the origins of his support for Arsenal, get to know your President that bit better!

**SCUM:** Tell us about yourself

**LB:** This is always a tough question, it's very difficult to strike the perfect balance between Tinder bio and LinkedIn post in something like this. Well I grew up in Canberra, studied Political Science and International Relations at uni, and have taken the only viable option after this and now work in the public service. I typically play somewhere in midfield and am often described as 'surprisingly quick' – but I'm pretty confident this is not a compliment. I also like long walks on the beach and watching the sunset over a nice Chardonnay.

**SCUM:** How are you finding being president?

**LB:** Look it's a lot of work but it's good fun working with the committee, and they do a lot of work to make my job easy. As a side note any meeting at H Club is a meeting I'll go to. I also really appreciate the chance to speak to as many members of the club as possible, it's awesome to see the club as a whole and see so many people loving their football.

**SCUM:** What are some misconceptions or misunderstood features of volunteer roles?

**LB:** I think what people don't see is that the volunteer roles are basically just hanging out with your mates. Take the canteen for example, I know Marcus is definitely still looking for volunteers – really all you're gonna have to do is come down a bit early for your game and hang out and watch some football. If you stick around after your game and watch the following match you may as well just sit behind the table and pass around a few of the brand new ANUFC Beers (shout out to Plastic and the 60th Subcommittee on that one).

**SCUM:** What are your hopes for the 60th anniversary year?

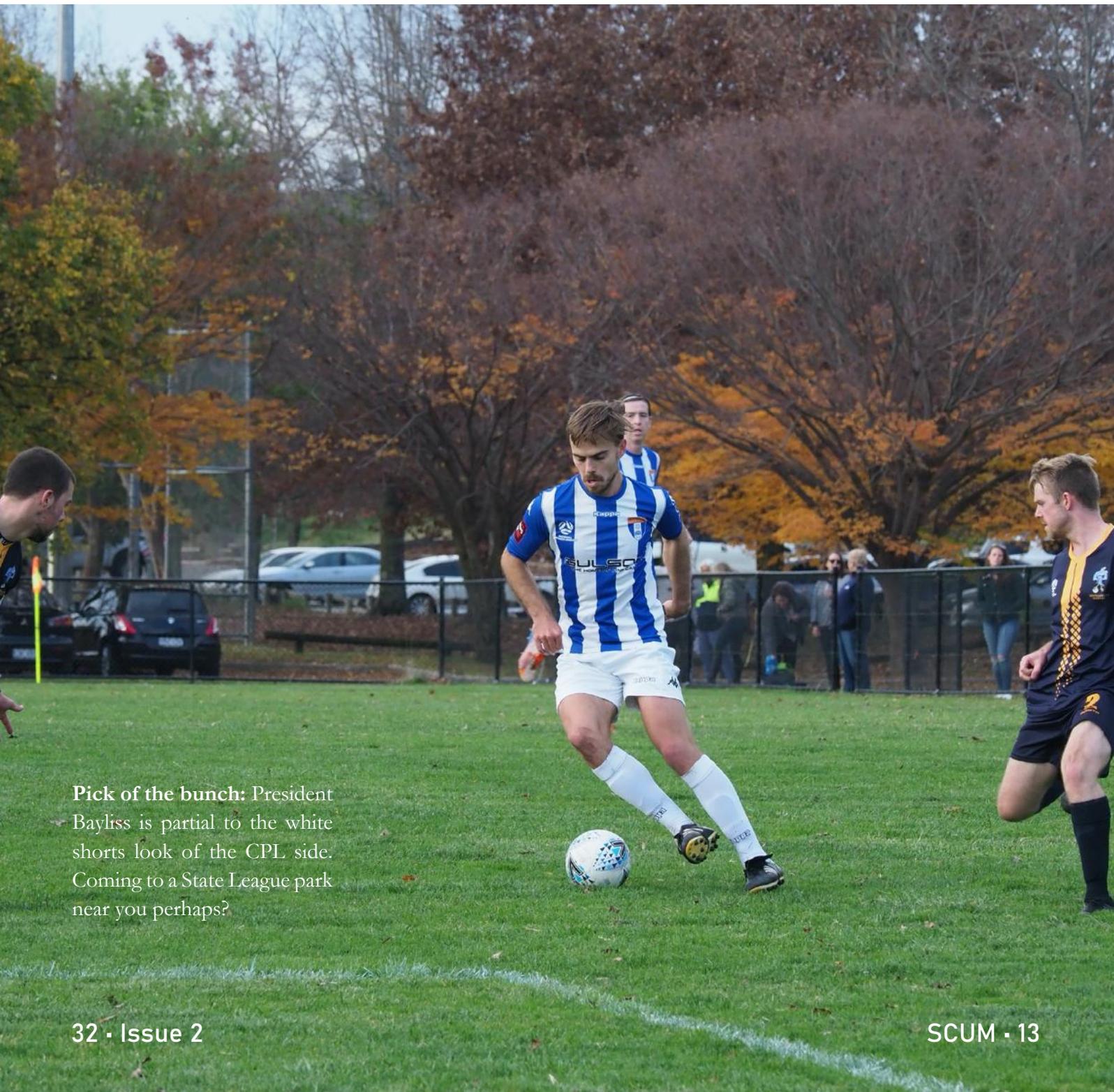
**LB:** It's really just an opportunity to have a look back and realise everything the club has achieved. For the boys new to club it's a chance to get a sense of who we are and what we stand for. There's a reason so many members stick around for so many years and that's because we're a really good club to be a part of. Really excited to see what the subcommittee has planned, and very keen to get the boys out and mingling between teams.

**SCUM:** Do you have a team you follow closely?

I've followed Arsenal since I was about 12. Originally started when the main character of the *Cherub* series was an Arsenal fan (shoutout to Robert Muchamore). Bit of a tough scene recently but we've got a good shout at top four and I would be stoked to see some UCL action for the first time in a few years.

**SCUM:** Home stripes or away kit?

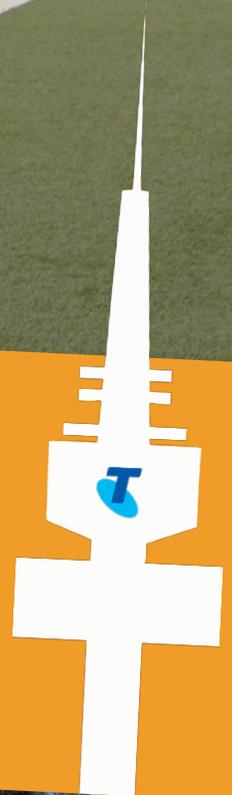
My favourite ANUFC kit is actually the home kit CPL wear, with the white shorts and white socks. The 60th Anniversary training kits as well look absolutely mint so look out for those in the coming weeks!



**Pick of the bunch:** President Bayliss is partial to the white shorts look of the CPL side. Coming to a State League park near you perhaps?



# NO LUCK FOR THE OWLS IN 2022 BLACK MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE



## Match Details:

ANU v UC

Black Mountain Challenge

Annual Match (31 March)

Willows Oval 1

## Scorers:

Felix Freckmann

Yet another year has passed without success in the Black Mountain Challenge, with an ANU side comprised of the who's who of who was available/still registered as a student going down 5-1 in a valiant showing against that perennially strong side from over the hill, UC. Despite the best efforts of Felix and his charges, ANU simply couldn't make good on last year's away defeat, and must patiently wait for another go in 2023. Fair play to UC – 2022 Kings of the (Black) Mountain!

**JOSHUA WOODYATT**



FINAL SCORE

1

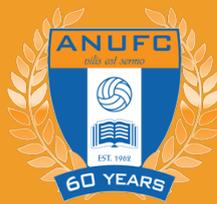


5



# MATCH REPORT

# 6



# 3



## FINAL SCORE

## IRISH CYCLIST SPOTTED

### CLUB SONG:

Here we go,  
here we go,  
here we go

ANU is the  
best, we all  
know

We're the team,  
we're supreme,  
white and blue

'Cos we love  
you ANU!

### Match Details:

Masters  
League 2  
Matchday One  
(3 April)  
Wanniassa

### Scorers:

Juan Garces (2x)  
Aiden McCabe  
Mark Pearson  
Johannes Eichholz (2x)

'Masters arrived at Wanniasa field to find a beach – seriously, you would only find more sand in the ACT at Jervis Bay (editor's note: technically the Jervis Bay Territory has never been part of the ACT – the misconception stems from the fact that ACT law is applied there. This is what you get when you have a pedant running the SCUM!). Luckily though, the two fields that were complete sand were not being used. Maybe someone at Capital Football has decided not to use those fields all season? Fingers crossed. The other two fields were in pretty good nick, the only downside of the one to the North is the marsh at the end. Best avoided if you can.

Enough of the environment – let's switch to the team. Masters 2 is a new team this year, created to keep a lot of players at ANUFC, with lots of new (old aka over-35s) blood coming into the Masters ranks. There are some old faces in the squad and two of those that turned up to do their warm up were subjected to an inspirational 'warning' from the coach to be positive, positive, positive (as we seem to be the main culprits). Man, I could feel the positivity exuding from the gaffer, so I promptly told him to f\*\*k off. In fact, I told him three times! And boy, that third one came from the pit of my stomach as a big, bellowing 'F\*\*K OFF', and man didn't it feel good to get all the negativity out of me – thanks coach.

So, shifting into the next gear, the only thing to report in the first five minutes of the game was the coach (yes, the one that told the two early birds to be positive) bollocking one player and relegating them to the back right corner of the paddock, as in being sent to the naughty corner. Well, that sure put a smile on my face, as this boy was keeping his positivity where the coach was the one espousing the negative vibes.

Alright, onto the highlights, the Irish Cyclists. Now, when some of us move to the Masters leagues we are feeling a bit sore, a few more aches, generally sick of running after young whipper snappers, and otherwise reaching a more of a self-preserving stage of life. Nah, F\*\*K THAT – on the 18-yard line we have our crazy Irish midfielder, so when a ball comes swooshing in from the side, out comes the bicycle kick.....!!!! Body rotating, back slamming into the ground, every Masters player on the pitch stops and grimaces, the player start to move on the ground, everyone lets out a collective sigh of relief, the crazy Irishman gets back up and everyone smiles, nods their heads in awe, and a small round of applause erupts on the field – a sight never again to grace a Masters pitch. Oh, and the crazy fella never actually hit the goal. He missed the ball completely! Now that would have been a story to tell my grandkids if he'd actually locked onto it and scored!

Another highlight was Juan's cracker of a goal. Well outside the 18-yard line and Juan decides to give it a crack. Well, the ball swished, corkscrewed, and wobbled through a ten-layer deep defensive line and slammed into the top right corner of the net, leaving the keeper and everyone else gobsmacked. Juan then ran/flew around the pitch uttering something in Spanish repeatedly (I have no idea how to translate Spanish but I reckon it was something like 'Juan is awesome' 'Juan is awesome')

The Monaro goals came from the ricochet goal of the year, bouncing off a few players and then hitting the post and luckily creeping in. The others came from the use of the wind in the second half so their speedster forward could run and play one-on-one with the keeper. Sorry Tommy, but thank you for filling in.

With the sun going down on the game, Scythe turned up to raid the esky, congratulate the hallowed beer bringer (a very esteemed position, probably one of the most important positions on the day), and help Tony 'Dodgy Quad' with the barbequeing duties. But, before the team could settle down for a beer or two, Brett called the squad to a huddle. With the congratulations to the team delivered, Brett then suggested we sing the Club Song. Well, I did say it was a new team, 'cause there was a heap of blank faces – thank goodness for the stalwart Markus bringing it home.

**MICHAEL BLACKSELL**



**MORAY & AGNEW**  
LAWYERS

# BACK TO THE... SCUM ARCHIVES

It was a bright sunny day perfect for a game of football: Pete was running his laps, Matty was dancing round in the goal, Channers was smiling, Andy was yelling, and Wisey was getting a pre-emptive talking to from the referee.

ANUFC was feeling the pressure from injury and holidays but as it seems not as much as UC which could only field ten men. ANUFC took full advantage of this early in the first half creating many opportunities, UC looked a little dangerous through their lone striker on the odd occasion when ANUFC make a mistake in their own half. UC defended quite well – one defender marking like a shadow, as some of the fans on the bench picked up. Through some great passing from the back to Tue, a heart stopping run down the right wing was followed by an even better cross which the goalie got a few fingers to – but it wasn't enough to prevent Channers finding the spot. 1-0.

Straight after the restart ANUFC were on the attack but against the run of play we made a crucial mistake, handing the ball to UC's striker who had no hesitation in putting it away, leaving the keeper without a chance. The ANUFC offence continued to cut holes right through the defence, Channers was put through, turning the defence inside out, and lining up on goal. Then, out of nowhere, the goalie took him out without even looking like taking the ball. It seemed as if the ref had left his red card at home, settling instead for a yellow and awarding a penalty. Unfortunately the keeper's outstretched fingers tapped the ball wide – it may not have been the game breaker this time, but it may be the chance that decides the golden boot this year.

It was straight back to business for ANUFC until a seemingly simple header turned to disaster. The UC striker must have forgotten that he wasn't playing back home in bare feet and as Rob stuck his head out, he stuck his studs out. The head came out worse off; ANUFC lost a player to the hospital and much to the disgust of ANUFC the ref presented a yellow card, the estimation that the referee lost his red card was put beyond doubt. He is currently looking donations to replace it, but just to make sure, it is recommended that a spare taken to the next game.

There were many mixed emotions in the ANUFC team and to begin with looked like a flock of sheep without their shepherd, but the leadership group stepped up in an attempt to focus all the negative energy into a small release on the oppositions ankles. It didn't really work.

After the break ANUFC had many opportunities to score, but unfortunately both uprights were found before Wisey found the net with well-timed chip. Throughout this frustrating time Channers still found

MISSING:  
RED CARD.  
IF FOUND  
PLEASE  
RETURN TO  
CAPITAL  
FOOTBALL

3



1



Match Details:

State League 2

3 July 2004

SCUM volume 14

issue 23

to release some frustration at fellow teammates, it seemed a bit out of character and the comment from some hardcore ANUFC fans was “he’d never have whinged like this five years ago; must be learning from Wisey, Allan, Bennet and co, they’re the best”.

With a few injuries late in the half UC were left with eight men, giving Wisey the perfect opportunity to extend the lead to three. Many opportunities were had and lost but three points will be taken anyways.

**BEN CHARLES**

# BANANA SMOOTHIE



Morale going into the away game against Woden Valley was high, reminiscing on an 18-0 victory from seasons past. A slow game of football was expected, but, as the game began it became more apparent that this would be more like a game of ‘stuck in the mud’. The grass better suited for sleeping on than playing a game of football on, along with sticky heat stretching the fitness of all playing, made for a difficult outing.

ANU SL3 dominated proceedings in the first twenty minutes, with all the play in the Woden Valley half. Plenty of chances went by, with of shots from outside the unconventional 15 yard box, including a ferocious volley from Stew, which was well saved by the opposition keeper. Scotty shined in the conditions, holding the ball up, knowing when to turn, and effectively distributing to the midfielders on the edge of the box. ANU SL3 reaped the rewards from their dominance as clattering Woden Valley legs brought down Ben in the box, resulting in a penalty. As confusion ensued – the referee having forgotten that he owned a whistle – Scotty coolly stepped up and slotted the penalty bottom left, leaving the keeper no chance.

The half continued in a similar fashion, with relative dominance from the ANU SL3 lads. A few chances came the way of Woden Valley, however, the solidarity of Cherian, Adam and Dave at the back ensured no clear scoring opportunities arose. Coming into the second half, ANU SL3 continued their control of the game with Scotty twisting his way through the Woden Valley defence and slotting a second in the bottom left of the goal. The injection of pace in the final third as well as a wily Woden Valley midfield started to even the contest. The added pressure resulted in an unfortunate mistake at the back, with keeper John mistiming a punch into the back of the net to bring the score to 2-1.

The scoreline brought greater urgency to ANU SL3’s play, resulting in two goals in quick succession. The first coming from Stew who hit another fierce volley, this one too strong for the Woden Valley goalkeeper. The second was a deft finesse from Matty into the bottom right corner. Scotty was again in the action, claiming both assists. The defence remained resolute with the Woden Valley players undoubtedly wondering whether player-coach Adam had any brain cells left following a ridiculous number of defensive headers. Slowly but, surely the conditions started getting the best of the ANU SL3 boys with Matt, coming off a game with the reserves, commenting that the Woden Valley midfielder made his banana a smoothie (whatever this means).

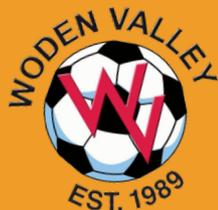
Desperate times called for desperate measures, with the Woden Valley keeper coming up for the final two corners of the game. On the second corner, ANU SL3 made the decision to leave one less man in the box to break away and score into the empty net given a clearance. However, this proved to be a mistake with the Woden Valley keeper towering over the ANU players and scoring a miraculous goal earning appreciation from all playing. All except Matt, of course, whose banana was still a smoothie at this point – thinking the scores were level. The game finished shortly after this goal at 4-2 to ANU SL3, leaving Fantasy State League players who captained Scotty in place of Eoin pretty happy with themselves, and earning a cool 50 points. Cold beers and the smell of a sweaty, hard-fought victory were very much appreciated by the cooked ANU SL3 lads and a great way to end the day.

NOAH KODER

# MATCH REPORT



4



2

FINAL SCORE

## Match Details:

State League 3  
Matchday Two (9 April)  
Deakin 1

## Scorers:

Scott Deguara (2x)  
John Steward  
Matthew Ryan



**Ford Peterson**  
EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT





## WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN

There are a few central features of lower-league football, and matchday three's CLM2 fixture against Yarabi had them all: weedkiller lines, dual-purpose football/rugby goals, badly fitted nets, and grass so long you could lose the ball in it. So it was on a crisp afternoon in Palmerston, with our div 10 side (a nickname that has somehow persisted despite five years of changes to league naming and numbering) quickly relearning the harsh realities of grass football in the warm-up. Shaking off the cobwebs of Willows' silky-smooth surface, ANU took the pitch against an unknown quantity. Having only been formed two years ago, and with DRIBL making the classic pastime of SportsTG stalking a thing of the past, we were unsure what sort of a team we would meet. This soon changed.

Having put in a sub-par performance against Belnorth in the opening fixture, and duly spent several weeks in training focused on possession and structure, ANU were impressive from the off. Slick passing – or, at least, as slick as is possible across half-metre high grass – saw immediate results, with talismanic winger Adeeb taking flight up the left wing, dodging several Yarabi defenders, and slotting home our first within five minutes of the whistle. Despite the solid start, defensive frailties remained, and a backline missing some regulars was slow in adjusting to the tempo of the game. Surely enough, a well-taken Yarabi corner produced an equaliser. 1-1. The game settled into something of a rhythm after this, with luck firmly on the side of a solid Yarabi side. Of course, as the losing side, I suppose we would say it was luck – but there you go. Where they lacked in individual skill, they made up for it in ruthless discipline and positional organisation. The hard work of the whole div 10 squad across the Easter period was surely put to test. As with the first, it was an outsized error that saw Yarabi through for a second, capitalising on some central defensive confusion to make it 2-1 just prior to the half.

Compared with the Belnorth game, this was a markedly improved ANU showing. Half-time messages of structure and possession, interspersed with a few tactical notes on the Yarabi side, focused squarely on ensuring a hard charging finish to the game. The spectre of this team for many seasons now, the early second half goal, was fore of mind as div 10 took the field for the second half. And yet – as it seemingly always is – they scored regardless. You wouldn't have known it from the ANU performance, which was superb until the whistle, including an imperious showing from 'Dan of the Match' Daniel Drew at centre back, several incisive runs from wingers Tom and Adeeb, and impressive shifts from each of the central midfielders Nathan, Buddy, and Steve in particular. Not dispirited by the scoreline, and bolstered by a much more confident defensive

### Match

### Details:

Community  
League 2  
Matchday Three  
(23 April)  
Palmerston 1

### Scorers:

Adeeb Enayati  
Nathan Heldon

**DIV 10 RUE  
MISSED  
CHANCES  
AS YARABI  
TAKE  
TIGHTLY-  
FOUGHT 3-2  
WIN AWAY  
FROM  
HOME**



showing, Nathan's sumptuous second was followed by an agonising missed opportunity from Rex at number nine, coming off both posts across the weedkiller goal line without crossing it. This was a source of much merriment for the Yarabi bench, who laughed uproariously as a slightly too-early celebration was stymied by the no-goal call. For all our effort, chances went wanting, and the game slipped away.

Yarabi took the win. They got the three points. But that isn't to say that ANU left with nothing – compared with the shaky display of two weeks prior, this was a much-improved team which should very well have taken the win. Only minor tweaks are needed before the wins start to roll in. As an endnote, I asked the squad for their thoughts after the match, hoping for a few well-crafted sentences about 'full credit to the boys' and all that to sprinkle through my piece.

Instead, I received a handful of most unhelpful one-liners which, having nowhere else to put them, I have reproduced here:

'Damn Daniel Mr MVP' – **Nathan**

'How is that offside!?' – **Buddy**, to an evidently confused linesman

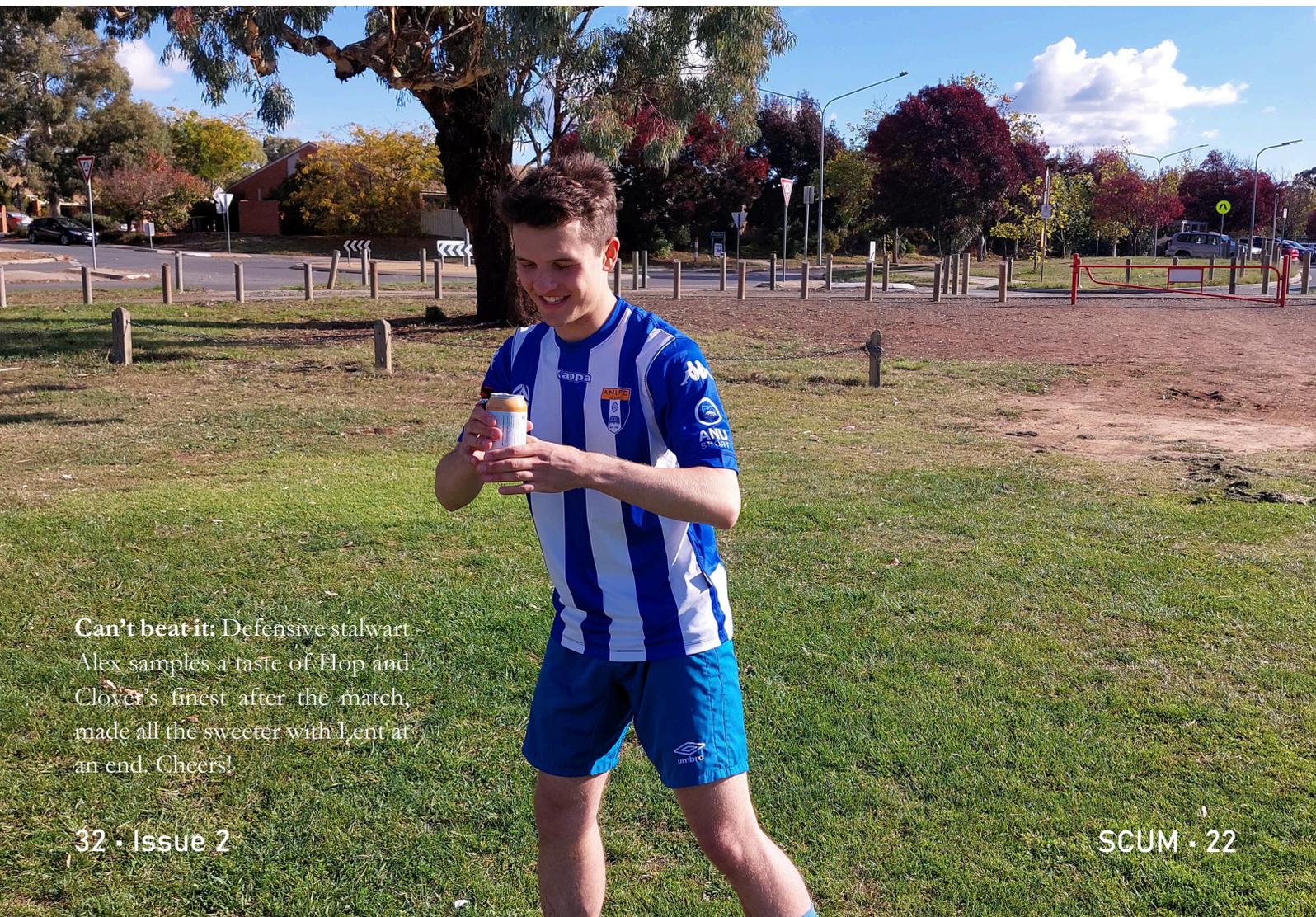
'How did that *not* go in?' – **Everyone**, as Rex's strike dribbled across the face of goal

Here's hoping we can fit some media training into the roster ahead of matchday four.

**JOSHUA WOODYATT**



**Can't beat it:** Defensive stalwart Alex samples a taste of Hop and Clover's finest after the match, made all the sweeter with Lent at an end. Cheers!



For all the fanfare accompanying season 2022 at ANUFC, it can be easy to miss things. After all, we're far from the only footballing outfit on this campus – just ask Alice McNeil, who sat down with *SCUM* to talk all things ANUWFC.

**SCUM:** For starters, tell us a bit about yourself!

**AM:** My name is Alice, I've been with the women's club since 2016, and I play in the most important position on the field - right back (or right bench).

**SCUM:** Being the ANUWFC secretary places you right at the heart of club organisation and decision-making – what have you got planned for this season?

**AM:** I'm extremely lucky to be surrounded by creative, intelligent and dedicated women, so as always, there is a huge amount of things going on in the club! We definitely have planned some great social events, including a PUB CRAWL which everyone I know is dying for (it's been postponed over the past two years because of you-know-what), but we have also got a full season plus a finals series to look forward to!

My greatest plan for this year is there to be derbies in every final - that would make for a great day! There's also promotion from State League to NPLW for the first time, and we have two very strong teams in Division 1 so that will be a comp to watch (I am in it though so I'm definitely biased).

# LOOKING UP

We chat with ANUWFC secretary Alice McNeill about some big plans for 2022 and beyond



**Standout:**  
Charlotte Wen models ANUWFC's new ISC away kit

**SCUM:** Keen observers of your club Facebook page will have seen some pretty snazzy new ISC kits doing the rounds. When can we expect to see them on the park?

**AM:** Now! They arrived in time for Round three, so we will be wearing them from now on. Our old kits will be up for sale too if you want a piece of ANUWFC history.

**SCUM:** And which do you prefer? We promise not to tell if you have a favourite!

**AM:** I love the simplicity of our old kits but having women's cut jerseys is very important to us, plus it's nice to stand out!

**SCUM:** Nothing beats travelling fans – how can we get out and support ANUWFC?

**AM:** As many of you may know – women's state league (as well as men's and women's masters) are stuck on cluster venues, which means we do not currently have any games scheduled on campus at ANU. We generally have two venues on the go on any given Sunday – one cluster will be for divisions 4-6 and one cluster will be for divisions 1-3. Keep an eye out on Dribl for our whereabouts, and rest assured if we do secure any ANU-based games we will be promoting that on our social media (follow us on @anuwfc on Insta and ANU Women's Football Club on Facebook)!

**SCUM:** Now, a couple of questions we ask every guest. Other than ANUWFC – of course – have you got a team you follow closely?

**AM:** Of course, my number one team is the Matildas – keen for the women's world cup to be here next year! I have also been indoctrinated into an Arsenal, Celtic and Dundee United family.

**SCUM:** Have you got any strange matchday habits? If not you, feel free to throw a teammate with a weird habit under the bus here!

**AM:** Not myself, but I definitely have a teammate who will only wear one specific bra – you boys will never know the allegiance we have to certain bras!

**SCUM:** Lastly, if you could invite one footballing icon to speak at ANUWFC, who would it be and why?

**AM:** There are so many inspiring female footballers out there, but my top three would be:

Khalida Popal, former Afghanistan Women's National Team captain and founder of the Girl Power Organisation, who helped support her Afghani teammates evacuation from Kabul to Melbourne. She, and her teammates, show the power of women's sports not only on but also off the pitch.

Ada Hegerberg, an absolutely amazing footballer (you should see her credentials!) and a fierce advocate for women's football, particularly in her home country of Norway.

And lastly, Emily Carpenter – a (semi) local who has gone on to play in one of the best teams in the world – Olympique Lyonnais Féminin.



# IN PICTURES: ANUFC vs BRINDABELLA

CPL Round 3











# GUNGHALIN TAKE THE SPOILS

On a day only a mother could love, Marcus' CLM3 side gathered at Lyneham fields for a game against Gungahlin. Despite the weather, some poorly run warmup drills, and a surprising number of trips to the thunderbox, spirits were high amongst the young squad heading into the new season. The game kicked off slowly, with both teams muttering complaints about first week fitness and bad field conditions under their breath. Yet as the contest heated up, chances started to flow. Safe hands from keeper Harry offered ANU some reassurance at the back, while a lofty shot off the crossbar from Kaushal and quick wide plays through wingers Saad and Nick Two kept up some pressure. Despite some solid attempts on behalf of the ANU, a slippage in defence left us going into half-time a goal down. Yet, with a resounding speech from assistant coach Peter, who subsequently left to finish a particularly difficult Micro 3 assignment, team morale remained high. The second half consisted of similarly clean pushes along the wing for ANU, producing strong chances that were unlucky not to result in a goal. Up the other end of the park Gungahlin were able to use their pace to squeeze through another goal in between some...suspicious handballs. Ultimately, while the 2 - 0 scorecard was not what ANU were looking for in their opening game of the season, it marks a clear foundation that will only strengthen as familiarity amongst the team increases through the campaign.

## MATCH REPORT

### FINAL SCORE

#### Match Details:

ANUFC v Gungahlin United  
Community League 3  
Matchday One (2 April)  
Lyneham 2



0



2





# VILIS *NON* SERMO EST

Vilis est sermo.

On a game played on the day the federal election was called, I call bullsh\*t.

On any other day, it may be true.

Vilis **NON** sermo est.

Vilis very expensive est.

Clive Palmer will spend \$80 million on trash talk over the next several weeks. The Coalition will spend another \$100 million (except we don't know exactly how much) on promulgating assorted myths in the media: 'Labor cannot be trusted; the Coalition are better economic managers' – all that good stuff.

Because they are the 'better economic managers', they can misspend \$5 billion worth of taxpayer money renegeing on submarine deals. That's a pretty good bit of business: spend \$180 million to win the election, and earn the right to misspend \$5 billion. They can do anything they want and still be the 'better economic managers'.

Vilis buys narratives. Vilis buys elections.

But how is any of this relevant? Our mistake was not losing 0-1. Our mistake lay in not spending \$180 million to buy the narrative and the game. 0-0 was our friend until the 95th minute. Then it was our enemy.

Why did we not see it coming and spend money to stop it?

It is the last minute of the game, the last kick off the game. We should be 3-0 up. Their sneaky aged hack of a centre back takes two minutes to retrieve the ball for a corner. Another minute to line it up. Another minute to sweep it to the far post.

The narrative was created before our very eyes.

Why did we mark the near post and not the far post? Why didn't we put three men on their big fat striker, one to offer a bribe, one to block his run, and the other to elbow him in the head as he jumped for the ball?

## Match

### Details:

Masters League

Over-45s

Matchday Two

(10 April)

Harrison 2

**RESIDENT  
MASTERS  
WRITER,  
PLASTIC,  
OFFERS HIS  
THOUGHTS  
ON THE  
IMPORTANCE  
OF ALWAYS  
CONTROLLING  
THE  
NARRATIVE**



**Gungahlin**

Why did I not do this job myself, tickle, block, and elbow?

The ball was whipped into the far post, the big bloke ran, he jumped, flung his head at the ball. No-one poked him in the eye before the corner, no-one blocked his run, and no-one took it upon themselves to elbow him in the ear as he jumped. The ball flew through the air, hit his head, and then burst the back of the net. Great goal, for f\*ck's sake!

Our goalkeeper could not be faulted. Our defenders could not be faulted, or at least, identified. The referee could not be faulted. CDR explicitly told us to get back and mark up, and could not be faulted. Not even the hard-working midfield could be faulted. No-one and nothing could be faulted. Except the narrative.

The narrative got away from us. We allowed the narrative to get away from us, we did not spend cash in stopping the narrative from getting away from us, and perhaps secretly, deep down, we wanted the narrative to get away from us.

Perhaps we did not want a statistically boring 0-0 game when we should have won 6-1. Perhaps we wanted the scandal, the drama, the injustice, the participation in a footballing story greater than ourselves. Us, and every other team in history that has ended up on the wrong side of a travesty, united by the fluke and vagary of a defeat that should never have happened.

As for Canberra Croatia, well, they're not a bad bunch of fellas. They love a good footballing story, they create drama, passion, they go in with studs flailing, and are expert at constructing well-reasoned narratives afterwards. They should be published authors, all of them. Crime thriller fiction, I would suggest.

On this day, we were pantsed, not unlike former PM Malcolm Fraser in a seedy Memphis hotel in 1986. So much so that they ended up on our heads (see below).

On the day the federal election was called to elect a new pants wearer, Canberra Croatia got their narrative up. Their myth prevailed, and without spending a cent.

Well done! But what does it mean? It means that for all those who cannot afford to buy a myth there is hope, perhaps.

**PETER PAPATHANASIOU**



MARCUS'  
CLM3 SIDE  
TASTE  
VICTORY  
AGAINST A  
TENACIOUS  
TEN-MAN  
BRINDABELLA

# MATCH REPORT

## Match Details:

Community League 3  
Matchday Two (9 April)  
Calwell 2

## Scorers:

Kaushal Sharma  
Jonathan Chambers

# 2



# 0



## FINAL SCORE

# CLM3 IN THE POINTS

Coming off the back of a tough 2-0 loss to Gungahlin United in the opening game of the season, ANUFC12 faced a difficult set of circumstances leading to their next game away against Brindabella. A combination of injuries, COVID, and mid-sem break absentees left ANUFC12 with eleven able bodies, plus one half-able body in Saad. Numbers were so desperate that an envoy was sent to Bonython Oval before kick-off to seek reinforcements from the Onions (who had a brilliant come-from-behind 3-2 win against Lanyon that day).

In a twist of fate, Brindabella turned out to be in a worse situation player-wise than ANUFC12 as they could only field ten players in total for the entire game. Buoyed by the sudden richness in numbers, ANUFC12 sought to take the initiative and not squander this opportunity to grab three points against weakened opposition. As any sensible coach would know, the best chance to win with ten players is to soak up pressure and hit plenty of long balls forward and hope for the best, which is exactly what Brindabella did. This tactic theoretically would work well, especially against a new team still trying to gel such as ANUFC12. Thankfully, centre backs Jonno, Goose, and Cam (from the Onions) were imperious in dealing with the long ball strategy, showing plenty of calm playing out from the back. Wingbacks Zac and Michael were afforded plenty of opportunities against ten men to bomb forward but had to work back a lot to ensure Brindabella could not hit ANUFC on the counter. A midfield trio consisting of Marcus, who's never stepped beyond his defensive half before this season, and new signings Herman and Jackson initially found it difficult to control the midfield when all the opposition did was pump balls over the top. Wingers Kaushal and Luke often looked to get in behind the Brindabella defence with their searing pace to find shooting opportunities for themselves, or crossing chances for target-man Dennis. There were several such opportunities created in the first half, but it was starting to look like ANUFC12 couldn't shake their wastefulness in front of goal from the previous game.

The longer ANUFC12 went without a goal in the first half, the more nerves there were about conceding against ten men. Harry in goal kept ANU in the game when the odd counter resulted in tame shots on target. Eventually, ANU's patience and an ingenious idea from Jackson paid off. The wingers Kaushal and Luke had set up as traditional wingers, right footed on the right etc, but at the behest of Jackson, they switched wings midway through the first half to cut in and play as inside forwards. A diagonal ball from Marcus in midfield found Kaushal in the box, who cut in incisively and 1-0 ANU. At the half, the message was simple: get a second second half brought an enforced change as Harry had to leave team ANUFC11 on campus, leaving the brave, hobbling, Saad to put on a bib and gloves and jump into goal. This between the sticks made the need for a second ANU goal all However, sometimes even in the darkest situations, a light

can shine through, and this time Saad showed his credentials and laid an unwanted claim as a backup goalkeeper with several crucial saves as Brindabella pushed hard for an equalizer. As legs tired, the football became less frenetic as ANU realized they could just pass it around the cramping Brindabella. A free kick into the box delivered by Marcus and knocked on (possibly by Herman) allowed a slightly, potentially, maybe just marginally offside Jonno to grab the second and seal what was a difficult but well deserved first win of the season for ANUFC12.

## MARCUS ALIM





**AUSTRALIA  
CUP**

0



5



# NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT

A tough game for ANU Football Club saw them knocked out of the Australia Cup, losing 0-5 to National Premier League (NPL) team Monaro Panthers. On Wednesday night, ANUFC faced 3<sup>rd</sup> place NPL team Monaro Panthers in a Quarter-Final clash in the preliminary rounds of the Australia Cup. ANUFC – who are currently second in the Territory’s second division – had previously defeated Weston Molonglo FC 0-9, in the Cup’s previous round.

Rain started pouring down at the Australian Institute of Sport just before kick-off with the game getting underway at 19:05. ANU struggled to get the ball in the early minutes of the game, with Monaro dominating much of the possession. Despite several early chances, ANU Keeper Keegan Jackson kept the ball out of the net with some great saves. Just as ANU was starting to get into the game, Monaro opened the scoring in the ninth minute with a header after a cross from the right wing. Despite getting a touch of the slippery ball, Jackson was unable to prevent the goal.

ANU struggled to create any chances, with Monaro putting on pressure as soon as ANU got the ball. Sixteen minutes in, ANU got its first good chance to score, with a great pass by Jackson reaching Carl Hynes who put in a cross from the left wing, which ANU’s number 7 headed just wide of goal. This big chance seemed to mark a change for ANU, with the team getting more time on the ball. However, this possession didn’t see any goal opportunities. A foul in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute saw ANU’s Alasdair Moore put a dangerous cross into the box which unfortunately was not met by any ANU player. Only minutes later, Monaro doubled their lead with a corner

landing awkwardly for ANU's defence, resulting in a tight scuffle in front of the keeper which ultimately led to a goal.

Monte Grace hit the ball from well outside the box but was unable to trouble the Monaro keeper in the 28th minute, keeping the score to 0-2. A mistake in the ANU midfield saw Monaro pounce on the ball, with a shot from inside the box beating the keeper making the score 0-3. Only two minutes later, another error in the midfield resulted in a Monaro corner which despite a great save by Jackson and help from the cross-bar - landed in front of a Monaro player who was able to put the ball in the back of the net.

ANU ended the first half well, with Chase Dean shooting the ball from outside the box, with Monaro's keeper unable to keep hold of the ball before being cleared by Monaro defenders. A crucial one-on-one chance for ANU's striker was stopped by a Monaro defender, who put in a rough challenge, earning him a yellow card. The resulting free kick was taken by Dean, who put it over the four-man wall but was just wide of the goal.

Another free kick for ANU marked the final play of the half, with Deans' cross into the box headed away by Monaro. A score of 0-4 at half-time saw a tough challenge ahead for ANU in the second half. As if a carbon copy of the first half, the rain started pouring down as soon as the second half started. Unlike the first half, ANU managed to get good possession of the ball early on, with a cross by Moore nearly meeting an ANU head in Monaro's box.

In the 54<sup>th</sup> minute, ANU's defender Bruno Melo made a goal saving block on the goal line denying Monaro their fifth goal, after keeper Jackson was beaten by a Monaro player. ANU's Tim Lopez made a big impact coming off the bench, however, despite getting hold of the ball more, ANU was unable to create dangerous chances. The 81<sup>st</sup> minute saw ANU have a big chance, substitute Liam Neeson found Mottl, who crossed it into the box. The ball, headed onto goal by Grace, saved by Monaro's keeper.

With only five minutes left, two Monaro players combined well creating a clear shot on goal, which was converted, making the score 0-5. A late chance by Mottl went just wide of the left post, keeping the final score to 0-5.

ANU's focus now turns back to the league, with an away game against Tuggeranong United scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

**TOM KERSTEN**  
*ANU Observer*



# ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE

It's really happening!

That's right folks – after many promises, much fanfare, and several cries of 'hey so where's that merch you were talking about' from the club membership, 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary training shirts have arrived! *SCUM* even did a ham-fisted job of mocking up a modern-looking advertisement (below: you be the judge) to celebrate!

Those with a keen eye will note Felix Freckmann's subtle touches on this shirt, which features a subtle zig-zag pattern in blue and orange over a white base, giving a striped effect to reflect the 'peaks and troughs of the club's footballing traditions'. Add to that the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo – with this being the only kit on which it will be offered – and you've got a winner alright.

Shirts can be ordered through the ANUFC website (that's [anufc.org.au](http://anufc.org.au) for those of you who had never bothered to look before this – it's where we keep the *SCUM*!) for the very reasonable price of \$30, and collected between 5:30pm and 5:45pm on Wednesday nights at the North Oval Pavilion (orders should be placed on the Tuesday night before at the latest). Why wait? Snap one up now!



# FLASHES OF JOY

The pre-game warmup begun with messages trickling into the group chat; one player sick with COVID, one whose ankle was newly injured and very swollen, and one whose Uber had broken down on his way to the game. All of these were omens of what was to come.

The first half was marred by two early goals from the opposition. Small and unfortunate errors cost us dearly, but at least they were against the passage of play. With heads held high we nevertheless continued, managing some solid possessions, and increasingly applying pressure to the opposition. Our chances were piling up as the first half was drawing to a close, with a number of players managing some close shots and forcing some key saves from their keeper. Finally, before the half drew to a close a long shot from midfielder Finn, which the keeper seemingly mistook for a cross, beautifully curved and snuck in past the far post to make it 2-1. Finn, a player with a penchant for taking difficult shots, is yet to confirm whether his goal was intentional or not. We will likely never know for sure.

There's no way to disguise what happened in the second half though, as the opposition piled on the goals to make it 7-2. It was particularly disheartening considering a promising start to the half, as we maintained momentum and dominated possession – only just falling short of evening up the score-line. Even a 10-minute lapse can cost you dearly though as we conceded in a flurry. To their credit our opposition was consistent and disciplined, which made all the difference. Our striker, Nick, was able to score through a lovely top right-corner finish and as a team we continued to play earnestly throughout all 90 minutes. It's obviously not a result that we want, or that we can be happy with, but its early days in the season still for this new team and plenty of time to turn it around.

## Match Details:

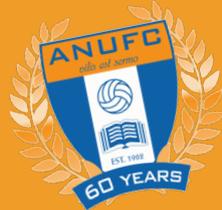
ANUFC v Yarabi  
Community League 1  
Matchday Three (24 April)  
Palmerston 1

## Scorers:

Finlay Scott  
Nicholas Burton

HENRY CAMPBELL

MATCH  
REPORT



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FINAL SCORE



# THE RETURN OF THE ANGRY MAN

This match achieved a world record even before kick-off, with team manager Plastic beating his own entry of 637 emails in the week before the game at the highly touted Capital Football cluster venue, Calwell Meadows. It was all in a good cause – attempting to reschedule to accommodate Gungahlin Utd’s lack of players due to the public holiday long weekend. But this meant nothing to the hard-working bureaucrats at Capital Football who refused a perfectly reasonable request to play the game on the Monday without 14 days’ advance notice, the completion of a dozen administrative forms, FIFA endorsement from Zurich headquarters, and a sacrificial offering. This was despite the fact it worked well for both MO45 teams. So, we were back where we started...

On to the match itself. It’s been an odd start to the 2022 season where it’s been hard to build momentum. We’ve had an unmarked pitch, an annoying Easter break after just two games, and plenty of absences, interspersed with our first (and tragically unlucky) defeat since July 2020. Here, we again had a number of players away or suffering from middle-aged knack, but our enviable 47-man squad meant we were still able to field a strong bench versus Gungahlin Utd. This bench included a rare sighting of the lesser-spotted Wisey, who is rumoured to have been part of the squad for nearly two seasons. He arrived sporting a stylish chapeau on his battered bonce, and brandishing two cans of suitably-named Angry Man pale ale, threatening all and sundry if they dared touch the aforementioned tins.

Fortunately, the pitch at Calwell Meadows was marked. It had also apparently been mown – not that this was necessarily noticeable from the calf-length grass remaining, but from the several inches of fresh cuttings that clogged up the surface. At least we had a ref. Incredible. Our warm-up was almost non-existent, with Coach CDR otherwise engaged in working out how to enter the teamsheet in the new DRIBL platform; Plastic had difficulty doing so with his goalkeeper gloves and an \$80 dumbphone. It’s a pity the designers obviously spent more time investing in the brand name than in UX and user-intuitive design. However, as CDR rightly pointed out, we’ve all played long enough and are ugly enough to sort out a proper warm-up without his instructions from on high, so this ‘was all on you lot’. The CF-appointed bugler played a moving Last Post, the ref blew his whistle, and we were away.

Unsurprisingly, we started very poorly: half pace, and regularly under- or over-hitting passes in trying to adjust to the lush Meadows surface. After twenty minutes or so, freshly-anointed as

THE DEMONS  
OF A 1-0  
DEFEAT STILL  
LOOM FOR  
CDR’S OVER-  
45s, VAGUELY  
UNSATISFIED  
WITH A 5-1  
THUMPING

## MATCH REPORT

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### Match Details:

ANUFC v Gungahlin United  
Masters League Over-45s  
Matchday Three (24 April)  
Calwell Meadows

team captain, and freshly shorn, Mick Palfrey tried to inspire his charges and take the game by the scruff of the neck. Swivelling his shapely hips nicely in his deep-lying midfield role, Palf swung a truly visionary 30m cross-field ball to Gungahlin's speedy danger-man on the wing, who completely wrong-footed Tommy. A couple of moments later, we were a goal down, smacked from inside the box, giving Plastic no chance of his longed-for clean sheet.

But there was method to Palf's apparent madness. Going a goal behind to Gungahlin gave us the kick up the pants we needed. Benno started marauding up from left back and sliding some decent balls into the forwards, and towards the end of the half was involved in a neat tiki-taka interchange with Palf and Pat, before slotting home with aplomb.

Apart from gifting them a goal start, the first half was memorable mainly for Channers demonstrating new and inventive ways to miss chances – generally involving playing the ball with his studs, it seemed. On another day, we could have been three or four goals to the good by half time. Plastic nonetheless was forced to make a sharp reflex save from a lofted freekick into the box, to his right as he moved to his left, which only the linesman seemed to notice. However, it was 1-1 at halftime and with some of Gungahlin's better players leaving to play for their O35s, we seemed to be on track to roll over them in the second half.

And so it proved. Haigy injected youthful but rapidly balding energy whenever he got on the ball, and was on hand to turn in a nice pull back from Stods, just as CDR had implored the wingers to do during the break. Soon it was 3; Pat got the ball inside their box and, mindful of Channers' first-half blanks in front of goal, set off on a mazy dribble across their six-yard box aiming to beat each of their defenders at least once, but ideally twice, in order to give Channers a surely unmissable chance in front of goal. At one stage, Pat actually took the ball off Channers' foot as he was facing goal, judging that this was not a good enough opportunity based on his first half scattergunning. At length, Pat pulled the ball back from the byline (nod to CDR), and Channers gratefully slotted home from a ridiculously close range. Not even he could miss that, much as he might try. Pat has assured us that at no stage was he thinking of creating a shooting opportunity for himself, as he's very relaxed about not having scored for a couple of games. And I, for one, would never doubt him.

It was then a question of how many, and the answer was two more. Palf picked up the ball just outside the box and looped one over the keeper off a slight deflection for a deserved goal. Then (\*crowd holds its collective breath\*) it was none other than Wisey who strode onto the pitch and slotted home a fourth, still wearing his stylish chapeau. Some teammates wondered whether the hat included a built-in muffler, as we never heard a peep out of the Angry Man...time will tell as the season heats up, no doubt.

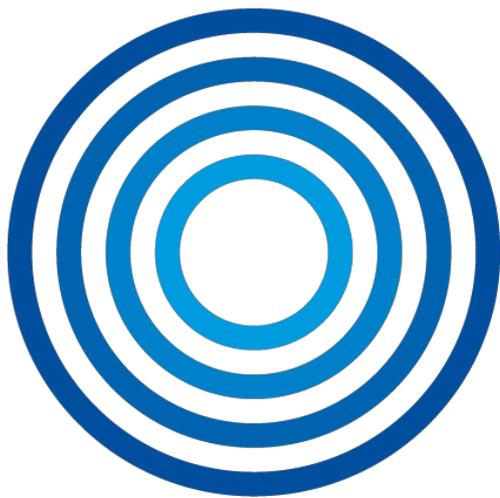
The highlight of the match was surely Butch giving new insights into the 'total football' mindset of an ANU centre back, by spending much of the second half embedded randomly in our forward line. The lowlight was another couple of injuries – Nick pulling a quad muscle early on, and Benno pulling up with another strained groin, this time on the other side. It is perhaps just as well that Benno was only given two groins or it could be a very long season.

Final score was a 5-1 win, which should normally be cause for celebration, but still feels vaguely unsatisfying as we are not yet fully firing on all cylinders. However, there were some good individual performances – Tommy, Chris and Palf deservedly taking the votes in Players' Player. Hopefully a good run of week-in-week-out games from here on in will help us settle down and play to our full potential.

**PETER PAPATHANASIOU**

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