

Premium Sporting Products

2018 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 15 (7/8 JULY)

By Alistair Kennedy

FIRST GRADE SCORES

THE ENTRANCE	2	KANWAL	2
KANWAL	2	EAST GOSFORD	0
TERRIGAL	5	TOUKLEY	2
GOSFORD CITY	2	AVOCA	2
BERKELEY VALE	4	THE ENTRANCE	1
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	3	UMINA	0
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	4	KINCUMBER	2

SUMMARY

- For the second week in a row the six 2018 Battlewin Premier League matches went pretty much as expected. Both Killarney District and Berkeley Vale recorded fairly comfortable wins ahead of their clash next Sunday at Plum Park, one that could play a major part in the battle for the league championship. A win to the Terriers could extend their competition lead to as much as 11 points while success for the Wombats could cut it to five points.
- Moving into the final third of the new 22-round competition there's now a 12-point gap between East Gosford and Kanwal on 27 points and Gosford City and The Entrance on 15 points. So, barring some major upsets, it looks like the latter two clubs along with Toukley (10), Umina (9) and Kincumber (6) will be battling to avoid relegation from here on.
- The situation shows a major shift in the strength of clubs over the past decade or so. Gosford were league champions in 2015 and grand finalists in 2016 and 2017; The Entrance were premiers in 2005, 2010, 2014 and 2015; Toukley were semi-finalists in 2016; and Umina were premiers in 2006, 2008 and 2011. Add Wyoming, now struggling to get out of Division One, who won five premierships between 2004 and 2013 and it shows how significant the change has been.
- There's a fascinating round coming up next weekend with the top six teams all playing each other: Killarney District (1st) versus Berkeley Vale (2nd); Southern-Ettalong (3rd) versus Kanwal (equal 5th); and Terrigal (6th) versus East Gosford (equal 5th).

KANWAL 2 EAST GOSFORD 0

- Another gutsy effort from the Bulls playing in their third match in six days and against one of the form teams of the competition. They made the perfect start with a cross from Danny Rotondo deflecting off the head of an East Gosford defender into his own goal and could

have doubled the lead shortly afterwards when a shot struck the Rams crossbar. East Gosford had a chance to equalise when the normally dependable Rob Walton failed to score from the penalty spot with his strike rebounding off the post and then having a follow-up saved by Kanwal 'keeper Aaron Hammond. Jason Cozens clinched Kanwal's win over Gosford the previous week from the penalty spot and did so again here on the hour mark for what proved to be the final goal.

- The win extended Kanwal's unbeaten run to an impressive seven matches, only Killarney (currently eight) have had a better record this season, and moving them back into the top five in equal fifth spot with East Gosford who had also gone into the game on the back of six games without defeat. Kanwal get the opportunity to move even deeper into the five when they take on third-place Southern-Ettalong at Wadalba next Sunday. East Gosford will play Terrigal at Duffy's Road in a similarly important top five tussle.

TERRIGAL 5 TOUKLEY 2

- Saturday night matches are generally popular with both players and spectators but this one on a cold night with a wind blowing straight off the Antarctic quickly lost its appeal. Fortunately for the players were able to keep warmish in what was a fast and flowing match. Toukley went into the match missing three key players including in-form striker Jai Kelly.
- As was the case just down the road at Wadalba the scoring was opened by an own goal with a through ball from Terrigal's Zac Allan being deflected into the Toukley net. The wind played its part in the next goal with a 45-metre free-kick by Tom Carlson sailing over the Terrigal 'keeper and into the net. There was much more intent in the next three goals, all of which came in a four-minute period which effectively decided the match in Terrigal's favour and from three different players Erik Riquelme, Anthony Pace and Ben Flakus. Despite dominating the second half Terrigal conceded a goal midway it with Lachlan Buxton scoring from a goalmouth scramble. Flakus then capped an outstanding match with his second goal inside the last 10 minutes to seal an emphatic win by this exciting if unpredictable young Terrigal side.
- Both times now line up against teams adjacent to them in the ladder with Toukley desperately needing to close the five-point gap between them and Gosford at Harry Moore Oval and Terrigal, also at home, looking to leap-frog East Gosford and into the top five.

GOSFORD CITY 2 AVOCA 2

- As the score indicates, a tight and even encounter, between teams in seventh and eight places albeit separated in Avoca's favour by nine points. As was the case in all six Round 15 matches there was an early goal, this one scored by Gosford's Jared McNee in the 13th minute. Indeed all four goals came in the first half with Reece Caira doubling Gosford's lead in the 25th minute before Ben Green pulled one back for Avoca two minutes later with Louis Kellerman equalising just before the break.
- Avoca has the toughest draw of all teams for the remainder of the season. They'll be desperate to take the three points when they play The Entrance at Pluim Park 3 next Sunday because all six of their following matches are against the six teams above them on the ladder. Gosford's hopes of reaching the semi-finals for a fourth straight season are remote at best so their focus will be one avoiding the two relegation spots. Six points should be enough to take them to safety and they'll be desperate to get three of them with an away win over Toukley next Sunday.

BERKELEY VALE 4 THE ENTRANCE 1

- A business-like win for Berkeley Vale as the attempt to distance themselves from the three straight losses that put such a dent in their league championship aspirations. Once again the opening goal came early with Brad Smythe giving the Wombats the lead. Despite their tough midweek match The Entrance were competitive for most of the match and Matt Kenny's 11th goal of the season saw them draw level early in the second half. The balance swung back Berkeley Vale's way around 10 minutes later with Smythe again finding the net. Michael Tawyer then extended the lead to 3-1 before Smythe completed his first ever MPL hat-trick late in the match.
- Berkeley Vale's hopes of taking out the 2018 league championship rest on defeating Killarney District in their top-of-the-table clash next Sunday afternoon at Pluim Park 1 (note that it's a 4pm kick-off). The Entrance still, like Gosford, still have a remote chance of making the play-offs but they'll concentrating on keeping away from the bottom two places. They'll also be playing at Pluim Park, on Field 3, against Avoca at the normal 3.45pm kick-off time.

KILLARNEY DISTRICT 3 UMINA 0

- A comfortable win for Killarney as was to be expected in a first versus second-last fixture although to their credit Umina put in a much-improved performance following on from their 7-1 shellacking by Berkeley Vale the previous week. Blake Silvers has played much of the season coming off the bench in the Terriers first grade team but has certainly grabbed the opportunity to start in the past two matches by adding a first-half brace in this match to his hat-trick against Toukley the previous week. Dean Blenheim sealed the result midway through the second half with his second goal of the season.
- Although there are seven rounds remaining in the newly-expanded BPL competition Killarney could take a stranglehold on a third straight league title with a win over second-placed Berkeley Vale on the main field at Pluim Park next Sunday. That same field has many fond memories for the Umina club having played in numerous finals series matches and won five of their nine top tier grand finals. There's no chance of a revival in what has been a very frustrating season as the sole target for the Eagles is avoiding relegation for what would be just the second time in the club's 48-year history. That task begins with a vital match against fellow battlers Kincumber in a daytime match at Umina Oval.

SOUTHERN-ETTALONG 4 KINCUMBER 2

- A scoreline that Southern's coach Dale Eggleton acknowledged didn't reflect the match with the injury-ridden Kincumber side in the contest right up until the final minutes. Once again the scoring started early with Nathan Ward (Kincumber) and James Steer (Southern) trading goals inside the sixth minute before Keith Gumbs gave the Lions the lead nine minutes. Dean Hart's first BPL goal equalised for the Roos early in the second term and the match looked like going down to the wire before a second goal to Gumbs and Wyatt Elliott's second in two matches sealed a fortunate but important win for SEU.
- The win moved Southern-Ettalong back into third place – at least for a week – with a confident Kanwal outfit looking to replace them when the two teams meets at Wadalba next Sunday. Kincumber travel to the peninsula for a crucial match against Umina.

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>PTS</i>
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	15	12	2	1	48	15	33	38
BERKELEY VALE	15	10	0	5	37	16	21	30
SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	15	9	2	4	38	22	16	29
EAST GOSFORD	15	8	3	4	28	18	10	27
KANWAL	15	8	3	4	35	32	3	27
TERRIGAL	15	7	4	4	39	29	10	25
AVOCA	15	7	3	5	33	22	11	24
GOSFORD CITY	15	4	3	8	24	32	-8	15
THE ENTRANCE	15	4	3	8	25	46	-21	15
TOUKLEY	15	3	1	11	26	53	-27	10
UMINA	15	2	3	10	28	50	-22	9
KINCUMBER	15	1	3	11	21	47	-26	6

13	Keith Gumbs (SEU), Rob Walton (East Gosford)
12	Matt Kenny (The Entrance)
11	James Caban (SEU), Ryan Walker (Kanwal)
10	Jai Kelly (Toukley), Andy Klijn (Killarney District), Tim Knight (Killarney District)
9	Stuart Adams (Avoca), Josh Schumann (Umina), Michael Tawyer (Berkeley Vale)
7	Jason Cozens (Kanwal), Will Haines (Toukley), Mitch Harrison (Avoca)
6	Aaron Beehag (Kincumber), Ben Green (Avoca), Ben Flakus (Terrigal), Blake Silvers (Killarney District), Daniel Tuddenham (Terrigal)
5	Chris Altuneg (Terrigal), Zac Anastas (The Entrance), Paul McGinley (Berkeley Vale), Brad McLean (Kanwal), Anthony Pace (Terrigal), Daniel Rodger (Killarney District), Adam Smith (Berkeley Vale), Brad Smythe (Berkeley Vale)
4	Corey Atkinson (The Entrance), Jett Cabarrus (Terrigal), Daniel Bird (Terrigal), Reece Caira (Gosford City), Brett Cowling (Toukley), Jeff Hall (Gosford City), Matt Hall (Gosford City), Matt Hall (Killarney District), Ryan Hoare (Gosford City), Jared McNee (Gosford City), Josh Menzies (Berkeley Vale), Ryan Oehm (Kanwal), Alex Osborn (Kincumber), James Steer (Southern-Ettalong), John Whelpdale (Killarney District)

ROUND 16 BPL FIXTURES

SUNDAY 15 JULY			
KANWAL	vs	SOUTHERN-ETTALONG	Wadalba Sports Complex
UMINA	vs	KINCUMBER	Umina Oval
TOUKLEY	vs	GOSFORD CITY	Harry Moore Oval
THE ENTRANCE	vs	AVOCA	Pluim Park 3
TERRIGAL	vs	EAST GOSFORD	Duffy's Oval
KILLARNEY DISTRICT	vs	BERKELEY VALE	Pluim Park 1 (4pm)

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE SCORES

KARIONG	1	OURIMBAH	0
BUDGEWOI	7	WYONG	1
WOY WOY	3	WYOMING	0
WOONGARRAH	8	TUGGERAH	0
GWANDALAN	1	DOYALSON	0

COMPETITION TABLE

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>PTS</i>
WOONGARRAH	13	13	0	0	81	8	73	39
WOY WOY	13	7	4	2	42	14	28	25
BUDGEWOI	13	7	2	4	47	22	25	23
KARIONG	13	5	4	4	37	26	11	19
WYONG	13	6	1	6	37	32	5	19
WYOMING	13	6	1	6	35	32	3	19
GWANDALAN	13	6	0	7	20	39	-19	18
OURIMBAH	13	5	2	6	36	33	3	17
DOYALSON	13	2	1	10	16	51	-35	7
TUGGERAH	13	0	1	12	7	101	-94	1