



**2016 OFFICIAL PROGRAMME**

**MEN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE**

**Stop Out v Olympic**

**2.30 Saturday 20th August**

[www.stopout.org.nz](http://www.stopout.org.nz)

Issue 16/9

**Patrons:**

Mayor Ray Wallace  
Wynton Rufer

**President:**

Chris Canton

**Chairman:**

Neil Kemp

**Treasurer:**

Donna Beech

**Club Captains:**

Andrew Beech  
Kathryn Burt

**Senior Liaison:**

Pat Gulley

**Jnr Working Group:**

Tania Rook  
Phil Marra  
Alistair Yates  
Andrew Beech

**Directors of Football:**

Chris Sambrooke  
Mike Gibbs

**Jnr Coaching Director:**

Adam Reynard

**Football Manager:**

Paul Commerford

**Club Manager:**

Craig Darby



**Life Members:** Jim Blair, Chris Canton, Dick Dunn, Jimmy Dunn, Tom Dunn, Peter Freidlander, Brent Hamlin, Peter Hartstonge, Dave Houghton, Ernie Gould, Terry Killalea, Brendan Marsh, Arie Molenaar, Jim McCreadie, Carol McNie, Ron Weitzel.



[stopout.org.nz](http://stopout.org.nz)



Stop Out Sports Club (Official)



@redgoldblood

## The First Word

## My blood is red... and gold!

At the blink of an eye the season is all but over!

But for both sides today the season has not petered into insignificance. Olympic of course have the chance to win the title and we're continuing to push for a higher finishing spot in the league.

After knocking off Napier at Park Island last time out, there's plenty of determination in the squad to keep improving and sorry Olympic supporters we won't go down without a fight. One look at the table shows the gulf between the top 5 teams and the rest so today's match could go either way. Expect a high energy match.

It's been another impressive season to go with our fourth place finish last year in our return to Central League. We've already surpassed our points total from last season but it's definitely been a season of 'what ifs' with points dropped against some of the lesser teams.

Throughout today's match day programme we have season reviews from many of our teams and it's been another very strong showing right across the club.

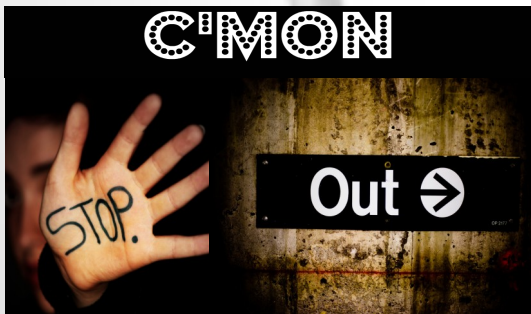
Champions of Capital 2, Capital 5 and Masters 3 has been a positive return as we move up the grades closer to our top Men's side.

The phenomenal growth in our youth space with three Under 17 teams has been very satisfying as we continue to build pathways into Senior football.

And the Alliance with Eastbourne has been hugely successful with seven teams in the 10th, 11th, 12th and 14th grades all playing in the Junior Premier Leagues.

There's also plenty of exciting initiatives planned in the future for the club as we continue to raise the bar on the football experience at Stop Out.

So welcome to Hutt Park and enjoy our Stop Out hospitality.





<b>CENTRAL LEAGUE 2016</b>	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic	17	11	3	3	43	28	15	<b>36</b>
Miramar	17	11	2	4	49	31	18	<b>35</b>
Napier City Rovers	17	10	4	3	44	27	17	<b>34</b>
Western Suburbs	17	9	4	4	45	25	20	<b>31</b>
<b>Stop Out</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>
Lower Hutt	17	5	5	7	31	32	-1	<b>20</b>
Wairarapa United	17	5	4	8	33	33	0	<b>19</b>
Wellington United	17	5	2	11	33	48	-15	<b>17</b>
Marist Palmerston North	17	3	3	10	30	50	-20	<b>12</b>
Petone	17	1	2	13	18	56	-38	<b>5</b>

<b>2016</b>	<b>Central League</b>					
Rnd 1	Sat 2 April	Stop Out	<b>3</b>	Wairarapa	<b>1</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 2	Sat 9 April	Petone	<b>1</b>	Stop Out	<b>5</b>	Petone Turf @ 3.00
Rnd 3	Sat 16 April	Stop Out	<b>2</b>	PN Marist	<b>1</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 4	Sat 23 April	Miramar	<b>2</b>	Stop Out	<b>1</b>	Dave F @ 2.30
Rnd 5	Sat 30 April	Stop Out	<b>3</b>	Phoenix	<b>1</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 6	Sat 7 May	Wests	<b>5</b>	Stop Out	<b>3</b>	Endeavour 1 @ 2.30
Cup	Sat 14 May	Island Bay	<b>2</b>	Stop Out	<b>1</b>	Wakefield @5.45
Rnd 7	Sat 21 May	Lower Hutt	<b>2</b>	Stop Out	<b>2</b>	Fraser Turf @7.30
Rnd 8	Sat 28 May	Stop Out	<b>3</b>	Napier	<b>1</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 9	Sat 4 June	Olympic	<b>2</b>	Stop Out	<b>1</b>	Wakefield 2 @ 5.45
Rnd 10	Sun 12 June	Wairarapa	<b>4</b>	Stop Out	<b>1</b>	Masterton Turf @ 2.30
Rnd 11	Sat 18 June	Stop Out	<b>5</b>	Petone	<b>1</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 12	Sat 2 July	PN Marist	<b>2</b>	Stop Out	<b>3</b>	Memorial (PN) @ 2.30
Rnd 13	Sat 9 July	Stop Out	<b>2</b>	Miramar	<b>1</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 14	Sat 16 July	Phoenix	<b>0</b>	Stop Out	<b>1</b>	Newtown 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 15	Sat 23 July	Stop Out	<b>1</b>	Wests	<b>3</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 16	Sat 30 July	Stop Out	<b>1</b>	Lower Hutt	<b>2</b>	Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30
Rnd 17	Sun 7 Aug	Napier	<b>3</b>	Stop Out	<b>5</b>	Park Island @ 2.00
Rnd 18	Sat 13 Aug	Stop Out		Olympic		Hutt Park 1 @ 2.30

<b>2016</b>	L Hutt	Marist	Miramar	Napier	Petone	Stop Out	'Rapa	Olympic	'Nix	Wests
L Hutt		1-4	1-3	13/8	4-0	2-2	4-1	1-2	2-0	0-0
PN Marist	3-3		1-7	2-3	28/5	2-3	1-1	2-3	3-5	13/8
Miramar	4-1	2-3		1-1	13/8	2-1	2-1	3-0	1-5	3-2
Napier	4-2	4-1	1-2		4-1	3-5	3-2	2-2	3-0	1-1
Petone	1-1	0-1	2-3	0-4		1-5	0-5	1-3	1-4	2-7
Stop Out	1-2	2-1	2-1	3-1	5-1		2-1	13/8	3-1	1-3
Wairarapa	2-1	1-1	2-7	2-2	1-3	4-1		3-3	2-1	0-2
Olympic	3-2	7-2	3-4	1-2	3-1	2-1	1-0		4-1	2-1
Phoenix	2-2	5-2	4-3	0-3	3-3	0-1	13/8	1-3		0-2
Wests	0-2	3-1	1-1	2-3	3-1	5-3	6-3	1-1	6-1	

## Women's Premier League

It's a been a season of toil if you only look at the results and table, but it's been a privilege to spend Sunday's with a team of good heart, great characters and immense improvement.

A quirk of pre-season shenanigans saw the team upgraded to the Premier League, which meant we were always going to be facing a challenge. Early results were often tough lessons, but many of those lessons have been taken on board and our reverse fixtures in the second round are testimony to that. The Premier League is also a much more competitive league than a few years back, no lop-sided results and all teams capable of chipping each other on the day.

The team has been well lead by Sam "Lionheart" Swanson Tuirirangi, as a coach you couldn't ask for a better captain on and off the field. The team has most weeks been able to draw on the invaluable experience of players like Amalia, Sophie and Kathryn, each with over 100 games for the club under their belt (and all still in their early 20's).



We have a healthy number of College youngsters on the team card most weeks; players like Dawn, Jessica, Alana & Jes are in their first senior season with the club, none of them ever take a step backwards in their approach to each match. Then there's Jacinta, Kirsty, Pippi, the two Olivia's, Jaimee and Emily who have all improved their football during the season, challenged week after week to raise the bar on their performance. Finally amongst the regulars there's the experience of Sonia, Tara, Alysa and Jamie to rely on each week, it's great to have them back wearing red this winter.

Worth noting is that the team has made it to the semi-finals of the Kelly Cup, the challenge of CL opponents Seatoun awaits tomorrow. A further highlight has been how a number of the youngsters have had a taste of CL football with Mike

and his team, I look forward to a good number of them stepping up to first team football over the next year or two.



When a team is winning each week then turning up with a smile to play is usually a given, it's easy, so I tip my hat to this merry band of players who play each week with a wide grin, keeping me entertained, sharing the craic and jet planes.



# Football: Keepers' contrasting tales

By Anendra Singh



Stop Out winger Luis Corrales celebrates after nodding the ball into the net as teammate Micky Malivuk joins the party and Rovers keeper Ruben Parker Hanks wonders how. Photo / Paul Taylor

If the lynch mob at Park Island was looking for a scapegoat they didn't have to look far because Blues goalkeeper Ruben Parker Hanks had made enough howlers to have planted an asterisk next to the football match this season as one to forget.

Not that the talented Conroy Removals Napier City Rovers player was hiding behind his protective mask amid taunts from the odd spectator in the pavilion but yesterday well and truly belonged to the bloke who had slipped on the gloves between the sticks at the other end of Bluewater Stadium, Park Island, to help engineer Stop Out's 5-3 victory.

Visiting goalkeeper Chris Campbell was easily the man of the match on a waterlogged pitch despite the Napier club volunteer members' sterling effort to drain prominent puddles although a docile-looking surface showed enough splashes to suggest players deserved some sympathy. Stop Out were informed on Saturday morning of the water bomb that had taken Hawke's Bay hostage but coach Chris Sambrooke and his men decided to travel that afternoon because they weren't going to receive any refunds from the pre-booked motel. It turned out to be a three-point decision for the Wellingtonians who stunned the hosts with a 4-1 lead into halftime in yet another season-defining Lotto Central League clash.

Sambrooke agreed Campbell had delivered yet again for Stop Out. "Today he was a class above - everything he did he did well," he said, revealing they stuck to a counter-attacking formula that had yielded a 3-1 victory in Wellington. "Napier are still the benchmark in this league. They look to go forward and build higher up the park and commit numbers into their attack to try to overrun whoever they are playing," said Sambrooke, who felt Stop Out put up the storm shutters admirably before feeding Micky Malivuk, Andrew Abba and Luis Corrales on the counter.

That made it hard for the Rovers to commit more numbers at the coal face because Stop Out had the electric pace to hit straight back after winning possession.

That is where Hanks should be cut some slack as a raft of Blues players either showed poor anticipation on defence on a day when the ball tended to skid to a stop on the saturated patches or simply failed to go up in set-piece play to defend, forcing the goalkeeper to run out of his sanctuary.

The second half for Stop Out was simply about playing more direct in the face of a stiff wind. Not ready for a crown this winter on account of a loss to bottom-placed Lower Hutt, Sambrooke said they were out of the equation but the goal to finish in the top three after a 30-year exile remained.

"The Greeks will be happy today but they still have to come to our place to win the league so we'll be ready," he said, wishing the Rovers all the best.

Wellington Olympic are in pole position on 36 points now, albeit with just one game to play although the Rovers have two but are five points adrift. That means Miramar Rangers, with three games in hand, have a sniff should Olympic stumble.

Blues player/coach Bill Robertson said conditions were tricky but agreed they probably should have adapted quicker. "We've made some errors there, basic ones that has cost us goals," Robertson lamented, putting some of Stop Out's goals to half chances. A disappointing start had given them too much of a mountain to climb but in the second half their character and resilience surfaced to create enough chances to win but alas it wasn't to be. "If you concede five goals then you probably don't deserve to win the game." Robertson said Hanks was fantastic all season but agreed there was more to their shortcomings than just the keeper's disappointment. "Most of us didn't start the game particularly well and have put ourselves under pressure."

Stop Out, he felt, worked hard for each other as a physical side on the platform of some classy footballers on the counter attack. "Their keeper's been pretty tidy and has kept us out," he said, adding all they could do now was win their remaining two games.

Abba drew first blood in the third minute before right wing Luis Corrales made it 2-0 in the 13th. Defender Lewis Francis made it 3-0 in the 23rd minute before Stephen Hoyle pulled one back, 3-1, from a 29th-minute penalty kick. Corrales made it a jaw-dropping 4-1 in the 39th minute before Josh Stevenson narrowed it to 4-2 in the 62nd. Steven Gulley extended the lead to 5-2 in the 74th minute before Rovers defender Finlay Milne's consolation goal in the 86th minute in what was after all a frenzied patch of catch-up footy.





# Stop Out Sports Club

***Coach:**  
Chris Sambrooke*

***Assistant Coach:**  
Stu Pyne*

***Manager:**  
Paul Commerford*

***Physio:**  
Megan O'Riordan*

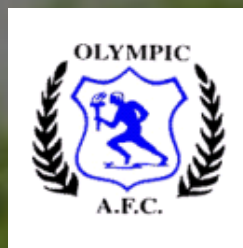
No.	Player
GK	 Chris Campbell
2	 James Sutcliffe
3	 James Sharp
4	 Khalid Razouk
5	 Lewis Francis
6	 Devon Batchelor
7	 Martin Packer
8	 Josh McEvoy
9	
10	 Miroslav Malivuk
11	 Andrew Abba
12	 Brandon Tai
14	 Luke Grindlay
15	Luis Corrales
16	 Jason Tipping ( c )
17	 Steven Gulley
18	 Sam Pickering
19	 Jordan Martens





# Wellington Olympic

No.	Player
GK	Scott Basalaj
RGK	Washington Bgoni
2	Tapfuma Dimario
4	Jacob Masseurs
5	Blake Weston
6	Gonzalo Amado
7	Juan Chang
8	Kieran Paterson
9	Gianni Bouzoukis
10	Jimmy Haidakis
11	Sam Blackburn
13	Chas Lawrence
15	Dylan Wood
16	Alex Palezevic
19	Sean Morris
20	Mario Barcia
23	Birhanu Taye
38	Alexis Soudain



*Coach:*  
*Stu Jacobs*



*Referee:*  
*Anthony Riley*



*Assistants:*  
*Robert Fleetham*  
*Mark Hewitt*



## Capital 5 Season review

Stop Out thirds started the season as Capital 5 newcomers after emphatically winning Capital 6 in 2015. The move to the Tier 1 competition brought new rules and tougher competitors. Our goal was simple; to make sure we stayed in the league and get used to the new teams we were playing.

The season got off to a good start with back to back wins over North Wellington Wolves and a very physical Olympic team. These two early wins gave us confidence and a good platform to start with. In round three, we had a bit of a setback, losing 2-1 to North Wellington Marrons after dominating possession. The following game, we came out firing looking to avenge the previous week's loss. BNU were the unlucky recipients of a 5-0 hiding in what was arguably our best performance of the season. Four further straight wins against Naena, Tawa AC, Karori and Tawa Bears took us to second place, just one point behind the Dreamers. A mouth-watering 3-3 draw against them after being down for 89 minutes of the game was a great result.

The second round of the season saw us start with six consecutive wins, which put us top of the table again. A draw against a very well organised Karori was disappointing, but better than no points at all. It proved to be crucial, as the Dreamers lost that same day to Tawa AC which put us two points clear. Predictably, the season came down to one game between Stop Out and the Dreamers. As both teams had easily secured promotion, the maths were simple - win this game and win the league! In another high paced game we scored off a huge wind assisted throw in. In the second half we had much more space, and managed to cut off some of the good quality wide balls the Dreamers like to play. The game swung in our favour and we managed to poach another goal. Our defence and keeper were absolutely first class this game. We capped a fine display off with a third goal before full time. Full credit to the CF appointed ref too, Brendan Perkins, who was a credit to the game. He understood the importance of the game, made calls when he had to but let the game flow too. He understood the difference between a malicious tackle and a tired tackle, as well as between frustration and dissent.

We used our final (catch up game) against BNU as a talent development opportunity by playing a couple of promising under 17s. The strategy worked well and we came out 4-1 winners and giving the youngsters 90 minutes senior football.



Another great season. I need to acknowledge and respect to IBU Dreamers who were fantastic throughout the season, and gave us a run for our money right up to the very end.

See you next season in Capital 4!

Marty Dutton



## 1st team season review

As we arrive today at our final fixture of the season we welcome Stu Jacobs and his Wellington Olympic side to Hutt Park, with a win they can claim the Central League title. If they do go on to become champions today, they will certainly have earned it as we will be pushing to finish our season on a high. Let's hope we both contribute to a game worthy of the occasion.



Season 2016 marked our second season back in the Central League and we were ambitious with very little down time in the summer as we looked to build on our good start back in the top flight. We were very excited to have secured the return of Luis Corrales to the club as well as welcoming in new players Lewis Francis, Chris Campbell and James Sharp.



We knew the opening weeks of the season would be a good marker of our progress as we had to wait until round five to get both Luis and Steve back from Team Wellington duty. We opened the season against Wairarapa United at Hutt Park; a tough encounter that we had the better of for the most part and a good 2-1 win. A short travel to Petone followed where we came away comfortable 5-1 winners with doubles to Abba and Malivuk and

a superb finish from Packer. Our third game was at home to Palmerston North Marist, like Wairarapa this was a tough physical encounter but a double from Malivuk meant that we were 3 from 3 and top of the league at the early point of the season. At this point in the season our Reserve side was also leading their league under the new coaching team of Jason Coombe and Adam Reynard.

Our fourth game of the season was against Miramar Rangers at Dave Farrington Park. Miramar had started very slowly in the league but we knew the quality that they had in their side and expected a strong response. We took a 1-0 league into the break with another goal from Malivuk but were eventually beaten 2-1 to give us our first defeat of the season. For our next fixture we came against the Wellington Phoenix side featuring a number of released young pros. On our part we welcomed back Steve Gulley and Luis Corrales. Corrales put in a man of the match performance getting on the score sheet in a strong 3-1 win.





The next two weeks turned out to be a really strong test of character as we fell to back to back defeats, against Western Suburbs in the league and Island Bay United in the Chatham Cup. We were really looking to put a good cup run together with the side that we had this season, but it wasn't to be. As we looked ahead to fixtures against Lower Hutt, Napier and Olympic we knew that if we wanted to push ahead this year we had to respond. The Lower Hutt fixture was a battling draw, we went a goal down before Gulley scored from 40 yards to get us level, we fell behind and a bizarre refereeing decision left us down to 10 men. We equalised from Malivuk and looked to be the only side trying to win the fixture in the last few minutes.



The result that stands out to me in the first round was our home game against Napier, if we won we were back in the race and up to second in the table, if we lost we would be seven points behind last year's champions. What we produced was a superb example of strong, effective counter attacking football and a 3-1 with two goals to Corrales and one to Abba. It could have been more and really showed what we are capable of at this level.

To complete the round, we travelled to Wakefield Park to take on Wellington Olympic. We had a good plan of how we wanted to approach Wellington Olympic who in the space of one season had gone from a side that struggled last season to one of the favourites for the title. We stuck to our plan well, we limited chances and looked to pose a threat on the counter when we had the chance to break. Martin Packer scored late in the first half to give us a lead to protect in the second half.

We were able to keep that lead heading into the final 20 minutes but eventually the pressure told and after a deflection levelled the game all the momentum was with the hosts and Sam Blackburn scored the winner.

A superb save denied Micky in injury time and we went down 2-1, which dropped us from second in the league to fourth.



The second round didn't start off as we'd planned with probably our most disappointing performance of the season as we were well beaten at Memorial Park in Masterton, Malivuk continued his goal scoring form and Chris Campbell put in a strong performance being the only two positives to come out of it. From here we went on a strong run of form to haul ourselves back into contention for the league, strong wins against Petone (5-1) Palmerston North Marist (3-2) Miramar (2-1) and Wellington Phoenix (1-0). The real highlight of those was the home fixture against Miramar Rangers. We controlled the game and except for an early second half penalty we looked strong, second half goals to Malivuk and Grindlay gave us a great home win.

Unfortunately, our next two fixtures were not played under the best of conditions, the wind and the rain had a strong influence in our defeats to Western Suburbs (3-1) and Lower Hutt (2-1), we can't just blame the conditions as our performances weren't where they needed to be if we are serious about winning the league in the future.

So to our last two fixtures, knowing we were out of the race, we would still have a strong say in who actually wins it with games away to Napier and at home to Wellington Olympic. With some terrible weather in the Hawkes Bay we travelled not knowing for sure if the fixture would take place. It did, albeit with some areas of pretty bad surface water on Park Island. In many ways the fixture mirrored the first round clash. Napier looked to get numbers forward in attack and the speed of our counter attack was a struggle for them to contain. We were 3-0 up inside 25 minutes. Abba scored following in a free kick, Corrales scored from a header and Lewis Francis scored from distance. A penalty was awarded towards the end of the first half to make it 3-1 but a swift counter attacking movement saw Corrales beat 2 defenders and the keeper to extend the lead. Midway through the second half Napier pulled another goal back in their best period of the game, in the next 10 minutes Chris Campbell pulled off a string of saves before Steve Gulley killed the game with our 5<sup>th</sup> of the day. Napier pulled one back in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute but the damage was already done and the title race was blown wide open again.

Lastly, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone involved in the club for the support they have shown us this season. To Paul, Stu and the players a massive thank you from me, it has been great to work with you all.





## U17s The year that was

Being one of the first to join the side, I can now fully appreciate where we have found ourselves today, and how far 17's has grown. From eight players to over 60, Stop Out's U17 programme has gone from strength to strength since the start of the season. As the year has gone on, we have only got more prominent and the introduction of the third side had made us the largest under 17 group in the region. The A's promotion into the first grade serves as testament to the hard work all the lads



Jamie Rybinski, A team squad member and aspiring football journo, shares his thoughts on the season:

put in, and we can now only hope we can stay up - however even if we do find ourselves in the 2nd division I am confident we will go back up with ease, especially with the environment Yatesy has created. The B's and C's have also shown great promise throughout the season, with great performances and a growing team atmosphere. I'm sure these lads can push on and press their claims for an A team call up next season.

## Yatesy's view



When we began the U17 programme this season we were realistic in our aim; we hoped to build a strong foundation to build on in following years. To begin with we had 8 registered players and one team entered, which grew into 63 registered players and 3 teams entered. This season has been nothing short of remarkable! We have an outstanding group of talented young men who have learnt what it means to be a Stop Out player. We have built a pathway into senior football which has seen a number of our youngsters make their senior debuts across our top four men's sides. One player who is especially deserving of praise is Josh McEvoy, who joined the club as an U17 player and finished the

season having played Central League. Our skipper Aston Hughes led the line superbly all season and was a fine example of the hard working attitude we instilled within the group. The coaching staff of Mack Mullany, Liam Reeve, Jordan Duff, Jack Griffiths, Kieran Mouton and Hayden Taylor were key to our successes this season - they helped me enormously with their passion and willingness to help. Our JCD Adam Reynard was immense with his advice and guidance through the year. With our youth space now in a healthy position, the challenge for next season is how we build on this. I'm more than confident that with the great people we have in our club that this is possible!



Alistair Yates (Yatesy) U17 Head Coach 2016



## The Last Word!

### Football on a wet (and windy) day.

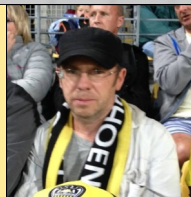
The only thing guaranteed in football, in our region, is that every season you will end up playing in at least one very wet and wind match. In other parts of the world it seems to be one or the other but not here. The last two Men's Central League matches have been dominated by the wet and the windy. Awful to play in and awful to stand and watch in. Playing in these conditions in something of a challenge and, I guess, a lottery. As a teenager I played in a weather shocker. We had the wind behind us and were ten up at half time. One of our goals was a lob from the half way line that carried and carried. In the return match played in calm conditions we won by a single goal. The second result more accurately reflected the difference between the two teams.

Looking around for advice about how to play in these conditions has been interesting. Most of the advice for windy weather could be summed up as 'win the toss, score a hatful and hang on in the second half'. Wet weather advice has been, shall we say, better and all, sort of, obvious. Here a five thoughts/tips that kept coming up.

Firstly, in the wet, harder passes. That is, pass the ball harder than the normal speed of passes. Second, direct play. Try to keep the ball in the air as much as possible. This in some quarters is also referred to as the 'longball' game. The theory being the other side will get less possession. Well and good but what happens if both sides are playing the 'direct game'? The third offering was the slide tackle. Wait for it. As the pace of the ball is slow due to the wet grass. Thus, the defenders get an advantage to time the slide tackle perfectly. *Perfectly? What could possible to wrong?* Fourth, in the favoured five, was that the ball may slip. This means that extra focus is needed in case of a sudden change of direction or pace of the ball. Many of us will probably remember the wet day moment where a ball comes to you and suddenly changes pace, quickens or even comes to a dead stop, off the wet surface. Some players claim that rain is one of the favourite playing conditions. *Maybe it is but combine wet with a Wellington southerly and some may change their tune.*

Lastly, and here I was a bit dismissive, the claim is that the wet gives an advantage to a the goalkeeper. As, the claim is, the ball takes the time to catch the pace and this helps the goalkeeper in judging the direction of the ball. Yes? No? For my part I not sure that being wet and then numbed by a Wellington wind is necessarily going to make your response any better. Any goalkeepers want to offer their ten cents worth?

*Life-long Stop Out fan Mike Barton gives us his perspective on the beautiful game!*



Stop Out proudly supported by



**brendan foot**  
supersite



16



A Spark New Zealand Company