

# Point Post

Round 1, 2014

## President's Report

Welcome to the 2014 season of football. As you can see from the current team numbers below, though we are in a healthy position, we can do with extra players in all age groups. So ask your family, friends and neighbours if they would like to come and play footy with the North Ryde Dockers.

Lost property starts at Round 1, I know because I have three sons :-)  
Please make sure your jackets etc are named to ensure quick notification when items of clothing turn up.

– Thomas Jubb (0429 794 743)  
President, North Ryde Dockers

Auskick	33		unlimited
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Team	Current Numbers	Minimum number	Match number	Maximum on Field	Interchange
U9W	12	9	12	Same as Match number	unlimited
U9P	13	9	12	Same as Match number	unlimited
U10W	8	9	12	Same as Match number	unlimited
U10P	10	9	12	Same as Match number	unlimited
U11	13	12	Same as Minimum number	15	6
U12	17	12	Same as Minimum number	15	6
U13	19	15	16	18	6
U14	18	13	16	18	6
U17	18	13	16	18	6



purple player is existing



green indicates open position

## Auskick

April is NAB AFL Auskick's "Bring A Buddy" month in the Sydney Harbour region. If you bring along a friend to Auskick in April you go into the draw to win a Playstation 4! The more friends you bring, the more chances you have to win. You can even bring a different friend each week! For details, see the flyer on the Dockers home page.

– Auskick Coaches



*Auskickers in action!*

## U9 Whites

The Under 9 Whites first game for the season was played against our Dockers mates, the U9 Purples. Both teams included a number of players on debut and the overall standard of the game was very high with players from both teams adjusting to the conditions and new rules throughout the game. Ryan, Liam, Luca, Thomas, Ben T, Andrew, William and Sean all made their debut for the U9s in this game and applied themselves very diligently to the task at hand.

Returning U9s players Matthew, Aarish and Jacob showed their experience and helped guide their less experienced team-mates.

Game highlight - The Purples were heading into attack and Matthew stood between them and a certain shot on goal. The ball was kicked high and long and Matthew showed great judgment, timing and skill to run back with the flight of the ball, fearlessly jump and take a clean overhead mark. With great game sense, he immediately played on as he saw a team-mate running into space and pin pointed a lace out pass to Aarish on the wing. After marking, Aarish spun like he was on ice, took a few quick steps, steadied, saw a free team mate and kicked it straight and flat whereby another mark was taken after which the ball then pumped long into the forward line for another scoring opportunity... by this stage the crowd from both teams were on their feet clapping and cheering... champagne football Whites!

Special mentions – Ben T worked hard all game and was a wall in defence, a ball magnet in the middle and a weapon in attack. A truly sensational all round effort from a player on debut. Two players, Luca and Thomas, who are

both very new to AFL, performed admirably in the organised chaos that is AFL with both getting a number of timely possessions. Andrew battled hard for the first 3 quarters and showed a clean pair of heels to dominate the last quarter with two sensational goals on the run. The U9s coaching staff may have to respond to AFL scouts if Andrew keeps this sort of form going.

Aarish displayed excellent foot skills in all positions and even turned onto his non preferred left foot when under pressure from chasing Purples opponents. Sean chased and harassed two opponents and won the ball back in our forward zone and ran towards goal, narrowly missing a snap shot. Had it not been for that sudden gust of wind, it would have been the goal of the day. Ryan showed great promise in his debut game and displayed terrific poise to cleanly dispose of the ball when in a pack situation. An old AFL coach would have described Ryan as a good driver in heavy traffic. Jacob was terrier-like and used his speed to chase and tackle Purples players leading to a number of fumbles and turnovers.

Our taller players, William and Liam handled the ruck work with aplomb

and helped bring their smaller team mates into the game with deft hit outs to advantage as well as delivering a series of well weighted kicks and handballs. An extra special mention to Ben B who played for the Purples which enabled all 22 Dockers players to play the entire match. A big thank you Ben, well played in your U9 debut.

What a day! A season's full of highlights in the first game. Bring on game two. Go Whites!

– Naushad Mistry



### U9 Purples

Game 1 at ELS Hall Park saw Under 9 Purples up against their friends and club-mates, U9 White. It was an even contest throughout the four quarters, played in a very good

spirit and showcasing the future of the Club. On the evidence of this game alone that future is bright!

2014 sees the introduction of the tackle in a new form to what was the norm in the past and the game saw numerous examples of how to effectively apply the tackle from both sides. It was an eleven-a-side game with Ben B from the Whites donning the Purple jersey for the day to even up the teams and contribute strongly to the Purples overall performance across the park. Captain for the day, Alistair, showed wisdom beyond his years managing to use the handball skill to great affect when it appeared he was wrapped up by the Whites. Add to that the fact that he also contributed a couple of majors it was definitely a Captain's Knock.

Ollie (Oliver) gave a display of marking to his younger and older teammates. High, low, anywhere... his hands were rock solid in collecting impressive marks and he followed up with strong kicking all game.

Zach was rock solid in the tackle across all four quarters and in all positions as well as displaying a constant hunger for the ball. Connor showed maturity beyond his years with strong kicks

that invariably hit their target or intelligently relieved pressure when under the cosh in the back-line. Jeremy and Jerome both worked tirelessly making space in the forwards and gave their opponents very little space in defence. Jeremy kicked and marked well, and Jerome is definitely getting to grips with the oval footy. Another AFL debutant, Oscar, was involved anytime the ball was near and worked hard to break tackles from the ever-present Whites, sometimes drawing as many as three players before releasing the ball to advantage.

It was a joy to see the smile beaming from Tobin's face anytime the ball came near. Try and tell the crowd looking on that he didn't enjoy his first game with the 9s. Strong tap downs from the center bounce by both Jack and Christian set the platform for many Purple attacks. Christian used his speed to get away from markers on a number of occasions and also kicked well up the ground. Jack chased hard all day getting in some telling tackles and handballed intelligently when under pressure.

All in all it was a good day on the park for both teams and the Club song received a rousing rendition,

nearly as raucous as the howls of delight when the goodie bag came out!

– Sean Cronin

### U10 White



### U10 Purple



### U11

This year's U11 team is made up of 9 players from last year's U11 White, 3 from last year's U11 Purple and 3 players new to the club or to the game. This week's game saw the team come together very nicely after a month of pre-season training and a trial game last week as we took on a strong Baulkham Hills side who also had the advantage of player numbers

and being able to interchange.

The game was played at a fast pace with tackling pressure from both teams, but particularly the Dockers - their tackling was as good as we've ever seen. Adam led the way in defense and newcomers Lucas and Sam (playing his second game of AFL) were tireless in defense. The midfield was formidable with great handpassing, some big marks by Fynn and fantastic ball clearances by two of our best all day in Alexander and Matt. Our ruckman Flynn & Tom both won more than their fair share of ball & backed up with nice shepherds.

The Dockers scored in every quarter, but some good defence from Baulkham Hills prevented our forwards from capitalising on our forward entries. Blake scored individual goal of the day with a great snap shot and along with Connor and Will played well down forward all day. Team goal of the day came from beautiful free flowing play which started with Aiden in the back line and went through several accurate handpasses, kicks and marks down the far wing for a length of the field goal. This is the kind of team work we will become renowned for and which should see the U11s have a great year.

It's early days so we still have a lot of improvement to be made in our kicking, marking and positional play so we'll be working on these aspects at training, but we are right on track, so well done to all for a fantastic team effort against a pretty good opposition.



We also have a very involved and enthusiastic parent/supporter group - thank you for taking on duties this week and offering to assist. It was great to hear the boys do a hearty rendition of the club song after the match.

– Liz Thomson

## U12

In their first game of the 2014 season, the North Ryde Dockers

U12s were defeated by Kellyville /Rouse Hill Magpies at Bruce Purser Reserve. Kellyville took a decisive early lead with consistent hard running, possession dominance and superior ball-handling skills, outclassing the Dockers 15.4 (94) to 3.0 (18).

The Dockers started to get fired up in the second quarter, with Ryan and Nicholas each kicking a superb goal from a distance against the melee, and Harry punctuating another goal in the third quarter. There were some heroic plays to shift possession dominance back to the Dockers with Sam, Tim and Cameron each taking challenging marks to thwart Kellyville's offence. Mason showed tactical skills with solid downfield kicking to set the ball up for a Dockers follow-through. All the players who took turns in defence tried hard, but were consistently under pressure throughout.

But more support was needed to finish the job, and it is clear we will be getting back to basics in the team's training routine to get the boys fitter, faster and hungrier for the next game against Forest U12s. It is still early days, so the loss should be viewed as nothing short of character building, and nothing more than a valuable example of

what it takes to win.

Finally, a welcome is extended to Brok, Tom, Cam and Hugo who have joined the team and made a commendable contribution in this, their first games.

– Ro Coroneos

### U13

What a way to start the 2014 season, playing against the team that beat us in the finals last year. We welcomed 4 new teammates, but had lost 2 experienced players and I was unsure how we would fair against our arch rivals, given our whole squad had not trained together pre-season. I need not have worried, this was the best TEAM performance that I have coached. Every player made a contribution and played to the game plan and pre-match instructions.

It was wet and slippery, making contested ball a key factor in the game – our “Crash Test Dummies” speciality. Bull led the way with his fierce attack on the ball and tackling, while Super was back to his best dominating the ruck and around the ground against the NW Rep ruckman. Like a good small forward should, Dougal was swooping on crumbs like a Sparrow

(sounds like a nick name) and slotted our first goal of the year. HB scrounged a goal late, putting us ahead by 3 points at ¼ time.

Early in Q2 Assistant Coach Tim pointed out the Eagles had 2 extra players on the ground (no wonder I couldn't work out who wasn't manning up — it was our interchange!). Soon after this “misunderstanding” was rectified, a head knock put Ryan out for the game, after he was one of our best players in Q1 and playing terrific footy at half back. Great discipline and reading of the play by Jarrod (1<sup>st</sup> game) saw him blanket his opponent and also save a goal on the goal line – just as good as kicking one. Cian marked his debut by snapping a great running goal before the main break with the scores 15 to 7.

The premiership quarter saw us completely dominate kicking 3-1 to nothing, with Cian, Super and Justin all posting majors. We have some high level soccer players in the team and the “one-two” between Justin and Sticks belied that the ball was oval, not round, while Justin's greater physicality impressed all in his best game to date. Making a comeback after 3 years, Magic showed he had lost none of his spark, with his attacking run off

half back constantly putting the Eagles defence under pressure.

More soccer skills (it was the day for it) from Dougal resulted in Cian kicking goal number 3, while Josh (another rookie) and Merlin looked dangerous but couldn't quite convert with the slippery ball – keep putting in and it will come boys. Hornsby kicked a nice running goal and “snagged” one on the final siren, but the result was never in doubt once we had equal numbers on the ground.

Fantastic win team, you have set the benchmark for the rest of the year with your effort – well done.

NRD 6.8=44 def HBE 3.1=19  
Goals: Cian (3), Dougal (1), Super (1), Justin (1)

### U14

As we headed north in driving rain we certainly knew that footy season had arrived. The Under 14's started their title defence with a grand final rematch against Hornsby at Rofe Park. All the boys were fired up and ready to go and there was an extra element of enthusiasm as we welcomed 5 new players to the team. We lost 5 players in the off season so with the new additions our numbers are exactly the same as last year.

The team had looked really sharp in their final training run on Thursday night and that showed on the field as we hit the ground running. Inside a minute one of our new recruits, Liam had kicked our first goal of the season. We dominated the centre and continued to move the ball cleanly forward. Everyone contributed and by half time we had the game won. Zac was winning plenty in the centre and was supported by our well-oiled engine room of Rory and Connor. Cory was everywhere and covered more ground than anyone. Bryn threw himself into every contest and won nearly every hard ball he contested.

Special mention must go to our new players with Liam kicking 3 goals, Joe Lo Surdo being busy in a wide range of positions and showing enormous composure for someone playing his first game. Cameron kicked a goal and was also very safe when he moved to the backline in the second half. Eddie kicked a goal and was hard at the ball... although he did say at the end of the game that he was confused at times as he didn't know the rules... watch out for Eddie when he knows what's going on!



Our backline didn't have much to do although were rock solid when required. Ehsen, Oscar and Ryan made sure nothing got through their defence line. We had plenty of run which made a huge difference and with Thomas Mc, Sam, Thomas S, and Emlyn running at will it gave the forward line plenty of opportunities. Up front Tom finished with 5 goals and set up the same number completing an excellent forwards game. Other goals scorers included, Liam (3) and singles to Emlyn, Thomas Mc, Sam, Ryan, Bryn and Cameron. All-round a great start to the season.

– Christopher Whitnall

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to all managers and coaches for their reports, Amanda Jubb for the photos, and all club sponsors for their support.

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