

A FOOTBALL SEASON WITH A DIFFERENCE ...

- *Football fan begins a 30,000km, 26-week journey on April 2*
- *Playing, umpiring and watching his way through approximately 70 matches on 40 match days, culminating in the W.A.F.L. Grand Final on Sunday September 25.*

PERTH (March 2, 2016) – Self-confessed ‘football nut’ Derek Mott is set to embark on a football season with a difference in April when he spends 26 weekends travelling to all parts of the state during 2016, which will form the basis for a book on grassroots football in Western Australia, which is expected to be released in 2017.

Mott’s first port of call will be Boyup Brook for their Lower South West F.L. season opener against Kojonup on Saturday April 2 and will culminate with the W.A.F.L. Grand Final on Sunday September 25 after travelling more than 30,000 kilometres.

Mott’s schedule is to consist of approximately 70 matches (including more than 50 League matches and 17 Reserves matches) and will take in matches from Kununurra, Broome and Port Hedland in the north down to Albany, Ravensthorpe and Esperance in the south, as well as a cross-border hop for the WA Country team’s interstate clash against SA Country in Adelaide in July.

The journey will take in matches from all 30 of the state’s senior competitions over 40 match days, as well as three Carnivals (the Great Southern Colts Carnival and the Northern Regions Colts Carnival in mid-June and the Landmark Country Championships in July) and two State representative matches (Western Australia versus Tasmania in June and also the SA Country versus WA Country clash).

In order to visit every league, Mott will travel to matches by plane, car and train. The season will involve flights to Kununurra, Port Hedland, Newman, Adelaide and two flights to Broome – no mean feat for a self-confessed ‘nervous flyer’.

In a twist, Mott will play one-off matches for more than a dozen clubs during his travels from the start of the season until clearances close at the end of June. In addition, he will umpire some games and also act as an official for the W.A. Country team in Adelaide.

Mott will also be involved in the broadcast of up to a dozen matches via a live audio broadcast with colleague Jacob Landsmeer during the season. The pair called Mortlock Football League matches on a weekly basis in seasons 2014 and 2015. The broadcast matches will be confirmed prior to the start of the season and the matches will be available for listening as podcasts via the *WA Footy Traveller* Facebook page.

Mott credits Paul Daffey’s book *Local Rites* as the inspiration to undertake this project, as well as providing the opportunity to highlight grassroots football in the state for its role in producing A.F.L. talent and also the role that the sport plays in urban and rural communities.

The season schedule can be found on the following page.

You can follow his exploits on:

Facebook: **WA FOOTY TRAVELLER**

Twitter: **@BOUNCINGBURLEY**

Should you have any queries, I can be contacted between 8.00am and 9.00pm (WST).

Derek Mott

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The full schedule is as follows:

Saturday April 2	BOYUP BROOK v Kojonup	Boyup Brook
Sunday April 3	SOUTHERN SAINTS v TBC	Noranda (TBC)
Saturday April 9	SOUTH MANDURAH v Halls Head	Falcon
Saturday April 16	Bunbury v Carey Park / South Bunbury v H-B-L	Bunbury (Double Header)
Sunday April 17	HARVEY BULLS v Eaton Boomers	Harvey
Sunday April 23	CERVANTES v Moora	Cervantes
Sunday April 24	Mundaring v Parkerville	Mundaring
Saturday April 30	Towns v Bombers; Cable Beach v Bidyadanga; SAINTS v Looma	Broome (Triple Header)
Saturday May 7	NORTHAMPTON v Mullewa	Northampton
Saturday May 14	Tigers v Lakes	Ravensthorpe
Sunday May 15	GOOMALLING v Gingin	Goomalling
Friday May 20	Fortescue N.F.L. – Match TBC	Venue TBC
Saturday May 21	Centrals v Tigers / Saints v PIONEERS	Newman (Double Header)
Friday May 27	Port Hedland Rovers v South Hedland Swans	Port Hedland
Sunday May 29	KUKERIN/DUMBLEYUNG v Narrogin Hawks	Dumbleyung
Saturday June 4 (or Sat July 9)	W.A. Amateur F.L. – Match TBC	Venue TBC
Sunday June 5	York v RAILWAYS	York
Monday June 6	South Fremantle v East Fremantle	Fremantle
Saturday June 11	Western Australia v Tasmania	Bassendean
Sunday June 12	Narembeen v KULIN/KONDININ	Narembeen
Saturday June 18	Great Southern Colts Carnival	Lake Grace
Sunday June 19	Northern Regions Colts Carnival	Wongan Hills
Saturday June 25	Newdegate v Lake Grace/Pingrup	Newdegate
Sunday June 26	ALBANY v Mount Barker	Albany
Saturday July 2	Mines Rovers v Railways	Kalgoorlie
Sunday July 3	KAMBALDA v Kalgoorlie	Kambalda
Sunday July 10	Landmark Country Football Championships Finals	Venue TBC
Saturday July 16	PORTS v Gibson	Esperance
Saturday July 23	East Kimberley F.L. – Preliminary Final	Venue TBC
Sunday July 31	S.A. Country v W.A. Country	Adelaide
Saturday August 6	Nannup Tigers v Busselton Bombers	Nannup
Saturday August 13	Gascoyne F.A. – Match TBC	Venue TBC
Sunday August 14	Metro F.L. – Match TBC	Venue TBC
Sunday August 21	Central Kimberley F.L. – Preliminary Final	Fitzroy Crossing
Saturday August 27	Central Wheatbelt F.L. - GRAND FINAL	Kalannie
Sunday August 28	W.A. Women's F.L. - GRAND FINAL	Venue TBC
Saturday September 3	W.A. Amateur F.L. – 'B' Grade Preliminary Final	Venue TBC
Saturday September 10	North Midlands F.L. - GRAND FINAL	Venue TBC
Saturday September 17	W.A. Amateur F.L. - 'A' GRADE GRAND FINAL	Venue TBC
Sunday September 25	W.A.F.L. - GRAND FINAL	Subiaco

Clubs playing for: Albany Sharks, Boyup Brook, Broome Saints, Cervantes, Goomalling, Harvey Bulls, Kambalda, Kulin/Kondinin, Kukerin/Dumbleyung, Northampton, Pioneers (Newman), Ports (Esperance) *TBC*, Railways (Northam), South Mandurah, Southern Saints.