

Point Post

Round 4, 2016

Editorial

In all the excitement of preparing the previous Point Post, the U12 match report was overlooked, and so it finally appears in this issue, along with a full complement of others.

Mark Sunday May 15th on your calendar for the Dockers team photo day. And don't forget it's Mothers Day this weekend!

Club photos

It's photo time again! Wouldn't it be nice to have a photo of your little Docker and his / her friends to

mark the season?

Most of our teams are playing at home on May 15th so we have organised for photos (team and individual photos) to be taken on this day. Our aim is to get photos of each team before they take the field and become dirty and sweaty.

As a guide please organise to be at the field 30 minutes before your scheduled warm up time fully dressed in your game gear so that we can take team photos – your manager will be back to you with an exact time. We would really appreciate you being as prompt as possible to ensure no one misses



Dockers Auskickers preparing for their game on the SCG during the Swans – Eagles match on April 24th.

out on being in the photo.

Envelopes will be handed out at your game this weekend and can be handed back on the day. Alternatively payment can be made online also. Your team manager will provide you with more info.

Following the group photo there will be some action photos taken. These also will be available for viewing and sale.

– Sarah Platts

U9 White

While torrential early morning rain created some doubt about conditions at St Ives for Round 4, we arrived at the ground with conditions lightening up and Acron Park in pretty good nick.

The first quarter saw the Dockers dominate field position, with excellent work up front by Will (including an amazing smother) and Harrison, giving the Dockers a handful of behinds. Friyana took a great one handed contested mark. Aarish was everywhere in the midfield, supported well by Lincoln, and Tommy took a strong mark. Goal umpire Matthew was kept busy, mainly trying to figure out what to do with the flags... Xavier, Jackson, Reid,

Harvey and Nathan didn't really have many opportunities, with play so lopsided.

The first break saw Manager Judy continue her attempts to keep everyone strategically wrong-footed by deliberately leaving the world's largest batch of oranges at home, only to cunningly replace the fructose with a more immediate sugar hit via a bag of snakes.

St Ives lifted well in Quarter 2, but our boys responded immediately with a good smother by Archie, and great tackles by Tommy and Kaelan. Lincoln continued his good work up front, leading to a strong goal by Will. This in turn seemed to fire up St Ives and for a short period they made all the play. Dockers fought back immediately, with goals to Lincoln (snapped across the body) and Will (after a good feed from Tommy). Archie also continued his strong on the ball play in the middle. A more even game gave Jackson, Reid and Harvey more to do, and there was strong work in the contests. Nathan and Jackson also worked hard to win and defend the ball at the stoppages.

Quarter 3 was a close contest, with both teams picked up the intensity

in the contests. Archie and Harrison worked hard in the middle. Tommy pulled off a smother and some great tackles. Aarish and Will connected really well. Harvey, Nathan and Jackson fought well again, and Reid was everywhere. Harrison opened Quarter 4 with a weaving goal, and Aarish and Will were really strong. Xavier had his best quarter, and Harrison brought it home with another goal in a Best on Ground performance.

– Andrew Loadman

U9 Purple

A great team effort this week with an even contribution from all players in wet conditions. The first

quarter was highlighted by strong tackling, [Charlie C.](#) and Ryan both forcing turnovers in contests. Hugo took a couple of good marks and Ali, the smallest player on the ground, tackled in the forward line which ended with Hugo kicking a goal.

In the second quarter the pressure continued, Liam K and Callum linking up in the midfield with Ryan kicking a goal. Scarlett found the ball in the midfield, and a long handpass resulted in another forward entry, Brodie forced a turnover in the midfield and a handpass over the top resulting in another goal. Ali, Harry and [Charlie E.](#) scrambled in defence late in the quarter to save a certain goal for



U9 Whites in action

Pennant Hills.

The pattern continued in the third quarter with a goal to Callum after good work in the midfield again. Ali won another free kick after a great tackle, and Liam R forced a turnover resulting in Brodie kicking a goal. Jack also found plenty of the ball in the midfield in the last quarter.

A feature of the game was the clean handling of the ball in wet conditions, hand-passing to teammates to break away from congestion, and players starting to hit targets with both hand and foot. The tackle count was high and not many free kicks were given away. The team song was sung with gusto after the game.

The test next week will be to repeat this week's performance, which was the best team effort this season. Thanks to all players who were subbed out without complaint, this will be rotated through the season to ensure equal game time to all players.

And it was noted that the chopped lettuce, fresh sliced tomato and beetroot at the BBQ took the sausage sizzle to the next level ... volunteers?

– Andrew Darnell

U11

"Where does one start when writing an article on a game of kids footy? At the beginning I suppose."

To paint a picture, Sunday was one of those damp and dreary mornings out at Mike Kenny Oval in Cherrybrook. Winter sport had well and truly arrived. Prior to the opening bounce the boys looked somewhat sluggish, which was in contrast to first quarter performances in the three preceding rounds of 2016. Time to rise and shine lads.

This years team is made up of a returning backbone from last years U10s, blended with seven players playing up from last years U9s, resulting in a large squad of 21 players. Keeping everyone happy with game time was going to be a coaching challenge this week. Bulldogs didn't have as many boys available so special mentions need to go out to first gamer Thierry, Dylan, Charlie and Zach who all played a quarter with the opposition with the same tenacity displayed when playing with their mates.

Following a team best performance the previous week, Liam was

awarded captaining duties and didn't he relish the responsibility. Right from the outset he was hard at the footy, hunting at ground level, moving the sherrin on to advantage.

Westbrook got the better of the opening exchanges and were rewarded with a trio of first quarter goals, produced on the back of some very strong rucking and all-round good midfield play from their number 14. The Dockers responded through Christian, who kicked a nice goal after taking a strong mark 15 metres out. At the end of the first quarter, it was Westbrook 19, North Ryde 6.

The Dockers coaching response to Bulldogs ruck dominance was to share rucking duties between Will, Henry and Jacko for the next three quarters, with man on man marking allocated to Will. While Bulldogs still had the upper hand at half-time, the Dockers midfield was gaining more and more traction and growing in confidence and also putting in some bone crunching tackles. Jack L kicked our only goal in the second quarter and was everywhere throughout the game. At halftime: Westbrook 31, North Ryde 12.

Often a score can be a defining

moment in a game of footy, but I think it's only fair to report that Henry's wraparound tackle just on the stroke of halftime, which resulted in a 'holding the ball' decision against the Dogs, set the tone for the rest of the game. Once the 3rd quarter commenced the Dockers midfield stamped their authority on the game. Their tackles were proving more effective with hard-toiling Will and Jacko to the fore in showing how it should be done. They were helped in no small part by younger in age but not heart, Gilly, Luke T and Luke M.

Success can be built in the championship quarter and that's exactly what happened with Matt and Jack L proving a handful up front for the struggling Bulldogs defence, with Jack L kicking a very important score after brave and intelligent foraging by Tom and Sean, who finally succumbed to an injured thumb. Henry kicked an important running goal in the third quarter and stamped more of his authority on the game. At three-quarter time, it was Westbrook 31, North Ryde 26.

Starting the 4th quarter in an unfamiliar position of fullback, Christian proved his versatility with a telling mark, together with timely

interceptions and clearing kicks, finding unusually quiet Jacob on the wing, who did the business and upped his output by moving the footy up the wing and into the danger zone. Henry took a good chest mark and snuck the kick through for a major to give the Dockers a well deserved lead for the first time in the match. Jack C and Leandre worked well together in keeping the ball where we wanted it with both boys growing in confidence each week and feeding Jack L and Matt, who kicked a running goal in the last 3 minutes to extend our lead to 9 points and put us out of reach of the opposition.

The long pressure relieving kicks of the Dockers best on ground, Jacko, through all four quarters proved the telling catalyst and foundation for a well earned first league win for the Boys against a formidable opposition in Westbrook Bulldogs Red.

It's worth noting that the Dockers outscored the Bulldogs in the second half. In fact, having scored five goals in the first two quarters, Westbrook were limited to just one behind in quarters 3 and 4 combined. The miserly Dockers backline succeeded in keeping the opposition out and were very ably

assisted by a tenacious midfield that combined successfully to choke off supply with strong hard fair tackling and constant pressure which paid dividends. Final score: Westbrook 32, North Ryde 41 !

Other than the long anticipated fulltime siren, the most delightful sound at Mike Kenny Oval was the rousing rendition of the North Ryde Dockers club song, belted out by the Boys, urged on by coaching staff, parents, siblings and grandparents alike. First win of the season, here's to many more!

U12 Round 3

It was great to see the weather fine up & give us a nice day for round 3. Amanda was there early managing things & handing out the new jumpers which, the boys were over the moon with!

Being school holidays we knew we would be without Harrison, Cam & Adam, so the call went out to the U11's & the eager young Jack and Christian put up their hands. We ended up with 15 against a St Ives team with 16, and they came out strong & scored a quick few early goals. The Dockers finally got going and by the end of the first quarter we were well into the contest.

A few positional changes and we were the ones with the scoring opportunities but, unfortunately our initial attacks were foiled by some very strong defence. Our runner sent out the message that their needed to be more talking, shepherding & marking, the boys stepped up a level and we were right back in the game, playing most of the 2nd & 3rd quarters up front but scoring more behinds than goals.

We were also defending well with an outstanding effort from Lachy, who on several occasions, took possession (saving goals), then ran the ball out (of our fifty), dodging 2 and sometimes 3 players on the way & then giving a strong forward kick, finding a Docker almost every time. When running the ball out Lachy also changed from left to

right opening up the opposition, creating great attacking opportunities which earned Lachy the man of the match award.

Despite already playing a game both U11 boys played very well, and in the second quarter Christian cleaned up a loose ball ran straight at the goals & slotted it through to open his goal scoring account with the U12s . Matti (the wall) & Luke (Captain for the day) were also doing great work roaming between the center and backline, cleaning up a lot of loose ball and sending it forward.

Up front, Tom & Ibrahim were working well together, hand-passing, shepherding, running off each other resulting in both scoring goals. Kyeton was moved into the ruck and earned himself runner up



Several of the Dockers players have taken up umpiring this year as well. In addition to gaining an appreciation for all the rules of the game, the boys also get to earn a little pocket money for their efforts.

to man of the match for great tackling and a great consistent work rate which also earned him a goal. Luke the Greek, James, Rhys, and Zac played very well and need to be mentioned as hard working Dockers.

Although we didn't get to sing the song the boys need to be proud of themselves for a great effort & improvement every week. Thanks to all the parents help on the day from Phoebe & Christine in the canteen to Nick, Steve & Mark helping with the match.

– Graeme Economos

U13

In a rematch of last year's grand final the U13's travelled to Picken Oval, and if the thunderstorm that we all woke up to was anything to go by, the game against team rivals Western Suburbs was going to be a turbulent one.

West's were too strong on the day and did a good job of maintaining ball possession. However, Adam fought like a terrier in front of that goal and should be proud of his efforts despite the score. Yianni still gave the opposition grief in the middle whilst Matt and Fynn had a good game, leading by example

and keeping the team in control right to the end. A special thank you to Cameron and Gabe for helping us out for the day, it's great to have you boys back in the mix.

There were some great tackles, brilliant marks and sharp goals proving we all still have what it takes and shouldn't be too disappointed in the game. Everyone played a part and gave it their best.

It was a hard contest that showed in the final result, with the score at the final siren West's 14.11=95, Dockers 4.2=26.

Remember boys, it's only a quarter of the way through the season, with still a long road ahead. We have yet to field a team at full strength so plenty of time and opportunity to hit the successes of last season. Keep those heads up high!

– Bron Papandrea

U17

Back on home patch and I wasn't worried at all about a bit of overnight rain until 7am when I received a text from El Presidente "Raining here but ELS in not under water ... so you are good to go."

The rain had largely gone before the bounce and developed into a mostly fine day. However, with ELS being well-grassed we found we were playing on that most treacherous of surfaces, i.e., firm under foot but slippery on top.

Thank you to Peter, Matt, and Scott for the official functions of boundary, runner and goals. And a resounding shout-out to those Trojans who handled the BBQ and canteen during proceedings Amanda, Bernard and Noels (my apologies if I missed anyone).

We welcomed our physio Simon back who strapped up the boys pre-game and had sufficient to do through the game but nothing a bit of TLC won't fix.

After originally suggesting that they'd be short-handed, Heathcote Hawks (who played in the Bangor Tigers strip) arrived with a full complement and we played 17-a-side.

As a spectacle the game was lacking because the ball got "soap in a bath" slippery by halfway through the 1st quarter. Any player using dry weather techniques learnt the folly and were greeted the incessant cries of "PICK IT UP". Overhead marks were few and far

between. Every pass needed to be grasped securely.

It was a match driven by team endeavour and growing confidence. There were, of course, plenty of good individual efforts and several passages of sound team play. Overall it was a good contest. We got in front early, we kept stretching the lead, they kept chipping away at it.

We had an edge in speed over the ground and wanted to win more, with the final score being:

Canada Bay Dockers 9.9=63
defeated Heathcote/Bangor 3.7=25.

A good result.

Oscar had a good day out. He dlobbered a long range goal in the first quarter and was creative in the forward line all game.

Head down, full speed and damn the torpedoes, Michael, particularly in the first half, used his drive to advantage both in defence and attack.

Lachie started the game with a thunderous pack bursting mark that let everybody know we were serious today. This and other vigorous efforts won him this week's Five Dock Volkswagon "Played strong done good award."

Developing steadily, Nicholas is

beginning to back his own ability around the ball. He has the size to be a handy ball winner for us.

With his explosive burst of speed Jack was a standout. Adopted to the conditions probably better than anyone and was dynamic with ball in hand coming through the centre.

When I first handed my team sheet in Angus was marked as absent due to injury. That had to be amended when he decided to play. His size was very handy in the conditions, and he'll be better for the run.

Luke put in another robust performance. He reads the play well and play halfback in the classical barnstorming manner. Not really designed for slippery conditions at ground level, Dylan was a valuable contributor throughout the game and seems to be having an inordinate amount of fun.

As usual, the master of in and under Tyler continued to contest and drive the ball forward of us all day. You have to admire his work rate.

A renowned mud runner (and I should know ... I wash the jumpers) Jimmy had a good day out. Goals, marks, plenty of possessions and

provided leadership.

The bullocking approach of Macca found him around the ball and winning contests all day but his skills in the slippery conditions tended to let him down at critical times. It wasn't a day for the highlight reel for HLee but he was a substantial contributor in making/winning contests at half forward and creating opportunities with his handball.

Was not a day for the tall timber but Haz (B2) did everything the coaching staff could have asked. Rucked all day, as usual. Won 65%, as usual. When we get out stoppage systems sorted out and win 65% of the clearances we'll be hard to stop. Playing mainly off half forward Rory showed some deft touches early and looked a dangerous attacking option with ball in hand.



A trio of lolly-baggers helping with preparations for the Club canteen.

Quieter, or perhaps less spectacular than usual, but still totally solid in his defensive capability Ehsen ensured that the Tigers forwards had no opportunity to kick a winning score.

Josh played a handy cameo, he makes a habit of it. A renowned goal sneak he performed well.

Twinkle toes MattyB looked very good whenever he applied the afterburners and ran out of defence. Contribution is improving as his confidence grows.

It wasn't a day for a marking forward, so MattyK did well to snare an early goal and to stamp his authority on the forward line and contested well for four quarters.

We get the best out of Louis and his blistering pace when we get the ball to him in space. Conditions made that hard to achieve with any consistency today.

Despite working tirelessly all day Layton had trouble getting his hands on the ball, though he got to where the ball was often enough. Also worked very hard off the ball in his defensive efforts.

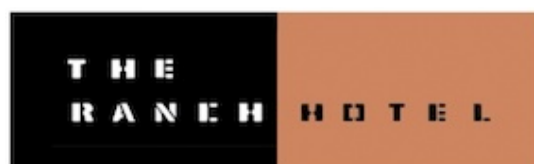
The energy and running power provided by Sam proved a real difference the longer game went on.

So that result puts us 3rd on the Div 3 ladder with a season defining encounter with the competition leaders Cronulla next week.

– Graeme Durrant

Acknowledgements

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