



CHOPPA'S CHAT

Choppa Chat returns with newly appointed reserves captain, Trent Van Hout. He has been a terrific servant of the Berwick Football over the years, he has played well over 150 games, is a three time reserves premiership player and was a long serving member of the committee. We caught up last Thursday night to discuss leadership, getting fit, premierships and of course the cats. Here's our chat;

TA: G'day mate I wanted to start off by saying congratulations on the captaincy.

TVH: Thanks mate.

TA: Do you remember sending me a text when you were first offered the job?

TVH: Yes I remember that.

TA: Can you recall what I said?

TVH: You said you would back me in 100%. There was only one person that I asked and that was you. As soon as you said "yep" then I told Leroy that I was in.

TA: Yes very good. After that I asked you what you thought was involved with the job. Can you remember your response to that?

TVH: Haha not really. I'm sure it was something smart arsed though.

TA: Your response to that question was "you need to give awesome pregame speeches"

TVH: Haha yes I remember that now.

TA: So you're two rounds in not including practice games. How have you gone so far?

TVH: Well yeah haha. The first one was pretty good. I spent a good seven days practicing in the mirror and then the second one I forgot what I was saying halfway through and just went with "alright boys, lets go". Not exactly what I was going for, so you could say it's an area for improvement.

TA: Well it does take time. I was told by a couple of your team mates that I needed to come down and help you out. But I think it's important that you find your own way, you've got to put your spin on it and not force it to much.

TVH: Well I know that came from Cherry. Cherry is a wanker.

TA: That will definitely be included. Alright we'll take it back a bit. Where did your junior footy career start?

TVH: It started at Rowville and then I came across to Berwick in under 15s.

TA: How did you end up at Berwick?

TVH: Well my parents moved to Berwick. I started going to school with Jake Mclardy and Daniel Boyle. They were both Berwick boys and I've been here ever since.

TA: You mention your parents. We know your Dad, John very well. He's been a regular in the kitchen, helping out as the interchange steward and as a supporter for many years. Do you enjoy having him around the club?

TVH: Yeah Johnny boy is a nice guy, he is my best mate and he's always supported me, drives me to games, picks me up when I'm pissed. So yeah he's a ripper.

TA: Johnny is also a big Geelong fan, like you and me, what do you think of our chances this year?

TVH: I think we'll probably win it haha! Injuries are hurting us. Don't think Henderson will play again this year and Taylor is in a bit of trouble so we'll wait and see. Probably 4 teams in it; Us, Richmond, Adelaide, Swans and maybe GWS.

TA: Once Gaz is back we'll be right mate haha!

TVH: Of course haha!

TA: You're obviously very accomplished player with 3 premierships to your name. Does it bother you that up until this point you haven't played a senior game?

TVH: At the start it did, probably for the first 4 years of my career, I felt like I deserved a game. Then after that I started working full time and that became priority. But I definitely still would like to play. But it just hasn't happened and that's ok. It doesn't define my life.

TA: Exactly I remember a period of 3-4 years where trained every week with the seniors and I thought for sure you were going to get a game.

TVH: Yeah I was a witch's hat for 3 years haha. I was first emergency for about 32 games straight. I remember specifically getting told by Glen Dale "if Sheppo gets injured, you're in". Sheppo did his knee that week, missed 8 games and I didn't play any games so that's when I knew it may not be happening for me. I think he brought Wolfy or some wanker up from the 19's instead. Lucky I love Wolfy.

TA: That's a classic coaching line I think, you're probably not the only one who has had something similar said to them. But this might be your year as you have got yourself super fit. Well that's what I hear from your dad anyway. What was the difference this preseason?

TVH: Well firstly I quit working at the A.F.L. which meant I could actually breathe and have a life outside of work. What exactly did my dad say to you?

TA: He mentioned you've been smashing the exercise bike and he has to watch T.V. in a different room because you're too loud.

TVH: Haha yeah I've been doing 50kms a night on the bike. I'm not a naturally fit person so I needed to do extras to get in a reasonable shape and I was coming from a long way back!

TA: Even eating your dinner on the bike.

TVH: Yeah eating my carbs and watching them burn away haha.

TA: That's pretty serious stuff mate, what has been the motivation?

TVH: Well I once I had the extra time, I just thought I may as well get fit. I actually wasn't even thinking of footy, I mainly just wanted to get the rig in shape for summer. But I have enjoyed being able to get to training on time and have a good crack at it.

TA: You mention your job at cricket Australia. Can you give us a bit of job description?

TVH: I work in venue and ticketing operations and I just organising all ticketing and accreditations. Anyone that goes in and out of the venue goes through me.

TA: Has there been any blowback from the ball tampering scandal?

TVH: No but I have lost a lot of Instagram and facebook followers since leaving the A.F.L.

TA: I was going to get to that so other than organising free tickets for us blokes what did your job at the A.F.L. involve?

TVH: I was basically working fulltime organising tickets for my mates. But yeah I was doing the same thing that I'm doing now. Venue and ticketing stuff.

TA: You're much happier at Cricket Australia?

TVH: Well yeah they pay me a lot more and I do a lot less work and I get to work from home on a Thursday.

TA: You beauty! I've just got one more question about the A.F.L. then we'll move on. Is it true that over 100 people were asking you for Grand Final tickets last year?

TVH: Well yeah for both the Richmond and Bulldogs Grand Finals I had about 67 inboxes from people I hardly ever talk to. Some people I wasn't even friends with and I was just getting hit up.

TA: Any particular strange ones?

TVH: Well there was one former team mate who hit me up for about 15 tickets the night before the Grand Final which was a bit strange. But yeah there was lots of inboxes from friends of friends etc and I'm definitely a lot less popular these days.

TA: Big Bash may spark some interest?

TVH: I haven't had one person ask me for a cricket ticket yet. Actually no, I got Roo some tickets for Day 2 of the Boxing Day test but that's it.

TA: Are you still a member of the committee?

TVH: Yes, I actually just signed up last week when I was pissed.

TA: Very good! You've been a long serving committee member, your role has mainly involved organising social events and working the bar etc. What motivated you to get involved at such a young age?

TVH: Well I was studying sport management and business at uni and I thought it would be a good way to get experience. So I guess initially I was just trying to pad the resume a bit but after about two weeks when I saw how much work people like Mandy and Cliffy and people like that were doing, I realised they needed a chop out. And it's not hard to be on the committee, you don't have to be qualified in anything, it's easy to help out. I was at uni and I had a lot of spare time and it basically would have been selfish of me to not help out.

TA: Would you recommend current players get involved?

TVH: Yeah definitely. At the moment it's like 7 people doing all the work but if there was say 20 people giving them a chop out it would be so much easier.

TA: Has it helped at all with your current job?

TVH: Not too much but it's good to get an insight. Its good networking, you get to speak with people you wouldn't normally speak with and I would definitely recommend it to anyone studying business, accounting or anything like that.

TA: I definitely agree with that, not that I have the same amount of years' experience on the committee, but it was a big eye opener to me and made me realise the importance of giving back.

TVH: Well we are here to play local footy. It's not the A.F.L. no one is getting paid to be on the committee, so giving a chop out here and there is the least we can do.

TA: For sure. Of your 3 premierships, two of them I was lucky enough to play in with you, do you have a favourite?

TVH: Well the first one in 2012 was pretty special because the club had been a bit starved of success at that stage. We got on a run that day, playing at home and you could really feel all the players and supporters getting behind us. The 4 from 4 was pretty awesome too, and last year was a piece of piss haha!

TA: Haha last year didn't feel like that to me but I agree that first one was pretty awesome and I wasn't even playing. Back then you were a dashing wingman but have played down back for the last few years. Do you have a preferred position?

TVH: Firstly I would like to say that Homer ruined my career as a wingman. There was one day when I was the tallest in the side and he put me to fullback and didn't move me for 3 years. Screw him! I did used to love running around on the wing and kicking a few goals. Following around a forward all day is nowhere near as fun but I guess someone has to do it.

TA: That's exactly right. Thanks for doing the job.

TVH: I'm just glad Joycey is there at the moment.

TA: Not for too much longer I wouldn't have thought, but enjoy him while you can.

TVH: Will do.

TA: We have discussed this a few times but who are your favourite Berwick players that you have watched or played with?

TVH: I love Madi Andrews, he's a freak. Timmy Gunn is good too, big boot, runs a lot. Probably just all my friends. Sheppo too, he's just like me but really good haha. I'm also enjoying Trav Tuck this year. My favourite all time player was you though Chop but people forget past players very quickly so you have slid down my list.

TA: Haha you don't have to say that just because I'm interviewing you. Anyway one last question. What league would you like Berwick to be playing in next year?

TVH: Well I think Mornington made the most sense but that won't happen.

TA: Well I guess we will wait and see. Thanks heaps for the chat mate. All the best for the rest of the season. Keep working on those pre-game speeches and I'm looking forward to seeing you leading from the front.

TVH: Cheers mate.