



2020 BATTLEWIN PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 1 – 5th JULY

By Jess Zavolokin

FIRST GRADE SCORES

Woy Woy FC	2	East Gosford FC	1
The Entrance Bateau Bay FC	2	Wyoming FC	2
Southern & Ettalong United FC	3	Terrigal United FC	3
Woongarra Wildcats FC	5	Kanwal Warnervale Rovers FC	1
Killarney District SC	1	Umina United SC	0
Avoca FC	0	Berkeley Vale FC	2

SUMMARY

After a long and tedious wait to kick-off the 2020 Season, the floodgates opened in a goal fest with a total of 22 goals scored during Round 1 of Battlewin Premier League over what was a glorious Sunday afternoon of football on the Central Coast.

Killarney District entered into the new season as the team to beat, being the beholders of 4 consecutive titles as well as snatching up the 2019 league championship to add to all their other accolades. Woongarra are trailing closely behind Killarney as wildly tough competitors and their 5-1 win over Kanwal on Sunday was clear proof of their ability.

The staggering series of events of the 2019 season saw the relegation of BPL regular, Gosford City FC and strong side, Toukley with their spots taken by Umina United SC who did exceptionally well to lose out to Killarney District by only 1 goal and Woy Woy FC who beat East Gosford FC over the weekend. The newest additions to the 2020 BPL are certainly showing promise from the outset amidst a tough competition.

Woy Woy v East Gosford: 2-1

Both teams demonstrated a very hard-fought match of football through some quick and crafty footwork from Woy Woy and impressive saves all round. The first half hosted a series of missed opportunities from East Gosford Rams, despite clear crosses and encounters in front of the box. Having kicked-off the second half with no goals to show, Woy Woy were able to capitalise on a fatiguing East Gosford line-up with 2 blind-siding goals in quick succession leaving the Rams slightly rattled. Riding a 2-point lead almost until the very end, Woy Woy were briefly stumped by East Gosford clawing their way back with Jamie Kabbout scoring very late in the game.

The Entrance v Wyoming: 2-2

Both the Entrance and Wyoming played a mostly even match as is shown in the 2-all draw. However, there was a clear dominance on The Entrance half within the first 30 minutes of the game that saw a strong header from Adam Blunden off the cuff of a corner secure the first goal of the match. The Entrance put consistent pressure on Wyoming to be met by strong defence and mighty goalkeeping efforts. Wyoming took to the game more competitively after Ian McAndrew remained on the ball to help regain control and create opportunities with the help of a string of free kicks and corners.

Coming back as the winning side after the first half, The Entrance were able to sneak in another goal with a controlled strike from Josh Swadling for an impressive finish. Following a few misses from the Entrance, Wyoming were starting to apply more pressure that helped them their own Sam Dooley score after a free kick in the latter end of the second half. Their attempt at equalising came to fruition as Wyoming's Ben Farrell carved in another goal from a corner with just 10 minutes of the match to go while The Entrance failed to clear the ball.

Southern & Ettalong United FC v Terrigal United FC: 2-2

What was to be a visibly close match from the outset, Southern took a relatively early lead with a goal by James Lepre after the 10-minute mark. Then in an effort of redemption, Terrigal fought back with some tidy passes down the right sideline for a cross to Ben Flakus who scored an equalising goal before the first half hour was through. A handball committed by a Terrigal following a corner, saw Southern's Theo Forsberg successfully execute a penalty in response. After 20 minutes into the second half, a weak Terrigal clearance enabled Michael Tawyer to bring Southern into a 3-1 lead after a stunning 20-yard shot.

Terrigal better realised their efforts towards the end of the game after Conor Wilkinson added a goal to the Terrigal tally. The 90th minute was characterised by 3 corners from Terrigal and one headed by Jai McNamara brought home the equalising goal for the team and wrapped up a very exciting game to start to the season.

Woongarrah Wildcats FC v Kanwal Warnervale Rovers FC: 5-1

The energy of the players was elevated from the second the whistle blew and a parry from Woongarrah striker Ben Glachan in the 3rd minute set the trajectory of the intense game that would follow. Despite good defence efforts, Kanwal's failed attempts to mark players and clear the ball from the goal area meant that Woongarrah were able to pocket another goal in the 21st minute. Woongarrah continued to apply pressure on Kanwal enabling them to add in a volley to rack up a 3rd goal in the centre of the net. Woongarrah persisted with impressive shots while Kanwal remained slower to the touch and just before the half time whistle, Woongarrah scored their 4th goal after some fast and neat passes.

Kanwal come back in the second half clearly hungrier as they applied more pressure to be met by fierce defence from Woongarrah as well as some brilliant saves. An almost-goal from Woongarrah's Woolston would've made history as he took a shot from the halfway line while Kanwal's goalkeeper was out of the box – nonetheless an exceptional display of talent. Kanwal were able to score against the tough side, catching the opposing team momentarily off-guard before another goal from Woongarrah, taking their score up to 5 while Kanwal remained on 1.

Killarney District SC v Umina United SC: 1-0

Both Killarney and Umina seemed to feel the football sabbatical throughout the match, and it was demonstrated in their manner of play as each side took their time to get back into the rhythm of the game. Continuous league champions, Killarney, maintained obvious possession for the game's entirety, despite a few counter attacks from Umina. Killarney were able to bag a magnificent goal after a cross from Jayden Radford that ricocheted off the crossbar and then found the net from David Rogers header that was right on target. There weren't many shots made from either team, yet both Killarney and Umina made an impressive effort to maintain good defence throughout a measured style of game.

The presence of key players from Killarney was missed due to withstanding suspensions that are set to lift just in time for their bout against Terrigal next week.

Avoca FC v Berkeley vale FC: 0-2

Both sides presented solid opportunities and smart defending, despite a few markers of being out-of-practice all round. Berkeley Vale took their time to get into the pace of the game and for what they didn't deliver in speed, they made up for in defence which was a key decider in the game and disallowed Avoca to score, despite their hunger to create opportunities and noticeable endeavours to weave around the opposition's defenders. Berkeley showed slightly more experience which was reflected in the final result.

Next week Avoca will have to pick up the pace as they face Southern & Ettalong United FC who are known to have impeccable footwork and strong competitors in the league, while Berkeley Vale plays the BPL fresh faces, Woy Woy as the away team.