

VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# FA Cup type comp worth punt in VAFA

## LEAGUE CHIEF KEEN TO INTRODUCE KNOCKOUT PRE-SEASON PROGRAM

Codey Winnell

VICTORIAN Amateur Football Association chief executive Michael Sholly floated the idea of an FA Cup style competition at a recent league members meeting.

Writing in the VAFA's weekly publication last week, Sholly suggested the league would run two

knockout competitions, one between its Premier clubs and the other between Division outfits.

"What a great evening of football and entertainment it would be to have an evening match in daylight saving played between two local rivals, regardless of their section, as a warm-up to the start of the season?" he

wrote.

Sholly said the intention was for the initial matches to be played in March on a Tuesday or Wednesday night at Sportscove Arena in Elsternwick.

"By the time Round 1 of the season commences, we would have only eight (Premier) or 16 (Division) clubs remaining," he said.

"The Division and Premier Cup finals would then be played under lights on the Wednesday and Thursday night before the bye for Queen's Birthday long weekend."

Sholly said clubs would benefit from playing "live matches" in March and suggested they could use the fixtures as fundraisers.

"Whatever the motivation, these matches could become a real highlight for the year," he said.

Meanwhile, ammos club and league officials attended the seventh annual Big V club lunch on Friday.

North Old Boys' legend Bruno Conti was named an official Big V Champion at the event.

### fast lane

#### Cannons fire

➤ CALDER Cannons were triumphant on the road last Sunday, returning from Wangaratta after dismantling Murray Bushrangers, 18.12 (120) to 10.7 (67). Jake Owen was the star for Calder, jacking five goals in a 22-possession game, while Peter Wright added four for the Cannons. Calder played Sandringham Dragons on Sunday (after deadline) and will meet the Geelong Falcons at Simonds Stadium next Saturday.

#### Zebras stumble

➤ MORELAND Zebras are fourth on the State League 2 ladder after going down to Box Hill United, 2-1, at Reddish Reserve on Saturday. Box Hill led 1-0 at half-time before closing the game out in the second half. Meanwhile, Fawkner Blues were held to a 2-2 draw with Eastern Lions, with Josip Loncaric and Ayodeji Omoboye scoring the locals' goals. Moreland Zebras travel to Eastern Lions on Saturday, while Fawkner Blues are away to Sunshine George Cross.

#### Safe, for now

➤ PASCOE Vale is 10th on the Victorian Premier League table but seven points above the bottom two, despite going down to Green Gully Cavaliers, 1-0, last Saturday. Brent Fisher scored the only goal of the game, after the hour mark, as the hosts took all three points at Green Gully Reserve. Pascoe Vale plays Bentleigh Greens at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex on Friday.

#### Lions on top

➤ THERRY Penola is the team to beat in this year's Victorian Amateur Football Association Division 2 flag race. The Lions are three games clear at the top of the table after thrashing fourth-placed Old Eltham Collegians, 19.5 (119) to 6.5 (41), at John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve. The Bannister brothers were at it again, Jarrod Bannister slotting eight goals and Corey Bannister adding five. Meanwhile, West Brunswick is third on the Division 4 ladder and North Brunswick is sixth.

#### Finals on agenda

➤ BRUNSWICK remained in the hunt for finals last week despite suffering a 4-3 loss to Casey in Hockey Victoria Men's Vic League 1 competition last Saturday. The side sat in seventh place on the ladder last week, just three points outside the top-four. Meanwhile, Brunswick's Women's Vic League 2 side downed Casey 3-2.

SQUASH

## Gigglefest sure to be a smash-hit



Melanie Stayhes, Georgie Stayhes, Helena Kidd and Ajay Evans are looking forward to taking part in a new concept called Hits and Giggles squash, which will give women in Brunswick the opportunity to get fit and learn the sport in a fun way at Fitz's Gym on Saturdays from August 17. Hits and Giggles will run for six weeks, with a one-hour coaching session each week. "Hits and Giggles allows participants to be active and learn a new sport in a non-competitive setting with only a commitment of one hour a week," Squash Victoria executive director Fiona Young said. "The beauty of this program is that it is designed for any fitness and skill level." Hits and Giggles will run each Saturday from 1-2pm. Fitz's Gym is at 507-515 Victoria St, Brunswick.

Picture: ANGIE BASDEKIS

ESSENDON DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Rooney to step down from Districts at season's end

Chris Cavanagh

COBURG Districts coach Ron Rooney will stand down at the end of the season.

The veteran coach, who has been in charge at the Lions for the past two seasons, told the club of his decision

last weekend.

Rooney said Coburg Districts needed a fresh face at the helm.

"With our playing list, we've got to find someone that can bring in a whole heap of players," Rooney said.

"Obviously we've been caught short this year and unfortunately our better players are probably the older ones who are probably going to give it away."

After crossing from the Western Region Football League to the Essendon Dis-

trict Football League Division 2 competition, Rooney said he felt the Lions had over-estimated their ability in their new competition.

"I think the club over-estimated where the playing group was at in regards to the EDFL," Rooney said.

"They've got to get younger players; they've got to get players with a bit of leg speed."

Coburg Districts president Allan Chandler said last week the club had already begun advertising for a new coach.

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