

### Auskick

Once again Sydney put on another cracking warm & sunny Sunday morning for Auskick. We did have a slightly smaller group of 16 this week, however we did welcome William, a first timer to the club and the great game of Aussie Rules.

After a quick warm up and some kick to kick we ran three drill stations of handballing in traffic, goal kicking on the run from either a loose ball on the group or a handball and lastly some high marking.

After a quick drink we got straight into our game. Ben and Brodie won a good deal of the ball in the middle which gave Plugger plenty of shots on goal. This was despite William's best efforts in defence including a terrific smoother.

Noah & Alex worked hard trying to shut down the midfield whilst first timer William enjoyed getting a couple of touches. Ayan had a fantastic game in defence down the other end, providing plenty of run and carry for his side, whilst Hugo did his best to score from limited opportunities.

Congratulations this week go to

Ayan, Brodie and Ben who won the coaches awards for their great play during the game.

As Mel mentioned on Sunday, we have Tim and Ethan from the AFL coming on Tuesday night for training so it would be great to see a big turnout for them.

See you next week!

– The Auskick Coaches

### U9 Purple

The boys faced up against Baulkham Hills Nippers at the home ground and were quickly put under pressure by a well-drilled and smart opposition. Despite some great defence from Alistair, DJ, Jack and Oscar, who all took solid marks and tackled well, our opponents managed to break through and score an early goal.

The boys were lacking the hunger for the ball that they had demonstrated so well in the past couple of rounds and Baulkham Hills were able to capitalise on this keeping the ball away from our forwards.

Similarly in the second quarter, we

found the ball down in our defensive half often. Ned tapped away a certain opposition goal on the line and made some huge kicks out of the goal square but was not always able to find a willing Dockers player. DJ and Captain-for-the-Day, Jeremy, were persistent in chasing down their counterparts and Jerome was skilful in the pack picking up the ball cleanly but the opposition were able to make some great marks and keep the pressure on us up until the half time break.

It seems something clicked in the third quarter as the boys started to apply what the coaches had been stressing at the breaks – stay in position and chase the ball. The boys saw more action in the forward line thanks to good clearing kicks from Christian and a terrific chase and kick from Daniel against boys who towered over him. Jerome, in a player of the week performance, was unrelenting in the forward packs.

His great running from the midfield, along with constant forward pressure from Ned and Oscar, helped DJ score a great goal.

The more even contest continued into the final quarter. Connor and Zach showed great speed around

the centre and were able to move the ball forward. Tobin chased down the ball whenever it came near him. Ollie had a great quarter with several strong marks and clearing kicks after swerving around the opposition. The boys had another great chance to score a goal this quarter but couldn't free the ball up from the congested packs before the final siren. It was a fantastic comeback from the boys in the second half and hopefully they will come out blazing in their next big match.

The boys sung the Dockers song with great pride today, and it was lovely to see them include Ollie's little brother, a future Docker in the making!

– Deb Walker

### U9 White

A picture perfect autumn morning saw the game kick off against Baulkham Hills and the boys were all manned up and ready to go! The team were relentless in tackling for the ball and then we see some great passes, first Matthew to Ben B and then back again. The boys worked hard to get the ball up their end of the field.

Jacob made a grand attempt to kick a goal, with one foot on the

sideline with a 'check-side' but so close as it hit the post.

In the second quarter Baulkham Hills came in strong and straight into the forward line. With good defence by Jacob and calculated passes by Luca, the team kept focused. Aarish is quick in his chasing and tackling. Another score by Baulkham Hills doesn't deter our boys in their relentless efforts with examples of improved skills such as Will's excellent mark, and Aarish's two brave marks. Ryan M did a great job clearing the ball off the goal line.

In the third quarter Aarish takes on another two marks with a brilliant kick to the pocket. Will scores with a big kick and the improved skills around team-work are showing. Liam gained several free kicks by tackling the Baulkham Hills players, showing great defence is the way to get possessions. Jacob marked running down the wing and kicked on his non-preferred left foot.

The last quarter saw some great kicks by Matt B, and trooper Ryan M kicked a behind goal before coming off after getting elbowed in the cheek. Coach Matt singled out Ryan C as playing his best quarters ever.

Congratulations to all our White's players and lets do it again this Sunday.

– Loretta Mazza & Matt Wilson

### U10 Purple

This week we came up against a smaller but highly skilled Westbrook team. It was an even contest for three quarters with the Dockers kicking 5 goals in the premiership quarter to set up a great lead and hold that to the full time siren.

The Dockers were strong in all aspects of the game this week, probably having one of their better games for the year.



Everyone made a significant contribution with many highlights of not only individual brilliance but also great teamwork. There was some tough play and no one

backed off in the fight for the ball. Well done to all players for "having a real go" this week.

Our centres were brilliant with lots of drive into the forward line. Matthew, Cameron, Ryan, and James were awesome. With a hard surface we even saw a number of long runs by James with a bounce included before kicking long into the forward line. Hugh, Josh, Liam and Kyeton picked up a number of possessions in the forward line and converted them to six pointers. Kyeton was again at the bottom of the packs fighting for the ball all day as was Cameron who topped the possession count for the day.



Lachlan ran his heart out and was rewarded with a heap of tackles. Well done, Lachlan. Liam had his best game of the year by far picking up a stack of kicks around all parts of the ground and setting up many great plays to his team-mates. It was also great to have the

experience of Tom, Ashton, Cameron and Ryan from the whites to direct some of the great play on the day. Thanks for filling in boys we will no doubt replay the favour when we have our bye.



Player of the week was Kyeton for his relentless hard ball gets and tough work around the rucks plus a magnificent goal. Footy cards went to Cameron for his never-give-up attitude and effort for an entire four quarters.

– David Lugsdin

## U12

The North Ryde Dockers continue to steadily improve despite their loss against the Forest Lions 18 - 56. After conceding an early goal, the Dockers fought hard for the rest of the quarter, and despite applying plenty of pressure, conceded another goal late in the quarter.

The second quarter was similar, with the Dockers pressure failing to show on the scoreboard. The third quarter saw the Dockers' effort improve and we kicked 2 goals, however we also conceded a couple of goals. The game was kept very tight in the fourth quarter, and our players showed some lovely teamwork, however we just lacked the polish to finish with goals.

The first goal came from Alistar who collected the ball after a kick from Harry was smothered, and he managed to convert from close range. Our second goal was a great piece of teamwork, showcasing some of our improving skills with Nick making a great tackle, then Luke picking it up off the ground, handpassing to Nick. Nick kicked it forward to Cam, who moved it on for Alistar to pick up off the ground and goal. Great play boys!

Our kick-outs from the back improved with some great team work by Robbie kicking to Sam Gre and Sam Gre kicking to Nick. Nick and Ryan stood out with their continual effort, Hugo, Harry and Luke were great in at the contest, with Robbie and Sam Gre being solid down back. Our pressure at the tackle area also improved, and great tackles were laid including by Harry, Ned, Lachie B, Nick, Sam

Gra, Robbie and Alistar. There was also a great bump by Tom.

This game also saw some great marking from many of the boys, including Luke, Robbie, Cam, Tom, Nick, Hugh, Ryan, Tim, and Sam Gre. Especially pleasing were the overhead marks taken by Nick, Tom, and Hugh. We looked great when we were able to put 3 and 4 marks together. This was augmented well by Ned's running in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and some handpasses from a number of the boys.

If we can keep the effort and running up for all 4 quarters, and compete contest to contest, we are sure to keep improving.

– Ro, Charles & Greg

### [U13 Round 6](#)

Another week, another challenge, this time against the Kellyville Magpies that finished 3rd in Division 1 last year. While not quite as tall as St. Ives (but still much taller than us), Kellyville gave us a lesson in running football and precise disposal. For the second consecutive match we conceded 90 points, although in an improvement on last week we hit the scoreboard ourselves.

Our first half was disappointing, reflected in the score at half time of 0-0 to 6-7. Given this scenario, our defence was continually “under the pump”, with Jarrod the standout getting plenty of the ball at half back. We were missing the run of Magic and Justin, however, Ryan continued his improvement and proved to be a good replacement on the wing, providing some outside run.

After a slow start in midfield, a move to half back saw Bomber start to win the ball in his customary style, which continued after quarter time when moved back into the middle. His goal in the final quarter was a good reward for his efforts and leadership on the day. I was pleased with the way the players didn't give up and actually improved as the game progressed, outscoring the Magpies in Q4.

Chook lead the way in hopefully his “breakout” match, contesting hard and kicking 1-1 in a promising display. Given that we matched Kellyville in 1 quarter, I am looking forward to playing them next time as I have an expectation of an improved performance from our team, with concentration and commitment the key. Thank you to Cory (U14s), Sam and Harry (U12s)

for their efforts.

NRD 2.6=18 lost to KM 13.12=90

Goals: Bomber (1), Chook (1)

– Michael Hudson

### U13 Round 7

The greatest challenge against Westbrook this week was fielding enough players to avoid a forfeit, as we were missing Merlin, Dougal Magic, and Chook, and Jarrod for the second half. Fortunately Connor F (U14s) and Matt R (U11s) were available to help us out and we really appreciated it, given the size of Mike Kenny Oval and with a couple of players carrying injuries into the game.

The first quarter was a very even contest, with the Doggies posting early goals, before we replied with majors from Super and Ice, who both displayed some quality finishing. Both sides were running the ball well and although we finished the quarter 1 goal in arrears, it was a good start.

In our last 3 matches we have let ourselves down in at least 1 quarter by relying on too few to do the hard work and while we were outscored 3-1 to 0 in Q2 it was more to do with our disposal and

decision making than our work ethic. Rizza was playing some inspiring footy in defence, winning the hard ball and then clearing it with some dash, often to Bomber, who was carrying on his good form from last week. A heavy knock to Matt R finished his game under the concussion rule, reducing our numbers to 14 after half time, with the scores 2-1 to 6-2.

Our team was down to 13 in Q3 when Bomber went down with a nasty ankle injury, thanks to the same Westbrook player that took out Matt. This seemed to spark us and hard running from Ryan (length of the ground stuff), Justin and Wizard provided opportunities for our forwards, although we only converted 1 goal for Super's second. Dash was providing a moving target at CHF, while Bull's improving ball usage helped bring other players into the game and contributed to us outscoring the Dogs 1-2 to 1-0 for the quarter.

We were briefly down to 12 in Q4 when Super needed to come off momentarily, but Sticks worked hard to find space and mark, which resulted in an Ice "poster". Ranga, who had another "hard day at the office" marking the opposition's key forward, fought it out to the end rebounding strongly in the final

quarter. Highlights for the day included: Diesel "selling some candy", taking 2 bounces and then hitting a leading Dash on the chest; Diesel putting Westbrook's 2 biggest players to the ground in consecutive tackles and being told by one of them that he was fat; and the number 1 highlight, Hammer outnumbered 3 to 1 in defence and winning the contest – outstanding!

Despite losing, this was the best footy we have played for 3 games, we ran hard, spread and looked to support our team mates by providing options. Our disposal and decision making improved as the game progressed and we had 5 shots at goal to Westbrook's 4 in H2. A bit more hardness at the ball and our next win won't be far away, well done boys.

NRD 3.5=23 lost to WB 9.3=57

Goals: Super (2), Ice (1)

– Michael Hudson

## U14

The best way to review the under 14's match against Hornsby will be through the use of a number of well worn sporting cliches... so here goes!

What greeted us on arrival at ELS was a picture perfect day tailor made for open free flowing footy. Both teams turned up ready to play and went in hard from the first bounce. The first quarter was an arm wrestle and we led 7-1 at the first break. Hornsby came out firing in the second quarter and put on a few quick goals to take the ascendancy and led 23-12 at the main break.

The Dockers revival was strong in the third quarter and we managed to wrestle back control of the game through being first to the contest and tougher at the ball. We kicked four goals to their one to have an eight point lead at the last break.

The final quarter was one of the most exciting of the season and went end to end. We traded goals and had a slight lead as the sun started to disappear behind the trees. With both sets of supporters enthusiastically encouraging all players the game was in the balance right to the end. With almost the last kick of the game Hornsby manufactured a goal from a defensive pack.

As the players raced back to the centre for one last assault... the siren sounded and the result was a one point loss 51-50, for the team

in purple and white. It was the most exciting game of the year and played in a great spirit. For the Dockers, Macca was again best on ground and kicked 3 goals, Rory had another fine game and was well supported by Connor. Sam worked hard all day and Liam played much of the game in the unfamiliar ruck position and performed exceptionally well. Up front, Tom slotted 3 goals, Emlyn and Mitchell also bagged goals.

Well done to both teams for on putting on a wonderful Sunday spectacle and safe to say that footy was the real winner on the day!

– Christopher Whitnall

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks to managers and coaches for their reports, David Lugsdin for photos, and all club sponsors for their support.

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