MGFL REVIEW ROUND 2

Boolarra became “Jack the Giant Killers “when they defeated Trafalgar at home on Saturday, the Bloods were forced to change their game venue due to ground reconstruction so Boolarra had all the glory of the day which included a 21 point win. Boolarra started their big match without Nick Hider (unavailable) and Darryl Mayman (cleared) but they did include new recruit Chris Stanisinowsky and they started their game with a flourish booting four early goals which was the mainstay of their victory. They kept ahead of Trafalgar every quarter but at three quarter time there was only 15 points between the two teams. Boolarra coach Tony Giardina implored his players at the three-quarter time break to make the last a memorable quarter, a quarter which will show whether Boolarra have what it takes to tackle and beat the “big” teams. Although it was a bit of an arm wrestle in the last term which neither team able to score freely, being kept under pressure. Urged on by the vocal home crowd Boolarra defended well, keeping Trafalgar down to only three behinds but adding a miserly 1-3 to run out good winners 11-8 to 7-11. Sam Mazou and Justin Embrey both scored with three goals for the Dees, while Rhys Holdsworth bagged four for Trafalgar. Andrew Thorpe, possibly the smallest player on the field, proved his value with a best on ground performance for Boolarra while other players such as Justin Embury, Ken Towt and Matt Buglisi all chipped in with good game skills. Trafalgar were left holding their heads after the game, knowing that this game slipped through their fingers, best were Darcy Long, Tyson Leys (against his former club), Jace Butler and Matt Swenson.

Yarragon came up against an immovable force when they tackled Yinnar in what was proported to be the match of the day, but it turned out to be a whopping victory to Yinnar by 181 points. Players and supporters could not have forseen what was going to happen after the first quarter when scores were level at 4-5 each. After a stir by Sam McCulloch, the Magpies stepped up a cog and completely outplayed the Panthers, an eight goal second term blasted Yarragon to the point of stalling, the Panthers barely raising the flags with only a behind, which was their last for the day. Such was the dominance of Yinnar, they kept Yarragon scoreless for the last two quarters. Yinnar didn’t miss Tim Aitken at full-forward, his position was capably taken by the much slimmer Cameron Harwood who scored six goals alongside Sam Mills who was also credited with six. It was a game best forgotten by Yarragon but a good guide as to the fortunes of Yinnar this season, two games two good wins and facing Morwell East next Sunday will be a good test. Best for Yinnar were Sam Mills, Jadyn Embrey, James Dowling (back to his best and fairest form) and Jamie winters, while for Yarragon James Harvey, Ben Damschke and Andrew Hewson all tried hard as Yinnar ran out big winners 31-19 to 4-6

Newborough retained the Fanning/Bryne Cup with a decisive win over Hill End. The Bulldogs suffered lack of concentration during the match and at times their disposal was woeful. Hill End lead at the first break but only by a minor as Newborough were wasteful in front of goal and should have been streets ahead. Newborough’s odd kicking wasn’t due to ground or weather condition but to poor ball skills. Hill End were kept in the game by Newborough’s poor scoring abilities and even at three-quarter time both teams had only five goals each on the board, but Newborough’s tally of 16 behinds tells a story. Reliable forward Michael Gelagotis had a miserable day in front kicking 1-7 but his counterpart Adam Kennedy finished with five goals. The Dogs came good in the last quarter, adding 5-4 to wrap up the match 10-20 to 5-1. Best for the Bulldogs were Jeremy Cattanach, Adam Kennedy, Chris Hancock and Rhys Jacobs. For Hill End, Kris Ayton, Callum Robertson, Mick Parker and Tyler Forte all battled hard.

Mirboo North started their season proper with a good win over Thorpdale to retain the first leg of the Bright/St Ellen Shield, the Tigers included 11 players that were missing from their opening match which certainly boosted their team. Thorpdale even without their coach Nathan Scurrah (hamstring) were competitive and were giving as good as they got, light misty rain added to the gloomy atmosphere as both teams strived to gain the upper hand. Thorpdale held sway in the first term by three points, but this was reversed by half time when Mirboo North led 4-4 to 1-6. The breeze downhill helped Thorpdale in the third when they got within 15 points, good play by Kris Bedford and Corey Celima the catalyst in their revival. Mirboo North got their act together in the final stanza with a four goal haul which carried them to a 31 point victory. Jack Robertson scored four goals for Mirboo North but star forward Tim Traill was held to only one goal. For Mirboo North they were well led by coach Matt Holland with good support from Josh Taylor, Jack Robertson and Brendon Weston.

Morwell East came home with the goods against Yallourn-Yallourn North to chalk up their second win, the Hawks taking the game by 38 points. YYN led the Hawks at the first break albeit by one point, but Morwell East showed their mettle in the second term with a 5-8 term to nil and by half time were cruising by over 36 points. YYN were missing Tom Hutton up forward, the last half was a goal fest by both sides, both adding 9 goals, but Morwell East’s second quarter was the telling factor. The East had good forwards in Ben Marks (5) and Shaun Barnes (4) while YYN shared their tally around with nine players registering on the scoresheet. Morwell East best in their 17-10 to 12-2 victory were Matt Brown, Brendon Francis and the Marks brothers, while for YYN Tyler Brown, Barrie Burnett and David Ivey were voted as best.