



## MEDIA RELEASE



### **BENDIGO BANK WESTVIC HOCKEY SENIOR MEN – STATE LEAGUE 4**

#### **MATCH REPORT – GRAND FINAL**

*Date:* **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**  
*Venue:* **State Hockey Centre – Pitch 1**  
*Opposition:* **Maccabi**

*Final Score:* **WestVic Hockey 6 def. Maccabi 4**

*Goalscorers:* Allan Burrows, Nic Don, Cheyne Hackett, Ben Dainton, Jason Hargreaves, Nathan Hargreaves

*Best:* Chris Vaughan, Nathan Hargreaves, Ian Edgar, Ben Dainton, Leon Judd, Bas Groeneveld

Despite an interrupted finals campaign, resulting in an extra week's break before the Grand Final, the *Bendigo Bank* WestVic Hockey Senior Men's team secured the State League 4 premiership in emphatic fashion against an overwhelmed Maccabi team.

This victory saw WestVic complete the remarkable feat of winning back-to-back flags, having been promoted from State League 5 after winning the 2008 Premiership.

Previous results between the two teams indicated that a close match was to be expected, with the teams playing out a draw in Round 5, Maccabi securing a one goal victory in Round 14 and WestVic prevailing in extra time in the Qualifying Final by a goal.

The match began in an ideal fashion for WestVic when Jason Hargreaves carried the ball deep into the attacking circle in the third minute, to set up Allan Burrows for an open shot at goal to see WestVic take an early lead.

When Chris Vaughan set Nic Don up with a tap in goal just two minutes later, WestVic appeared to be well and truly on their way to the Premiership, with Vaughan and Nathan Hargreaves seemingly unstoppable in the midfield for WestVic.

Proving the old adage that Grand Finals are never won until the final whistle, Maccabi began to find their composure through the midfield and create pressure on the WestVic defence.

A fortuitous mis-trap in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute found an unmarked Maccabi forward in their attacking circle, who was able to slip the ball past WestVic keeper, Bas Groeneveld, to narrow the margin.

A well manufactured Penalty Corner goal to Maccabi in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute saw the match back on even terms with Maccabi appearing to have wrested momentum of the contest.

2 spectacular goal saves by Groeneveld proved to be a turning point in the match, with his individual brilliance providing the catalyst for a WestVic second coming in the final minutes of the first half.

A stunning diving goal from dogged forward, Cheyne Hackett, followed by a powerful penalty corner strike from young-gun, Ben Dainton in the last five minutes of the first half reinstated a commanding two goal buffer for WestVic.

The second half provided an enthralling contest as both teams fought hard to score the next goal of the match. WestVic defenders Leon Judd, Gavin Mann and Ian Edgar proved why the WestVic defence has been difficult to crack all season, as they continually thwarted Maccabi's forward movement.

In the 56<sup>th</sup> minute Jason Hargreaves pounced on a loose ball in the attacking circle to put away WestVic's fifth goal and open up a seemingly insurmountable 3 goal margin.

Displaying his trademark strength on the ball, WestVic midfield powerhouse, Nathan Hargreaves, hustled his way through a crowded attacking circle to put away WestVic's sixth goal with only seven minutes remaining on the clock.

Two late consolation goals to Maccabi were not enough to take the gloss off an outstanding victory by WestVic, who will now proceed to State League 3 in 2010 following their domination of State League 4 in 2009.

**For further information contact:**

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