

Point Post

Round 12, 2015

Editorial

The Dockers Family Trivia Night is Friday 28th August. More information will be distributed later this week.

The Dockers end of season Trophy Brunch will be held on Sunday 13th September from 10am. More details to follow!

Well done to three of our U11 Dockers players, Matt, Luke and Henry, who recently attended the Swans Academy trials.



Auskick

It was nice to get back into the last half of the season on Sunday after a break from school holidays. Coach Matthew was left to run a small but energetic bunch of Auskickers who thoroughly enjoyed

playing a game for most of the session.

There was some great teamwork by all. Scarlett was a standout for the black forwards for the first half and worked well with her team-mates to kick many goals. The Red forwards didn't get much of a chance due to Jon's great defence. Liam also had a cracking game and put on some good pressure by chasing the ball to the ground showing great commitment. The best and fairest player for the day was Cass – well done for your efforts!



– Melinda Jenkins

U11

Right from the first week of the season Coach Darren has emphasised how important training is. He has organised different training drills, written specific programs for players to focus on, and asked players to train individually on other days.

For anyone uncertain what “train” means Google will give you two definitions:

“Train (verb) – to coach to a mode of performance. Prepare physically, as with a regimen”

“Train (noun) - A series of connected railroad cars generally carrying passengers or freight”



As we reach the business end of the season it is becoming apparent that the more successful teams are the teams that train well and train hard. Playing St Ives in Round in Round 3, the Dockers won by 67 points. In the return match this week the boys conceded a slow start and finished full of run but fell 11 points short of snatching victory.



It should have been a close, hard fought game of footy but unfortunately the boys conceded another slow start and then played catch up footy for the rest of the game. St Ives used handballs out of the packs and exploited the open spaces of the big field. Their tackling was ferocious and they played on quickly. They did all the

things that Darren has been trying to instill at training but this week, the Dockers were unable to match it with the St Ives boys.



It was a disappointing result but certainly not one without highlights. Ryan's shot at goal (that unfortunately hit the post) was probably the biggest kick we have seen from him this year! First game player Bronson was immediately involved and able to show his pace and commitment. Liam relished his time in full forward with some excellent leads, marks and a great goal. Simon continues to show improvement getting in for the hard ball, and Henry worked hard across the half forward line. Kyeton and Ashton displayed great courage to take the field even though they were carrying injuries and Buster was solid in defence until injury forced him from the field.

The Dockers weren't able to capitalise on Luke and Josh as tall marking targets, or give Hughey and Rhys D the chance to pick up the crumbs and goal as they so often do. St Ives had too many runners for Aiden, James, and Lachy to keep tagging and although Harrison and Micah were valiant in defence the weight of numbers and the wide open spaces played to St Ives advantage.



The effort and contributions from Cam, Tom and Fuzz were extraordinary. They threw themselves into everything and played with 100% commitment for the entire time they were on the field. Even late in the last quarter, when the Dockers were 4 goals down, Fuzz grabbed the ball from a free kick in the defensive zone and played on desperate to get the ball into the forward line. That sort of determination and drive is inspirational to the rest of the team and typifies the way he plays every game. It earned him a big pat on the back from the Coach and the footy cards this week.

The boys have a lot of work to do if they are to play finals – and that work has to start with training. By training of course we mean “prepare physically”. Although it may sound like a railroad, it’s time to focus and stay on track. Get up a head of steam and gather some momentum. Run to a timetable and not go off the rails. Most importantly though, from now until the end of season, there are to be “No Passengers”!

– Stephen Grech

U12

The U12’s lined up against Willoughby this week at home. The

weather Gods must have forgotten to pay the gas bill because it was bitterly cold. Our ranks were depleted by the absence of Blake, Ben and Tamas, but we did get Lucas back fresh from a week off. Cameron P, Rhys F, Lachy C and Tom E kindly stepped up straight from their U11 match to bolster our numbers. Ben turned up to show off the cast on his arm but mainly to provide moral support to the team which gave the boys a lift and showed what a team man he is.



Our boys stamped their authority on the match from the get-go keeping the visitors goalless in the Q1 and conceding only 2 goals in Q2 to be up 10.6=66 to 2.0=12 at the half time break. Jayden played a pivotal role at back pocket in those first two periods particularly in the way he tagged, pressured

and shut-down their #63 early in the game. Aiden backed up after an impressive game the week before and was also strong in defence using his height to great advantage.

Aryan never let his opposite number out of arms reach and showed strength when the ball went to ground. Gabe defended well and also used his speed and agility to crumb the ball and feed it forward several times. Will was strong in attack and was rewarded with an early goal under pressure. Lachy C and Aryan worked hard in the backs providing great support and demonstrating their shepherding skills. Fynn showed his usual dominance up front and in the mids and slotted a couple of majors, and Flynn took a longish shot through the big sticks and got a major aswell with that accurate boot of his.

Flynn got Q2 underway with a perfectly timed tip to Lucas who used his speed and agility to leave the opposition standing and take the ball well up field. Adam entertained the crowd with a flying tackle that only he could pull off and was rewarded with a free that went back down field through Alex, Fynn and Matt to yield a goal from 20 metres out. Rhys took a fantastic mark 10 metres out to the

right of the sticks and slotted it beautifully for a goal. Matt played with his usual intensity and commitment all day and pulled off an impossible smother of a full-power kick which gave us back possession through the crumbing of Adam.

Jayden pulled out a big tackle that saved a sure goal and Luke when Willoughby got down our end. Lachy C and Luke worked hard all day and pressuring the opposition players and winning back the ball for us regularly. Cameron P tackled well all day and just before half time he made a big tackle that resulted in a free to us, which he kicked to Matt for a mark and a goal. Flynn was on fire and potted a second major for the day.



By the start of Q3 Coach Kyle started to mix it up a bit to give the opposition a fighting chance. Will went to the backs, Thomas E moved to the centre and showed his tenacity in the midfield, while Jayden and Matt came to the

forwards. Lachy and Adam generously agreed to join the opposition ranks in Q3 as their injury toll mounted and their bench shortened. Lachy played the rest of the match for Willoughby and gave them his best which is a testament to his great character. Adam came back to us in Q4.

Lucas was in fine form and took a flying mark at one stage showing what a safe pair of hands he has. He sent it long and found Sam who landed a precision kick on Fynn that resulted in a goal. Yianni must have had a time machine because he seemed to pop up everywhere the ball was being contested. Unlike the biblical Samson, Yianni's recent haircut has not reduced his strength or his courage in the contest for the ball. Nor has it affected his ability to snatch the ball in impossible situations and snap it up-field to the forwards.

Alexander played a great game in his usual intuitive, roving style. His ability to read the play and respond is incredible and fantastic to watch. Will moved to the backs and teamed up with Aiden, Aryan, and Gabe in defence and the four of them held Willoughby goalless throughout the term through a lot of hard work and strong play.

Fynn's boot sent the ball long into the goal square where Cameron P muscled up, snatched the ball off the ground out of Willoughby hands and snapped a cracking goal. Connor played well all day and took a great contested mark in the mids which he used to find Lucas loitering with intent. Lucas took the mark under pressure and then kicked a really impressive 30 metre goal.

In Q4 Sam's hard work finally paid off when the ball went to ground in their goal mouth. He picked up the ball on the goal line then shrugged off two defenders then took two steps back down the goal square and snapped a goal over his left shoulder. Tom Mc was strong in the ruck and the midfield all day and showed no signs of backing off in Q4 with several good bumps to win possession of the ball. He is also showing an ability to read the play and anticipate where the ball and opponent will be to time the bump to maximum effect. (He is also beginning to beef up a bit which makes the bumpee know they have been bumped!)

Tom E also played his heart out for us in the midfield and the backs and has great skill in scooping the ball off the ground. He also had a go as ruckman at the bounce and

made a couple of good clean clearances to his teammates. Sam also had a go at ruckman and made a couple of good clearances at the bounce to show his versatility.



Connor kept the pressure on in the midfield with some great disposals. Gabe worked hard in the backs all day regaining possession several times when play broke down and the ball went to ground. Gabe has been a great acquisition for our team and is proving to be a real solid performer under pressure. Cameron P was made a great tackle that gave him a free kick which he used to send the ball sailing back up field.

Will came back into the forwards and got a hotly contested second goal for his efforts. Jayden took advantage of his run in the forwards and worked hard coming away with a goal when he scooped up the ball and took a kick. Luke

moved to full forward, having played hard as full back in the first half, and kicked a great goal that he had to work hard for.

A great game played well by our boys. Thanks to Adam and Lachy C for agreeing to play for the opposition in the second half. They played with the same intensity they do for us and did us proud. Thanks again to the mighty U11 boys Cameron P, Rhys F, Lachy C and Tom E for once again stepping up to play for us.

– Warren & Sarah Platts

U14 Round 10

North Narrabeen Reserve is not our favourite place to play football for a number of reasons and we turned up with 7 regular players unavailable. Fortunately, Nick, Harry Dan and Tim from the U13s were happy to help us out, although as usual, we had no bench.

We started Q1 full of run in difficult gusty conditions, with the boys from the 13s all doing well: Dan with his close checking in defence, Nick and Harry as mobile forward targets and Tim playing his role as a small forward.

Despite our effort, we only managed to post 3 behinds, as the wind caused challenges for even the most accurate goal kicker. Bull was again prominent at the contest, while Rizza was proving a handful at FB for the Tiger forwards. The 1st stanza saw us leading 0-3 to 0-0.

The Tigers also have a Div 1 side and about this time 5 Div 1 players turned up to play in the Div 2 team – I regard this as unethical, but that's just my opinion. This injection of talent had an immediate impact on the game. The Tigers scored 2-5 in both the 2nd and 3rd quarters to our 1 behind, but I couldn't fault the player's effort, with Sticks contesting well in defence after being starved of opportunities as a forward. Liam was again battling manfully in the Ruck against a much taller opponent and I thought won the contest. Diesel asked for and was given a lock down job on a Div 1 MP player who was cutting us up (won the B&F in Div 2 last year) early in Q3 – he was taken off late in Q4 with only an additional 2 handballs.

We entered Q4 not having scored a goal 0-4 to 4-10, but Ranga, who was playing arguably his best game for the club as a dashing defender

was determined to change that. Some excellent midfield work and a 50m penalty saw Diesel with the ball in our forward line but still too far out to score. Ranga somehow managed to sneak down from FB and find himself unmarked 20m out from goal, receive an accurate pass and kick a goal – easy! The boys kept on battling until the final siren, which is all I can ask for.

NRD 1.4=10 lost to MPT 6.13=49

Goals: Ranga (1)

– Michael Hudson

U14 Round 11

A new challenge awaited us with 2nd place Heathcote having only lost once in season 2015. With Super and Merlin acting as water boys and Ninja also missing, Cory (U15s) once again stepped up.

We caught the Hawks off guard when Jaydan managed to snag an early goal, before Heathcote constantly pumped the ball forward to hit the scoreboard. Their 3 goals for the quarter were hard won as our boys focussed on one contest at a time and showed some tremendous determination. Both Jarrod and Hammer were rock solid, playing tight, contested footy and making their opponents earn

every kick, while Dash was winning his man-on-man battle at CHB. At the other end of the ground, Mike was presenting a moving target at CHF, although the Hawks defence was proving difficult to penetrate. Quarter time and the score was 1-0 to 3-2.

In the midfield, Bomber was having his best game for the year, his run and hunger for the ball proving difficult for Heathcote to combat. The Hawks kicked another 3 goals in Q2, while we posted just 1, after Wizard found Sticks alone in the goal square. At the main break we trailed 2-1 to 6-4.

Q3 and we missed a couple of 'gettable' goals, only to be hurt on the rebound when our opposition managed to snag a lucky one. Another 3-goal quarter for the Hawks and it was 2-3 to 9-7. Angry nearly completed a good comeback game from injury, but unfortunately his snap went wide.

Q4 was very much a replica of the previous stanza, with our shots just missing, while they bounced theirs through. Through it all Ranga was having another blinder at FB, keeping their 'gun' FF to just 2 goals and running off him to turn defence into attack. At the final siren, the scoreboard shows that

we went down by around 11 goals, however, the score line did not do justice to the team's effort, with the game feeling more like a 4-5 goal result. A full side and we might give them a fright next time.

NRD 2.5=17 lost to HH 12.12=49

Goals: Jaydan (1), Sticks (1)
– Michael Hudson

Acknowledgements

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