



The Swans gather together for the Australian National Anthem at the 8th Asian Championships for Aussie Rules recently held in Bangkok Thailand (above) and Will Martin from the Swans keeps his eye on the ball (right)



Swans fly the flag

Vietnam's first-ever National AFL team, the Vietnam Swans made their debut at the 8th Asian Championships in Bangkok with an incredible squad comprising 44 people from 10 different locations across six different countries in the region.

The challenge to compete was made all the greater as the squad only met up for the first time on the morning of the Championships. However, the Swans flocked together and

were unlucky not to come away with a major scalp from their first ever championships despite leading at half-time in three out of four matches.

Unfortunately, the Swans couldn't hold on for a breakthrough win but the team stood tall all weekend and has a lot to be proud of.

"It was truly a remarkable and sensational weekend that has laid some very solid foundations for future growth," says Club President Phil Johns.

More than a few heads were

turned at the tournament by the Swans' derring-do. Thailand Tiger's President, Ryan "Rhino" Collett said, "It was great that (the Swans) could be part of the Champs. The spirit of your team is what the Champs are all about. In particular I enjoyed watching from the stands, with the ambassador, the skulling going on from the Swans before the presentations! For people who didn't know the final results, they would have sworn that the Swans were the winners."

Yes, the seeds have surely been sown and the Swans will be ready to fly the flag again at the 9th Annual Championships. Vietnam is already being floated as a possible venue for next year's championships while Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore have all said they want to tour in Vietnam before the end of the year.

In the meantime if you're looking to play with the Swans drop into "the office" a.k.a Café Latin on Dong Du street in Ho Chi Minh City where you're sure to find a few of the boys. Otherwise you can email hanoiswans@gmail.com to find out more or check out www.vietnamswans.com.