

President's Report

Sports lunch

The Club's Sports Lunch, which will be held on Friday 18th July at The Ranch, is targeting to raise \$20K funds for the renovation of the club building. We are still looking for club members to donate product or services. See the Flyer at the end of this issue for more details!

The **Independent School comp** is doing well in bringing in needed funds to keep the club balance sheet positive. Our following teams have the remaining shifts:

U10 8am – 4pm Sat. 19 July

U13 8am – 3pm Sat. 26 July

U14 8am – 3pm Sat. 2 August

U12 8am – 4pm Sat. 9 August

Swans players are scheduled to visit ELS Hall Park on Sunday, 20 July from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

Please note that Round 12 is affected by Holiday Minimum & Match Number reductions. As per by law 10.9: *During school holidays, to assist Clubs to field teams the minimum and match numbers below can be reduced by two (2) Players.*

– Thomas Jubb

Auskick

After a big night on Saturday when 20 of our Auskickers strutted their stuff on the SCG we had a pretty small turnout on Sunday morning. Not easy for the young ones (or old ones for that matter) to back up at 9am the next morning...!

Well done the brave 11 who did manage to make it along bleary eyed for Auskick on a brisk Sunday morning. Due the smaller numbers we had fairly relaxed training run with some kick to kick with the parents and coaches and a quick warm up drill, then we got straight into a game. With only 5 a side plus a floating spare everyone had plenty of the ball, plus the coaches joined in with a few touches to get the ball moving around the field.

Yours truly managed to smother his own child's shot on goal... who was not impressed! Kai and William had a great one on one battle at one end of the field with Hugo, Alex, William K and Brodie also having plenty of possessions.

As mentioned the prior night was a momentous occasion for 20 young Dockers and their parents. We had a full turnout with 2 teams of 10 a

side playing the Manly Bombers along the western wing of the SCG.



Whilst both our Dockers teams played their very best footy, unfortunately they were a tad younger and certainly a lot smaller than their silver tailed opponents which made for some lop sided matches.



With that said the excitement on their faces before running out onto the field certainly made up for a few tears after the game.

– The Auskick Coaches

U9 White

This week the boys took on a spirited Hornsby team in near frigid and blustery conditions at Rofe Park. Despite the testing conditions, parents, supporters and coaching staff were treated to one of the performances of the season by the boys, who played Hornsby off the park over the four quarters.

The boys dominated in all facets of the game, kicking, running, tackling, handballs and generally supporting the ball carrier. It was a pleasure to watch and definitely took one's mind off the freezing temperatures on the sideline.

Our boys made their intentions plain from the outset with the ball spending long periods in the forward line in both the first and second quarters. In the championship and final quarters they confirmed their dominance with slick moves from the back, through the midfield and ultimately to the forwards who put the icing on some breathtaking moves.

Notable mentions to Matthew with a double in the third quarter and excellent marshalling of his teammates, Aarish with a dominant display across the park with one goal and a super goal from the

midfield. Ben B with a superb pick up, dart to break free and a great finish for a super goal.

Andrew covered his opponents closely all game and opened his mark account getting his hands on an upfield pass in the third quarter. Diminutive Ryan M showed his ability close to the ground and capped off his day with a marvelous knock forward to his own advantage, a clean recovery of the ball and brilliant distribution to the forwards.

Sean and William were tough and uncompromising in defence with a number of crucial tackles at key moments of the game allowing our boys to break out and start forward thrusts. Jacob's running with the ball and hand passing to teammates set up more than one opportunity for a goal.



The boys also welcomed Leif on his debut for the Dockers who certainly caught the eye of the

coaches with some great tackling and promises to be a very handy acquisition for the team.

Finally, a special mention for Liam, who despite an ankle injury sustained the day before, showed true Docker's spirit by not only showing up but assuming goal umpire duties for the game.

I, for one, can't wait until the next game to see the further development of this great squad of players. Well done boys, you've earned a two week holiday. Enjoy the break.

P.S. Given the ball was often in our forward half, Coach Matt found himself trying to keep our defenders concentration on the task at hand... stick close to your opposition player. He repeatedly asked a couple of Dockers boys to stop talking and pay attention to the game. Matt gave it one last go and asked one of the boys where his direct opponent was and our boy quickly retorted, "I don't know... I am talking!" Matt, victorious as Coach but defeated in the one on one battle, came to the Coaches bench for the second half.

– Peter Forster

U9 Purple

Full marks must go to all the Purples and their supporters for turning up for an 8am game at Mike Kenny oval against the Westbrook Bulldogs in what felt like sub-zero temperatures with wind chill. Coach Sean had the boys running on the spot just to keep the blood circulating!

The first quarter was a tough one with the Bulldogs applying pressure throughout to keep the ball down in the Dockers defensive half. The boys manned up well initially and then lost a bit of discipline allowing the opposition to score. Ned defended well, saving a certain goal. Ollie also tackled well and took a couple of great marks to ease the pressure. Zach was outstanding all quarter, a tackling machine who won free kicks with his persistence.

In the second quarter the boys got back into the game with more involvement from the midfield. There were some great passages of play with Ned, DJ and Jeremy teaming up with some great passing and kicking. DJ took a great mark under pressure and Christian and Ned tackled well all quarter winning the ball on occasion. Zach continued to shine this quarter

showing strength in the packs and making crucial clearing kicks, earning him the player of the match medal.

In the third quarter the boys' performance continued onwards and upwards. DJ was impressive as the last line in defence – taking critical marks and offloading under pressure. Zach and Jerome provided great support in the midfield. Oscar and Tobin also stepped up making sure there were always numbers at the ball.

In the final term the boys turned up their attacking play for an exciting quarter. Daniel was instrumental in the centre – his tenacity in the pack and great tackling helped set up a fantastic goal from Christian (and another attempt at one)! Jack was always there in support and made some great clearing kicks.

A great performance all round – you couldn't fault the boys' commitment to the ball and the standard of tackling was awesome! Enjoy the well-deserved break everyone.

– Deb Walker

U10 Purple

This week we travelled to Kellyville to play the Magpies. It was a cold

and windy morning and the Magpies looked a formidable opponent with plenty of height in their side. The game was very tight for the first five minutes but once our boys had warmed up a little they began to dominate the remainder of the quarter. Kicking into a strong wind we managed to score a couple of great goals by Henry and Hugh after some great lead up work in the centres from Lachlan and Kyeton.



The second quarter was fantastic with plenty of drive out of the centre from Matthew, Lachie and Kyeton. With a strong wind behind them they were able to provide plenty of ball to Rhys, James and Ryan in the forward line. James and Ryan combined beautifully, one getting the ball out of the pack to the other who then went on to score a goal on most occasions.

With a strong tail wind and some

excellent team-work we managed to put on six or seven goals for the quarter. Our backline of Hugh Josh and Henry were a little cold after not seeing much of the ball that quarter but when it did get down their way Josh stopped them in their tracks.

The game changed again in the third quarter kicking back into the wind. Henry, Matthew, Ryan and James provided lots of run and continually repelled any magpie attack. Matthew worked very hard for each possession and was rewarded with a great goal from well out kicking into the wind late in the quarter.



Kyeton, Rhys and Lachlan tackled hard and provided a lot of ball down the wings into the forward line. Everyone was backing themselves with the ball in their hand, used their pace to get into

space and then deliver some great passes to a team mate. A fantastic quarter with the Magpies being kept to one point.

The last quarter saw Lachie play like Buddy Franklin did on Saturday night having his best game for the year. Lachie ran rings around the defence and kicked a couple of great goals for the quarter. One of the great highlights from the game was Hugh running from centre half back past Ryan in the centre to receive a hand ball and then pass on to James who marked, played on and kicked long into the forward where Henry marked and potted the goal of the day. This bought the crowd to their feet a loud cheer and applause for a great passage of play. Great team work boys.



Another great game this week of fast open football with plenty of

teamwork and run. Everyone is getting involved and each player's confidence in their own ability grows from week to week. Keep it up guys and keep backing yourself and working hard as a team and you will keep our winning streak going.



Player of the week this week was Lachie who played his best game of the year with some great tackling and evasive skills, topped off with a couple of goals. Kyeton received the footy cards for being voted player of the week from his team mates.

– David Lugsdin

U11

Sunday 29th June saw the Dockers U11s matched up with the Baulkham Hills Hawks out at their home ground. It was a brisk start to the day with a 7:45am warm up for 8:30am start.

The Dockers got off to a flying start with a dominant tap from Flynn to Alex, lovely handball to Matt who quickly kicked into our forward line. This was the theme of the first quarter and, truth be told, for most of the day, with some great runs from Yianni, Luke & Rhys through the midfield & down the wings.

On each occasion our ever reliable forwards then did their job by kicking truly putting through goal after goal. Sam started proceedings by kicking the first of the day & he followed last week's effort with another bag of goals. Blake showed he's coming back after injury to some of his best football with some lovely forward line passing to set up his team mates as well as goals of his own.

Fynn got 5 for the day with the highlight being a cracker from the boundary in front of the parents when he stepped inside two opposition players & kicked a running banana kick from 25 metres out.

Our defenders were not called on too much in the first half, but whenever they were, they were solid, making sure our scoreboards success was not eroded by opposition goals down their end of the ground.

In fact, Aiden, Adam, Ben and Jayden, aided by Will's fantastic tackle pressure, kept the Hawks goalless for the first quarter & scoring only 1 goal in the second. Well done guys, remember everyone you save down your end is equal to one we score – keep it up!

In the third and final quarters we made some changes in the backs which saw Ben move to midfield & the other 4 of our backs move into the forward line, this yielded goals to Will & Luke (his 1st goal of the year).

To their credit, Baulko Hawks put up a good fight, never giving up & they managed to come back into the game, which was a good challenge for our players to rise to.. and rise they did.

Our midfield continued to pile on the pressure with a few goals of their own with a big goal to Matt & a ripping goal to Yianni who is proving himself to be accurate anytime he's within range. Well done to all.

– Kyle Mahoney

U13 Round 10

Following our strong performance in the previous game we faced the

challenge of playing the Western Suburbs Magpies on the large Picken Oval with only 14 players, being without Justin, Merlin, Ryan and Ice (don't skateboard).

After the Magpies posted early midfield goals, our defence led by Hammer and Ranga provided the foundation for some rebound footy, with both Magic and Wizard looking dangerous when running the ball. Unfortunately, 3 times during the match our forward thrusts saw the ball graze the post to deprive us of the major we deserved.

Enhancing his reputation as a courageous team player, Rizza continued to attack the contest despite injuring his back during the first quarter. Dash was running hard to provide a mobile target at CHF, kicking our first goal and was well supported by Dougal (Angry), who was playing his best game of the season. A game ending shoulder injury to Wizard saw us down to 13 players athalf time, with Wests leading 3-1 to 1-3 despite the same number of shots at goal.

The third quarter further stretched our midfield with Magic hurting his knee and having to be moved forward, although this paid dividends when he registered our

second goal.

A number of good marks saw Sticks grow in confidence, giving us another valuable attacking option and threatening the Magpie defence. Given the openness of the game, the ball moved quickly from end to end, with Jarrod turning defence into attack a number of times. As usual, Bomber was found at the bottom most packs, while Super contested strongly in the ruck and around the ground.

We started the final quarter 2 goals behind, but determined to throw everything at the Maggies, which was highlighted by Chook's defensive efforts up forward. Bull continued to provide a forward running option, pumping the ball into our attack, however, we were again unable to match Western Suburbs conversion, kicking only 3 behinds to their 2-1.

With the opposition having 3 interchange for most of the game to our zero, the willingness to run by our team was impressive, with the U13 NW Rep Coach who was watching the game singling out Diesel for his "gut running" efforts. He was also impressed by the general skill level exhibited by both sides in a very entertaining match.

In the end, poor conversion and no interchange cost us the game, but I was very proud of all the boys.

NRD 2.6=18 lost to WS 6.3=39

Goals: Magic (1), Dash (1)

– Michael Hudson

U13 Round 11

Losing by 90 points and failing to score the last time we played them provided an ominous back drop for our match against the undefeated St. Ives. Compounding the problem was that we were again without 4 players (Merlin, Ryan, Magic & Diesel), although we were fortunate enough to have Connor and Cory from the U14s.

The first quarter saw us kicking with a strong wind, utilising a small forward line to challenge the mobility of the taller Saints defenders. Chook and Angry contested well to keep the ball in our forward line, which allowed Wizard to create havoc around goals despite not being fully fit. Sticks and Justin completed the structure across half forward, both working hard to find space and move the ball forward. To the surprise of most, we finished the quarter ahead 3-3 to 0-3 in an impressive opening stanza.

After such a strong opening quarter, our challenge now was to hold the powerful Saints forwards when they had the benefit of the wind. With Connor doing an outstanding job at FB and Ranga manning the CHB post we were able to nullify many of the Saints attacks. The ferocity of our midfield was crucial in preventing easy goals to the opposition, with Bomber and Bull working in tandem to “kill” the ball when we kicked into the wind.

While he may have generally lost the centre bounces to the much taller St.Ives Ruckmen, Super was dominant around the ground, taking strong marks and kicking an important goal after the first quarter siren. The main break saw us only 2 points in arrears (3-3 to 3-5) and a very unhappy St. Ives Coach.

Hard running by Cory and Dash in the midfield set up a number of attacking forays when we had the wind at our backs in the third quarter, although our conversion didn't reward our effort in very tricky conditions for goal kicking unless the shot was straight in front. Rizza and Jarrod were winning plenty of contested ball and presenting our midfield with opportunities to pressure the Saints defence.

The final quarter commenced with scores even at 4-7 each, but St. Ives kicking with the wind. Desperation was required and that's what Hammer showed in Q4, winning a vital free kick. Setting a new standard for himself and others, Ice played an outstanding game mainly as a loose man in defence, being paid the compliment by the Saint's Coach of being manned up, after he foiled numerous attacks.

It came down to a free kick downfield after the siren for St. Ives to kick a 30m goal and steal victory from us. While we may not have got the "4 points" we certainly had the moral victory and as such sang the club song. Outstanding boys! Our last 3 games have been very pleasing, despite only recording 1 win. Our focus is now to repeat this effort against Kellyville.

NRD 5.8=38 lost to SS 5.11=41

Goals: Wizard (3), Dash (1), Super (1)

– Michael Hudson

U14

The school holidays always has an impact on player numbers and last Sunday was no exception. In yet another salute to the world cup in Brazil, we had 11 players per side on the field for our clash with Hornsby.

The wide open spaces made for plenty of room and the boys ran more than usual. We managed an early jump and had a 12 point lead at quarter time and then extended that to a 17 point advantage at the main break. It was a very free flowing and entertaining game with our mid fielders getting a little more of the footy out of the centre.

Liam in the ruck was well supported by Connor and Rory who set the attacking platform. Marley, Tom S and Oscar kept the opposition on a tight lead in the backline. We had Sam, Cory, Cam, Ben, Joey and Cameron running all day and this gave us more drive into the forward part of the ground. Up front Zac, Mitch and Dylan supported a best on ground performance by Tom W who slotted 7 goals! Other goals were shared with Joey landing 2 and Cameron, Connor and Zac grabbing one each.

Most pleasing was our Port Power-like last quarter performance where we piled on 5 goals and 3 behinds. All-round a solid performance... so good that Coach Garry has given the boys the week off from training!

– Christopher Whitnall

SPORTSMAN'S LUNCH

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