

## **Slazenger Cup**

The annual pre-season match between Ballarat's State League Team and the Kew Hockey Club is on again in Ballarat, to be played instead by the newly formed WestVic Hockey.

When: 4pm, Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>  
Where: Bendigo Bank Ballarat Hockey Centre

Come and see the newest hockey club in Australia play the oldest!

[kewhockey.com](http://kewhockey.com)

## **Uniforms**

Uniform sizes will be taken at the Launch/Bowls Day.

## **WestVic Hockey Launch and Bowls Day**

The official launch of WestVic Hockey will be held on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the City Oval Bowling Club.

WestVic Hockey Co-ordinator, Michael Poulton, will introduce the newly-formed club to the sporting community.

It will also be the first major fundraiser, with a BBQ lunch and lawn bowling on offer.

We strongly encourage all players to attend, along with all the family and friends they can muster!

When: **12pm**  
**Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Where: **City Oval Bowling Club**  
**1406 Sturt St, Ballarat**

Cost (includes BBQ and Bowls):

**Adults \$10**  
**U17 \$5**  
**Family \$25**

WestVic Hockey would like to acknowledge the support of the following businesses;

SportzBiz  
Bunnings Warehouse  
Ryan's Supa IGA  
UFS Dispensaries

and appreciates the kind support of the City Oval Bowling Club

## **WestVic Hockey Men - Best in the South West**

On Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>, the newly selected Men's WestVic Hockey squad made the six hour return trip to Portland to compete in the South West Games.

With a packed schedule of 25 minute games throughout the day, WestVic was looking to begin the day with some solid form, aiming to improve as the day went on – and have some fun along the way!

WestVic was able to get through the morning session undefeated, with some testing games against Wimmera Hockey premiers, Yanac, the Portland Men's Representative Side and the Peckerheads (an eclectic mix of Glenelg Hockey Association players and some left over Portland players).

Highlights of the morning matches were the goal shooting of Allan Burrows and the resolute defence of centre half, Nathan 'Hoggy' Hargreaves and full backs Chris Vaughan and Ian 'Eggy' Edgar (called upon regularly as the majority of the team struggled to trap the ball on the grass surface!).

The lunch break was enjoyed by all, as players discussed how WestVic had won the first three games, and counting their lucky stars that former Ballarat player, Ted Meredith (playing for the Peckerheads), was not able to lead his side to an upset win. WestVic half back, Jeremy Bourke, was able to quell Meredith's known match-winning capabilities – keeping the star opposition wing player scoreless for the entire game. During the lunch break, we also learnt the secret behind Allan Burrows' supreme goal shooting prowess – a quick spray of sunscreen under the arms!

With lunch out of the way, it was time to focus on the afternoon's matches against the Warrnambool Men's Representative Side, then the 'double-header' against the Portland Under-21 Men and Mount Gambier. A tight win against Warrnambool saw WestVic earn a spot in the final, which also meant that the scheduled 'double-header' turned into a 'triple-header', with the final being played directly after the match against Mount Gambier.

WestVic breezed past the Portland Under-21 Men then was held to a draw by the fast finishing Mount Gambier side. The strain of playing two matches in a row was starting to show, as numerous WestVic players began to suffer cramping in their legs during the Mount Gambier draw – no doubt the result of 3 months of strenuous inactivity going in to the tournament.

Highlights of the afternoon matches were the drive into attack provided by forwards Nic Don, Marty Dowman and Phill Gemmell, the adaptability of Leon Judd and the impenetrable goalkeeping of Brett Marshall. Some comic relief was provided by brothers Jason and Nick Hargreaves – with Jason trying to play out a game at inner and Nick cramping up in both legs at the same time!

WestVic went into the final a little worse for wear due to the bouts of cramping which had spread across almost the entire team, but still quietly confident having already accounted for the other grand-finalists, Yanac, in the first match of the day. WestVic was able to go one-up early in the match, however, was not able to press home the advantage with even more cramping setting in. Yanac, through increased pressure, were able to score a leveller towards the end of the first half. The score remained at 1-all at full time and at the completion of extra time (which only heightened the worsening cramping situation) with the game being played mostly in the midfield, and scoring opportunities being few and far between. The final was decided upon by penalty strokes, with WestVic converting three strokes, to Yanac's one.

The highlight of the final occurred during the completion of the penalty strokes, with one player, who shall remain nameless, and despite the after effects of cramping in both legs at the same time, flicking the ball so hard, that it threatened the bus of another team which was parked 30 metres behind the goal (and about 20 metres to the left of the goal!).

WestVic were then able to travel back to Ballarat undefeated in their first ever outing in the possession of some shiny gold medals and some very, very sore legs.

A most enjoyable day was had by all, with special thanks going to tournament organisers, our manager for the day and number one ticket holder, Ian Burrows and Julian our Bus Driver from WestVic Hockey Sponsor, Gold Bus.

Go WestVic!

## **2008 Boys Camp Review**

Declared “Best Camp Ever” by former IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the U17 Boys Pre-Season Camp was held in Creswick over the Australia Day Long Weekend.

The squad was divided into 3 teams and competed against each other in a series of mental and physical ‘challenges’ over the course of 2 days. The Orange team - featuring West, Junior, Pro-Vo and captained by Tristan - were the victors. Liam’s Green team placed second and Jack’s Blue team started well, but faded in the final challenges to finish third.

A huge thankyou goes to mums, Helen and Sally, for keeping the boys well-fed and ensuring everything went smoothly behind the scenes.

### **What did we learn?**

Daints loves apples. We’re all looking forward to a dance tribute to his favourite fruit.

The rules to the famous game of Ultimate Mini Soccer-Ball.

The Green team learned the word ‘mutiny’. And threatened constantly to put it into practice!

Even (Little) Jesus couldn’t save the Blue team

Veterans should be careful when taking on the Rookies. Dishes anyone?

### **The Quotes**

*“Daints doesn’t have a nickname”* – Alex, discussing Ben Dainton.

*“Sam Konichiwa and his beef”* – Tristan not quite getting it right when referring to Sam Kekovich and his TV ads for lamb.

*“Snakes on a Movie”* – Junior, who may have meant ‘Snakes on a Plane’.

*“Now no-one will know that I am laughing”* – Liam, feeling quite clever after hiding his face with a bandanna. Unfortunately, he forgot we could still *hear* him.