

## **Match Report**

### **Practice Match**

#### **15 March 2008 v. Melton at the Bendigo Bank Ballarat Hockey Centre**

Score after first period: 0-0

Score after second period: 3-1

Final Score: 3-1

Goalscorers: Chris Vaughan, Martin Dowman, Allan Burrows

The WestVic men turned out for their first practice match of the 2008 pre-season last Saturday in oppressive Ballarat heat (36 degrees) against 2007 State League 4 team, Melton.

WestVic began the match with a strong focus on attack and were able to keep the ball in their attacking half for much of the first third, due to the hard work of the midfield. A number of circle penetrations were ineffective, with WestVic only winning one penalty corner, and squandering a couple of good goal chances in general play.

The second third saw the focus change to possession, with WestVic continuing to dictate play through the middle of the ground. The pressure on the Melton defence showed in this third, with the WestVic attack managing to score 3 quality field goals. A lapse in the WestVic defence saw Melton allowed a 'low chance' shot at goal, which they were able to capitalise on.

The focus for the final third of the game was on ball movement. The oppressive heat began to get to both teams in this third, with a number of turnovers occurring, contested efforts decreasing and the game played almost exclusively in between the 25 yard lines. Melton was able to force a number of Penalty Corners in this third, however, all were thwarted by the WestVic defence.

Whilst the fact that a win against a State League 4 side is a very promising sign, perhaps the most promising sign is the room for further improvement across the squad.

Training continues each Thursday night at 7pm, with the next practice match being on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm against Kew, with the Slazenger Cup at stake.

Can WestVic take home the Slazenger Cup for the first time?

## **WestVic Hockey Men's Captains announced**

The Captain and Vice Captains of the Men's squad for 2008 have been announced. Coach, Jason Hargreaves, explained that the 'identified leaders' were chosen due to the hard work done both on and off the pitch over the pre-season and the respect that each had earned from all of their teammates.

**Captain:** Chris Vaughan

**Vice Captain:** Allan Burrows

**Vice Captain:** Nathan Hargreaves