



Williamstown Lacrosse Club

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2017 DIVISION TWO COACHES REPORT

The 2017 season saw the recent trend continue, as Williamstown Division 2 again won the premiership. 3 flags in a row is a great effort at any level, in any sporting endeavour. The road to the premiership was as typical as it was not.

54 players moved through the Division 2 team this year, some fleeting, others part of the weekly grind. Injuries, European holidays, ski trips, illness and some late Friday nights all contributing to the mass of bodies it took to fill a team each week.

The Division 2 team experienced 3 losses in the home & away season, Altona, MCC and Surrey Park getting the better of the boys at different times. The best win of the season came at home to Camberwell in round 8. It was a bizarre day, with a serious leg injury (to Darren Nicholas) in the 3rd quarter almost resulting in the game being abandoned. Division 2 finished with 9 fit players, 2 huge goals in the fading light by Shannon Beckham were the difference in the end, 12-10 Williamstown.

Finishing the home & away season as minor premiers meant Division 2 earned the double chance, and this season it was needed as MCC swiped Division 2 aside in the 2nd semi-final, 13-7.

The Preliminary final saw the Division 2 boys bounce back at a mud plains of Eltham to defeat Altona 9-3, earning the right to take on MCC for the premiership.

The Grand Final, played at Footscray was a fantastic game of the lacrosse, the consent ebbed and flowed, with both teams having their run of play across the 80 minutes. A victory looked unlikely as MCC built a 3-goal lead late in the 4th quarter, but thanks to some big saves, timely checks, clutch goals and stellar faceoff play Division 2 clawed their way back, tying the contest 10-10 with 43 seconds remaining in regulation. The 8-minute over-time period (two 4 minute halves) saw Division 2's momentum carry through, resulting in a terrific win, 12-10.

The Division 2 recent dominance is a direct reflection of the talent still at the club and continually being developed. The grand final saw 2 Australian representatives running around, not to mentioned several state league and representative players in support.

The biggest positive throughout the season were our junior players Harry Gibson, Edison Pyke and Will Olver who excelled in their first full year of seniors.

I must thank Damien, Mark, Carl and Simon for their help in getting 4 teams on the park each week. It was an eye-opening experience to see firsthand how much time, effort and energy it takes to make this happen, and all for the love of game.

Lee Davis