

Point Post

Round 13, 2015

Editorial

Q. What is on Friday 28th August?

A. The Dockers Family Trivia Night! It all takes place in the Chats Room at The Ranch Hotel. Doors are open from 6pm, and meals can be ordered from the Chats Room bar. Trivia starts at 7pm, with entertainment provided for younger kids in an adjoining room. Entry is \$15 per adult, and kids are free! Come along for a fun night of trivia, fundraising games for the kids, raffle, auctions, and lucky door prizes.

Another date for the diary is the Dockers end of season Trophy Brunch, which will be held on Sunday 13th September from 10am. More details to come later.

Thanks to all parents who have helped out with canteen duties on the Saturdays that ELS Hall has hosted the Independent Schools comp. All members of the Club benefit from the funds raised.

U11

It's getting pretty close to the end of the season. Every team has played each other a couple of times and the Under 11 Dockers have worked out who are the teams to beat when it comes to finals. This week the boys were travelling to play top of the table Hornsby at Rofe Park. The Dockers haven't beaten Hornsby this year but Coach Darren wanted to give the boys a



very simple message before the start of the game. This week was not about goals, points or margins. It was about effort. Forget the season so far. Draw a line in the sand and from here on every boy gives 100% for the team. The boys' eyes were fixed on Darren as he said: "At the end of the game, I am going to ask each boy to tell the rest of the team whether they had played their best game or not".



Clearly the message got through from the start with the Dockers thrusting forward from the opening bounce. It was high paced, high powered footy that left Hornsby initially stunned. They were not used to not being in control of the game and were shell shocked by the ferocity of the Dockers at the contest. It was tight close footy, just the way the Dockers like it, as each team traded shots at goal. It

was only the changing, swirling wind that disrupted the Dockers accuracy and gave the lead to Hornsby at the first change. In spite of this, it was all smiles in the Dockers camp because they were doing exactly what they had been asked to do – they were giving 100%.

Over in the Hornsby camp the coach was probably asking his boys to dig deeper. They were the top of the table team and they were second to the ball and being made to look second rate. As the game resumed after the break Hornsby somehow arranged the wind to increase in strength and adjust in direction so as to blow all their shots into goal. Their accuracy hurt on the scoreboard and this took some of the wind out of the Dockers sails. Hornsby gained the ascendancy and despite some really courageous play by the Dockers they just couldn't get the scoreboard ticking over.

Despite the result, Coach Darren was elated at the effort and commitment from all the boys. The scoreboard didn't reflect the intensity and endeavour displayed by all boys. Importantly there were several passages of play that sent really clear messages that the team have turned the corner. The back

line, lead by Harrison whose relentless chasing, tackling and spoiling earned him one pack of footy cards this week, never gave up. Buster was everywhere, laying tackles, shepherding and throwing himself over the ball and into every contest ... and into the opposition players. (All the boys will be glad to hear that Hornsby player Lachlan was ok after experiencing an unintentional very heavy knock from Buster in the last quarter. If you are reading this Lachlan – we are all glad you are ok!) Mitchell, coming back after a few weeks away, ran all day and showed incredibly courage by staying on for the whole game even though he was completely spent. Rhys put his body on the line (and copped one in the jaw for his efforts) but bravely returned to the field. Liam again proved his versatility by playing at both ends of the ground and providing extra pace out of defence when needed.

As they do every week the centre combination of Tom and Magnet (Cam) set the tone in work rate. Tom was unlucky to hit the post not once but twice during the game and Cam again was rewarded for his second and third efforts by winning plenty of the ball. Their work rate was matched by Lachy who responded beautifully to a

quiet game last week by showing his flair, pace and skills. Another standout was Josh who regularly uses his height and strength to advantage, but this week showed his determination by chasing and tackling and applying some great forward pressure to help out his teammates. It was that effort that earned him the second set of footy cards this week!



Speaking of teamwork, there was a lovely passage of play where Simon chased down a loose ball, laid a tackle and knocked the ball out before lunging across to get a hand pass out to Henry who had timed his run past perfectly. The wind robbed them of what should have been a great team goal. Aiden and James applied some great forward pressure and prevented the skilful Hornsby defence from rebounding on many occasions. It was that sort of forward pressure that gave Luke the confidence to grab a loose ball

in the far pocket, run into space, take a cheeky bounce and have a shot.

The teamwork was excellent but so where some of the individual efforts. Like when Ashton was pinged for holding the ball. The look of frustration in his face was obvious as he stood the mark but his response in the next passage of play was fantastic. He used his pace to chase a loose ball, tackled 3 consecutive players as they strung together a chain of handballs, and eventually was rewarded with the free kick. Fantastic effort that typified the commitment all over the ground.



All the players gave 100% and played for each other. Although the result didn't go their way nobody could question the effort and

commitment of the Dockers so it was a bit surprising after the game when Darren asked Hughey if he had played his best game. "Mmm.... not really" said the boy who had played the full four quarters spending time up forward, busting his gut running in the midfield and dropping into defence when needed! So if Hugh has more to offer then Kellyville had better watch out next week, because the Dockers have started playing into some form and have their eyes focussed on the finals!

– Stephen Grech

U12

This week was our introduction to Friday Night Football under lights at Drummoyne Oval where we came up against Canada Bay on home soil at 6.20pm. The very flash electronic scoreboard provided a dazzling backdrop to the action on the field. Cameron P and Tom E stepped up from the U11's to help us out and share in the occasion, given that we still have Blake, Tamas and Ben out with injuries.

Unfortunately for Canada Bay, our boys took charge of the match and never looked like relenting. Sorry if not everyone gets a mention this week but with a final score line of 21-18 to 1-2 there isn't enough

space in Point Post to write up all the goals or to detail all the support work that went on across the team.

But there were a few highlights worth mentioning:

Connor got his first goal (according to the club stats.) Well done. This was in Q4 when Gabe chased the ball and got a favourable bounce off the ground which enabled him to make a long kick into Connor about 35 metres out from the goal and he slotted the goal with his reliable left foot.

Cameron (U11's) booted a goal in Q1 then a minute later got a free kick from a high tackle that was laid on him. He showed great courage all game.

Tom E (U11's) scored 3 goals for us in the back half of the game. The first was in Q3 when Alexander got a quick handpass away to Gabe in the midfield who kicked it long for Matt who marked it one handed on his hip. His kick into the goal zone found Tom E for a great mark and goal. In Q4 a Canada Bay kick-out was spilled and Tom E gathered it up and slotted it right foot for his second goal. His third was set up by Lucas 6 minutes in with a long kick into the pocket and a great mark by Tom E and a great kick at an acute angle.

Gabe played an outstanding game, in the midfield in Q1 & 2 and then at centre half back in the last half of the game. His support play was superb and his tenacity and energy is inspiring. In Q1 with 2 minutes to go Gabe shot a long floater into the goal zone to find Matt who marked and slotted the kick for his first major. Gabe then got possession from the next restart and shot another long kick that was marked sensationally by Connor about 30 metres out.

Adam denied Canada Bay a swag of goals with his impeccable defence then moved into the forwards in Q4 and scored 2 goals. One came from a tip at the restart by Matt to Lucas who used a quick hand pass to Yianni for a kick to Adam who took a sensational backwards falling mark right in front and goal. Great teamwork boys.

Will had an outstanding game scoring 3 goals and being active in a great deal of supportive play.

Coaches Ian and Kyle throughout the game played Jayden Tom M in all parts of the field. They were wonderful in support play and attack.

Getting closer to the end of the season now and the serious footy, we are looking forward to some

tough games that will test our skill and resolve. Be your best Dockers, we are so very proud of you!

– Warren Platts



U13

After the wash out last week-end, the Dockers were greeted by a calm and pleasant sunny morning at Jubilee Oval. Facing the Glebe Greyhounds (top of ladder) was going to be a tough task! Our boys were asked to focus on keeping possession with well-directed kicking and leading, and to start strong and score early, to try catch our opposition off guard. The boys delivered!

With a strong centre set up, we won the early clearances and pushed deep into attack. Matt, Dash and Brok provided consistent strength in the corridor, highlighted by Dash marking truly and breaking

into open spaces at both ends of the ground. Nick was injured early in the first quarter, but despite lacking a tall forward target the Dockers scored early and maintained the lead well into the first half. One passage of play involved several superb kicks and clean marks all the way from the back to the forward line, ending with the ball sailing through the big sticks for our best team goal of the year!

The Dockers played hard at the ball and tackled strongly, showing our training drills were paying off. Mason had his best game of the season at half-back, combined with strong defence by Dan, Tim, Fynn and Riley. Mason and Tim displayed strong marking skills, and Dan constantly outran his opponents to repel repeated attacks. Zann added speed and attack along the wing, Hugh and Jack provided competitive targets around the forward line, and Sam outmanoeuvred his larger opponent for a superb mark at half-forward.

The boys remained competitive in the second half, but fatigue set in as our team lacked interchange players relative to the Greyhounds. Dash was initially dominant around the ground, then Lachlan provided

some run to the midfield. Matt displayed his tackling prowess but Yianni was our “David”, tackling players twice his size, as well as winning marks and ground clearances. Harry gathered some effective clearances, and Hugo and Riley fought hard all game against larger Glebe forwards.

Overall, every player contributed to a highly competitive match, and the boys well and truly met our goal of ball possession. The final score of 19 – 59 did not reflect the even contest and our consistent forward attacks. The Dockers improved skills, teamwork and spirit impressed their parents, as well as the opposition coach, who was not likely to be expecting such a physical and evenly-matched encounter. All lads should be extremely proud of their best team performance all season.

– Charles Allan

Acknowledgements

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