

## PURPLE HAZE DAY

This Sunday we will have all but one team playing at ELS Hall Park. As Fremantle Dockers are playing against the Swans this weekend we will be visited by some Fremantle officials. Make sure you wear lots of PURPLE! The uniform shop has been restocked so line up and get your gear. Thank you for your patience as we wait for notification of upcoming rounds. Competitive teams (U12 and up) found themselves in the wrong division, either winning or losing by huge margins and this has caused a need for a reshuffle of the teams, fields and umpires so teams can be placed in a more appropriate division for the rest of the season. Thank you for the response to date of those interested in assisting with First Aid for their teams as we start to get representation across the club. A sentiment shared by David Lugsdin, Coach of the U9 Purples, "Thanks for all the mums for giving up some of your special day to watch your treasures have a great game on such a beautiful day. I hope you were all spoiled by the boys for the remainder of the day." I hope you enjoy catching up on both Rounds 4 and 5 in this bumper issue.

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President, North Ryde Dockers

### Auskick

#### Round 4

Another great turnout for Auskick with around 22 children participating. After two impromptu Sunday training sessions during the school holidays the skill level of this year's group is showing signs of rapid improvement. On Sunday we had a revision session on basic kicking and handballing skills plus some ball handling and goal kicking, which they love. The 20 min modified game at the end of the session had plenty of highlights and they are certainly starting to get a better understanding of passing and team play, which is pleasing. As always we had plenty of parents helping out which adds to be experience for the children.

NRD were also lucky to have a 9 a side team at half time in the Swans v Lions game at the SCG. The boys had a terrific time running out onto the famous SCG turf and playing in front of the old members stand. They were up against some tough (and somewhat older opposition) from Port Macquarie, but had a terrific time and still got plenty of touches.

Thank you again to all the parents for coming to the game, it was a big effort to get everyone there straight after Sunday at ELS but it's an experience the boys won't forget. As a bonus we were treated to a clinical performance from the Swans particularly in the first quarter and some much needed goal kicking from Sammy Reid, which I'm sure made the day even more enjoyable for parents.

#### Round 5

A slightly foggy morning start for Auskick, but it fined up quickly and we had a very good turnout for Mother's Day. We welcomed a couple more first time players to the group which was good to see, hopefully they enjoyed their first experience with Aussie Rules. Some of our Auskick parents had a nice run around doing their Level 0 training with a representative from AFL NSW / ACT, and as always stepped in afterwards to give the coaches a hand with the group. The Auskickers did some more handballing and general ball skills work and also some kicking drills before our 9 a side modified game.

There continues to be a noticeable improvement week to week in the skill level of all the individuals in the group.....long may it continue.

A big thank you again to the mothers for making the kids available on Mother's Day and to former Auskicker Jack from the U9's for helping out during training and also jumping in to the backline during our game.

Hope to see you at training on Tuesday nights from 5PM and Sundays at 9AM

### U9 Purple

#### Round 4

Although we were a couple of boys down the Dockers spirit lived on. The boys battled hard for a full four quarters and the difference was just a couple of points in the Dockers favour. It was another great game, with a huge effort from all players.

Henry had another fine game setting up many opportunities for his team mates all over the ground. In the first quarter a great goal gave the team a big lift from which they never looked back. Well done, Henry, on being awarded the Brownlow Player of the week award.

It was great to have Matthew back this week as he went in hard all day and was rewarded with some great goals through some clever evasive work in the forward line. Well done to Liam, in his second game for the club, who once again showed heaps of pace around the ground. His tackling was awesome and never give up attitude is great to see. Josh played another strong game in defence repelling a number of attacking moves by the Magpies. Kyeton was everywhere and had some great passes to team mates who went on to kick goals.

Ben's ruck work was fantastic. Being a bit taller helps him take many marks, and he is improving his game every week which is fantastic. James tried hard again this week with fast breaks away from the opposition wherever he was around the ground and made good passes to his team mates further up the ground. If he keeps kicking the ball long into the forward line it sets our forward line up well to go on and score. Hugh's drive out of the centre was fantastic with great passing to his team mates as he busts through the packs.

A great team effort boys and keep fighting hard for the ball and you will keep being rewarded.

#### Round 5

The boys battled hard all morning and put in a determined effort for their mums but on the day were outplayed by a bigger and faster team. We were very proud of them as no-one gave up with everyone playing right to the final siren. Henry and James said with about two minutes to go, "We can still kick 3 goals and win." How good is it to hear this positive attitude from the players?

Welcome to Noah, for his first game, playing great and his effort in defence repelled many attacking moves from the bulldogs was fantastic. I was particularly pleased with how you stuck right with your opponent in the last quarter and prevented them from scoring a goal.

Henry, Ben and James were awesome taking a heap of marks around the ground and stopping many attacks into the forward line. As they keep watching the ball they will get plenty more in games to come. Josh is after Hugh's Buddy Franklin nickname after a great snap for goal today. Mitch had a fantastic

game topping his possession count for the year. He had a stack of kicks after some great work around the packs. Lachlan ran hard all day and was well rewarded for his effort with a number of free kicks for his tackling. Kyeton had one of his best games so far this year. Some great passes to his team mates from the centre was a highlight. Hugh made a great effort, though not kicking as many goals as Buddy against the Swans he still had a great all round game with plenty of kicks and passes to team mates around the ground.

Congratulations to Liam for winning the Brownlow Award for player of the week, with outstanding effort for the entire game. He tackled hard all day and received many free kicks for his efforts. The highlight was a quick hand pass to Henry in the centre who passed it deep into the forward line. Well done Liam.

See you all at training and keep practising your hand passes and drop punts. Focus this week will be on kicking.

## U9 White

#### Round 4

Our opposition was Baulkham Hills Hawks and the game had plenty of action for the umpires to keep up with right from the outset. The umpires paid plenty of marks in all 4 quarters, with both sides working hard to get their hands on the Sherrin. Best in the marking department for the Dockers were Harrison, Jacob and Jack. Connor and Thomas did well while up in the forwards each kicking important majors at critical times in the game.

'Captain for the Day' James, Alex, Ashton and Zach all worked tirelessly in defence when called upon getting telling tackles to stem the Baulko flow, and kicking strongly from defence. Daniel showed that with each game he is growing in confidence and ability, kicking intelligently from the centre. Best Docker on ground for the day was Cameron who led by example, always involved when the ball was close and with intelligent movement when not in possession. Baulkham Hills was also treated to a rousing rendition of the Club Song at fulltime. Roll on Tuesdays training!!!

#### Round 5

The Under 9 White Mothers and Grandmothers present certainly made their voices heard in support of their sons and their team mates. The game was against a strong capable Kellyville/Rouse Hill Magpies team who had some stand out players against whom the Dockers Boys held their own and

tackled and competed for all they were worth. While the result for Under 9's is always recorded as a Draw, it was in fact a very close throughout the game. It was a tough uncompromising game which saw both sides tenaciously vying for possession of the footy. Game 5 of the season showed that each player has improved since the start of the season, with some outstanding marks, strong kicks and smart handballing evident throughout the four quarters. It was uplifting to see the support and encouragement provided by the team to the two youngest Dockers on the day, Aarish and Samuel, both of whom came off the ground with big smiles on their faces. Special mention goes to Alex who worked hard throughout in his first year with Dockers. All in all another great sunny autumn day!

## U11 Purple

### Round 4

Sunday brought us a tough, fast-paced game against a quality team with some pretty big players. Despite this we saw the determination of our Dockers, when we saw Blake being picked up and flung through the air only to play on and play strong all day. Janne came off with a twisted ankle, vowing to come on anytime if needed.

With Ned and Janne injured on the sideline and some very tired kids in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the team was asked for a last ditch effort in the final quarter and they did not let anyone down. Our solid backline consisted of Jack, Frysie, and Sebastien in his best game with us yet. Lachie Brown held off constant opposition raids and helped launch our heroic and exhausted midfielders into counter attack. A good accurate goal kicking performance by our forwards saw the players ultimately get rewarded for their fantastic efforts and it was nice to see some proud smiles as they ended the day with the club song. Others to play particularly well were Matt, Harry, Fynn and Nick.

### Round 5

Matt and Blake along with others in midfield steered the Dockers into offense from the outset, and Janne went on to kick a well-earned first goal of the match to get the team off to a great start. Fynn played fantastic football all day, received a great handpass from Ned near the centre of ground, turned around evaded the opposition, bounced twice and ran in to kick what's been goal of the year so far. Hornsby to their credit, played strongly & made it an nice game for all to watch. Luke took the job of playing on probably Hornsby's

strongest player and did a great job and also got plenty of ball. Harry's clearances from midfield were again great to watch as was Ryan and Jack's strong play when they went up to do a job in mid-field. It was pleasing to see Lachlan Wilson's improvement as ruckman. He and Nick are starting to work well as a combination with Lachlan's strong tap outs allowing us to get Nick in the forward line where his amazing marking will trouble any opposition. Docker's players then encircled all their mother's for lovely moment as they sang the Docker's song in tribute to their wonderful Mums to close off a well-played game for Mother's Day round.

## U11 White

### Round 4

This week saw an improved performance from our boys playing Pennant Hills Red. Special mention goes to Joe, Alex S and Rhys for their tireless work in defence. Yianni put in his usual great effort in defence and attack, and is proving very entertaining to watch. A great game was had by Samuel, Gregoric and Conor who were playing their first game for us. Samuel had a great start to his AFL career with a goal and a couple of excellent marks. Thanks to the boys from the Purples who had a game with us and to the Purples coaching staff who also lent a hand. As we have good numbers this year we have been in a position each week to "lend" a player or 2 to the opposition team each quarter. We are really impressed with the sportsmanship being shown by our boys as they are always willing to do this. We'll be getting stuck into our drills at training each week ready to take on Sunday opponents

### Round 5

With no time for Mother's Day breakfast in bed, the Whites headed to Cherrybrook in the morning fog. Alex Simpson captained for the day following his strong tackling performance last week. The Westbrook Blues were very strong, with some of their Swan's Academy players shining through. Particularly impressive was that all players committed to tackling the opposition. Well done to Flynn and Zann for keeping on the tackling pressure. During the match 3 players in particular saved goals in the last line of defence - Joe, Yianni and Alex H. There was also a very strong effort in the last quarter, which showed the boys had endurance. Training will focus on big kicks down the ground and the taking of overhead marks.

## U12

### Round 4

A confidence building performance against bottom of the ladder Forest saw the team implement what we practiced at training during the week. Our run, shepherding and teamwork pleasing the Coach, in our last game wearing the old Dockers jumpers. Playing at Full Forward, Wizard kicked our only 2 goals in the opening term, benefitting from the strong defensive rebounding of Rizza and Jacko. A devastating 7 goal 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter allowed some positional and game play experimentation after half time. The domination of Super and the "Crash Test Dummies" (CTDs) out of the middle saw Merlin rewarded for his hard contesting work by bagging 2 goals. Bart had another good game, both at Centre Half Back and in the Ruck, while Dash showed glimpses of why he can be one of the competition's most damaging forwards. We appreciated Matt & Luke (U11 Purples) playing for us, with both looking very comfortable in the U12s.

NRD 12 9 81 def Forest 2 2 14

Goals: Wizard (3), Merlin (2), Diesel (2), Bart (1), Super (1), Bomber (1), Matt (1), Dougal (1)

### Round 5

An undefeated Pittwater team provided us with an opportunity to test ourselves against the competition leaders. A slow start saw us 3 goals down at quarter time, with our key prime movers struggling to provide their usual drive. Playing on bigger opponents, both Hammer and Ranga were inspirational in the key defensive posts, their desperation setting an example for the team. Dash moving into the Ruck in Q2 changed the momentum, with his run and tap work causing problems for the Tigers and bringing teammates into the game. Increased Docker's midfield pressure in Q2 & Q3 resulted in an even contest and showed what we can do when we play as a team. Co-Captain Diesel led the way, chalking up the "one percenters" and displaying superior foot skills. Unfortunately, with Pittwater having 2 interchange players to our none, we ran out of puff in the last quarter, getting steamrolled 5 goals to nil in a disappointing performance. Thanks to Alexander Harrison (U11 Whites) for his fierce contribution to the team.

NRD 4 2 26 lost to PT 12 9 81

Goals: Super (2), Dash (1), Justin (1)

## U13

### Round 4

The under 13's suffered a narrow 4 point loss to Hornsby in a close played, see sawing encounter. We jumped out of the gate strongly to lead at quarter time, Hornsby came back to lead at both half and three quarter time before a thrilling last quarter saw us fall just short. Hornsby had a number of reserves, while we had none, so by the end of the game our young champions were spent after giving their all on the full size field. The game was played in a great spirit and players from both sides should be congratulated on the spirit and endeavour shown. We look forward to bouncing back strongly at home next week.

### Round 5

After the mist lifted over the rolling greens of ELS Hall first thing Sunday morning, it was clear that winter is coming. The wet ground made ball handling difficult for the entire game. Although the conditions proved a little frustrating, this did not stop the team from recording 3 wins from 4 games. The low score (36-14) reflected the conditions with many points rushed through after the ball spent plenty of time locked up in the forward end for both teams. The game was close until we kicked 2 quick goals at the start of the 4th quarter to make the gap too hard for the visitors to bridge. The new players are really starting to gel well with the old heads - if 13 year olds can be called that - and we look forward to our next away game at Pittwater. A special thank you to the mothers who dragged themselves away from breakfast in bed to assist in the canteen and cheer the team on.

## U15-16

### Round 4

Another tough game losing to who was the better team on the day by 60 points. Glebe are currently dominating the division with 4 wins no losses. Once again the Dockers boys were no easy beats but again with only 16 on the field we couldn't last the distance against a 24 man squad.

The Dockers held Glebe in two of the 4 quarters. We won the centre most of the game but were no match up front against the height and strength of their backs, we couldn't get the ball through their back line enough times to be competitive over the 80 minutes.

It was however probably our best game so far so well done to all the boys. If you want to see a team with "heart" come and watch our mixture of 14's, 15's and 16 year old take on the big boys.