Sunday 22nd June 2008
Nedlands 3 – 1 Bassendean

Back to winning ways once more but there are no easy games in this league.

A glorious winter's morning once more on the foreshore though a strong easterly wind and very uneven and in places completely bare pitch meant the playing conditions were far from perfect. Pre-match formalities, aka "the annual team photo" were successfully negotiated with all members present and correct, albeit cold and sleepy. Thanks for getting there everyone. It will be a nice memento of the season. However, I am concerned about how enthusiastic the boys were when instead of the traditional "cheese" the photographer asked them to shout out "our coach sucks"!

Nedlands were looking for their first home and away "double" having beaten Bassendean 3-2 earlier in the season in a very tight and exciting match. Bassendean have become famous for their very loud and often abusive Liverpudlian/Scouse coach. He didn't disappoint this time with many inexplicable, unintelligible and aggressive rants during the course of the game. Makes me look like a fluffy kitten.

Injury to Zac and our recent difficulty scoring goals convinced coach that a reshuffle was in order. Luka was moved to an attacking role with Isaac moving to centre back and Jack R to the middle of the midfield. Captain Nick successfully arranged for us to kick into the strong wind first half. For the first 15 minutes or so Nedlands played some good football. Lots of movement on and off the ball with the midfield in control and combining well with the forwards down both flanks and through the middle. Luka was making a difference up front and together with Connor put in some rampaging runs which Bassendean struggled to cope with. Nedlands were a potent attacking force during this period. Sam managed to get onto the end of a cross to put us one up and it could have been more with at least one disallowed goal and several near misses. We looked really good and deserved to be more than one up but we didn't capitalise and just like the match in Bassendean they came back strongly and punished us.

After the early promise came a frustrating 10 minute period when we got bogged down in our own half by a combination of the wind and an increasingly enthusiastic and dominant Bassendean. The opposition wasn't playing particularly well but the simple tactic of kicking long and pressurising us from resulting goal kicks and throw-ins was working while we became more hesitant and struggled to clear our lines. Eventually a clear chance fell to Bassendean and their striker put the ball over Adrian for the equalizer.

At that point we could have let our heads drop but we didn't and with great credit the boys found their form again and we got back on top. From some good play in the midfield we freed up Jonathan who gleefully slotted a well deserved first goal of the season. Shortly afterwards the ref blew for half time with Nedlands deservedly in front. Julius replaced Adrian in goal and we were soon off again.

As with many of the games we play on the foreshore we dominated with the wind at our backs. Bassendean continued to play with a lot of spirit but their keeper and defence were by far the hardest worked while we efficiently snuffed out their attacks before they became threatening and as a result Julius hardly touched the ball. With only one goal separating the 2 teams we kept our focus and intensity and continued looking for ways to break them down but the strong wind made accurate passing difficult and many moves broke down as a result. Eventually, Jack R. worked himself a shooting opportunity which was saved but Sam was alert and slotted his second from the rebound. This gave us the breathing space we needed and deserved and we saw the rest of the game out without trouble.

Well done everyone on a good all round team effort. Let's keep it going this weekend.

On Sunday we are at home again to Whitfords, kick off 8.30am. Please confirm availability asap.

Updated league table below. All top 4 teams won so no change to our position.

Ladder as at round 09, 22 Jun 2008

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agn	Diff	Points
Noranda Soccer Club	9	8	1	0	47	5	42	25
Heathridge Soccer Cl	9	6	2	1	26	8	18	20
Kalamunda United Soc	9	5	2	2	12	6	6	17
Nedlands Football Cl	9	5	1	3	16	8	8	16
Canning City Soccer	9	4	1	4	13	24	-11	13
Subiaco City Soccer	9	3	2	4	13	17	-4	11
Melville City	9	3	1	5	15	22	-7	10
Whitford City Soccer	9	2	1	6	21	41	-20	7
Bassendean Juniors	9	1	2	6	14	27	-13	5
Swan I.C. Soccer Clu	9	1	1	7	7	26	-19	4