



Williamstown Lacrosse Club

Est 1898

2017 DIVISION ONE COACHES REPORT

Terrific result for the club with flags in State League, D1, & D2.

Still a difficult year as State League needed to retain a core of 18 players with injury, representative lacrosse and other factors not allowing a natural flow of players both ways.

Congratulations to the Fearons for an emphatic finals series with a host of new players that was probably one of the youngest State League sides we have sent out in a Grand Final in recent memory. Congratulations also to our Division 2 side, winning a Grand Final at any level is special, but coming from behind to force overtime and then getting up...very satisfying.

Due to reasons touched on above, Division 1 had to field sides of 11, 12 and 13 players for a lot of the year. To do this and only lose a game is testament to the competitive (and combative) nature of Messrs Flaherty, Williams, Wilkinson & Dobson. Those four players were the mainstay of the side and in real terms were the best coaches this side could have. When you include Ardossi, Taylor (B & M), Garnsworthy & Menzies, we had most bases covered allowing us to run a number of juniors through, giving them ample exposure and access to players that other clubs can only dream of ever being involved.

To watch and listen to Wilko or Card explain the nuances of the game to the likes of Will Olver, Shae Moat or Brock Gourley was fantastic. I (and the club) owe the senior guys that played in Division 1 a high level of gratitude for this alone.

Ash Wilkinson, for mine, is still one of the best players at Williamstown, I can tell you he was shattered to lose last year and wasn't going to let anything stop the side from going one better this year. His ability to share knowledge yet retain his focus on playing well & winning was extraordinary. It was no wonder he not only won our B & F but also the competition Best & Fairest.

As I said...extraordinary.

I hope to apply for the position again for season 2018 and (if successful) will rely on the senior guys to mentor the junior players that are selected. I have seen the young talent first hand and am extremely excited to get a hold of these players and try and continue to teach them how to play the best game on the planet, in readiness for long State League careers.

Big thank you's to Flazza and Pete Marshall as manager and scorer respectively. We struggled early to fill these spots and I don't take your involvement for granted. Simon Brown...hardest job of the lot of us. To juggle the amount of players you did to ensure 99% get a game at the pointy end is proof of your organisational skills. Thanks.

I've missed a few I know, so if you played ANY part in helping us get to where we wanted to go Thank you. That includes a shout out to Ben Hussey who was under a lot of pressure from the side to play HIS part. He did, we won and that's that!

Mark Butler