

# Point Post

Round 15, 2015

## Editorial

The Dockers Trivia night is on **Friday 21st August** in the Chats Room at The Ranch Hotel. Doors open at 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. Come along for a fun night of trivia, fundraising games for the kids, auctions, and lucky door prizes. Book your tickets online at [www.trybooking.com/148640](http://www.trybooking.com/148640).

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

## All Australian Honours for Ben!

Former Docker Ben Mitchell has been selected as the sole field umpire to travel with U15 national team to South Africa. Ben, who started playing AFL as an 8 year old with the North Ryde Kangaroos and finished last year with the North Ryde Dockers, took up umpiring four years ago. It was his performances at the recent Australian School Sports National

AFL Championships that led to him being selected to represent School Sport Australia as an Australian team member for the international tour next January.

Ben has to cover his own costs for the tour and is raising money with a raffle – tickets available from the canteen. The Club will donate some of the funds raised at the Trivia night to support Ben. And Ben's father, known to many as former ground manager "Mitch", will be doing his bit by serving breakfast at ELS Hall for the next three Sundays (August 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>). Just \$12 will get you poached or fried eggs and bacon with a spinach and Hollandaise sauce on a toasted bun, served to you on a plate by Ben himself, and it comes with a mug of coffee. And all for a good cause!

## Spectrum Healthcare

The team at Spectrum Healthcare, sponsors of the North Ryde Dockers, will be at ELS Hall again this week to keep our Dockers players in tip top shape! Their qualified sports chiropractors and physiotherapists will be available before and during the games to

provide any sports strapping and to assess any injuries, and had a number of satisfied customers last weekend.

Spectrum Healthcare is located in the Specialist Medical Centre complex in North Ryde and should you require their services they are extending special student rates for all Dockers players for Physiotherapy, Sports Chiropractic and Massage Therapy.



*Another satisfied customer!*

## U11

The last time we played Westbrook at Mike Kenney Oval was in round 5. At that time both teams were unbeaten so the game was a fantastic tight struggle that saw the Dockers gain the lead in the last quarter, only to concede a goal on the siren and suffer a 1 point loss. Since then the Bulldogs have gained confidence while it would be fair to say that the Dockers have had a more up and down season.



Three of our fleet footed midfielders were absent either due to injury or to run the City to Surf, and there was a cloud over Matt "The Wall" D's injured hand. This forced Coach Darren to restructure the team by putting players in different positions. Defenders found themselves in the centre and some forwards were moved down back. Darren asked the boys to focus on tackling because if the Dockers could control the stoppages and play close tight

footy, then the game would be theirs!

Quarter 1 started exactly as the Dockers wanted. It was a body over the ball, don't give an inch, tight arm wrestle. The two Matts – “Buster” and “The Wall” – started in the midfield immediately doing what they do best – ferocious unforgiving tackles and using strength to bust through the pack. Inspired by that commitment Liam threw himself into the relatively unfamiliar midfield position and proved he can tackle as well as anyone in the team.



He wasn't the only player to relish a new position. James, who normally spends times roving the forward pocket, absolutely shone as a half back flanker. He took a couple of great defensive marks and gave great run out of defence,

gaining confidence with each passage of play. Lachy also usually looks more at home in half forward line slotted comfortably into the backs and did a magnificent job of sweeping across the half back line.

Harry filled his usual role as “the General” organising the back line but with a few Dockers players taking a little time to settle in to their new positions Westbrook were able to get a couple of early goals. The second quarter saw the pendulum swing in favour of the Dockers and the contest was finely balanced at the main break.

The Dockers forward line looked really potent. Josh used his height to provide a great target up forward and Henry has “Half Forward” in his DNA so again did a magnificent job of getting to every loose ball on the attacking 50. Aiden was lively around the stoppages and Ryan proved that last week's goal was no fluke slotting through his second major in as many weeks.

Luke again showed his combination of height and speed makes him hard to match up on, and as usual Huey roved the loose ball finishing with his trademark “I can do this with my eyes closed” left foot snap at the sticks.



If we kept accurate statistics they would no doubt show that the “Scores per Inside 50s” would have heavily favoured the Dockers but the ball didn’t spend enough time in the attacking zone. On the other side of the ledger however the Bulldogs were getting frustrated by having a lot of possession but being unable to capitalise on it.



As he does every week Tom carried the bulk of the ruck load and combined perfectly with Fuzz to propel the ball out of the defensive zone. Simon played a great role in getting his body over the ball while Mitch had a blinder of a game grabbing the ball and running it out of defensive numerous times. He only stopped when he was injured in a high tackle forcing us to activate the sub Rhys. Rhys initially wasn’t going to play due to injury but full credit to him for his commitment, courage and

complete fearlessness playing with an injured hand.

And while on the subject of hands, Cam “the Ball Magnet” put on the best display of overhead marking ever witnessed. He marked everything that came near him, backing into packs, at full speed on a lead or leaping in from the side. The nick-name Magnet never seemed more appropriate as every ball just stuck to his hands!



The bench resembled a casualty ward in the last quarter with Mitch, Harry and Fuzz all suffering from various knocks. There was an intercepted pass that led to a Bulldogs goal and a couple of free kicks that resulted in 12 point turn arounds. Little things like the ball not bouncing the right way or a slightly inaccurate pass was enough to give a quality team like the Bulldogs all the buffer they needed to hang on to the win.

It was a gutsy and determined 4 quarter effort from the Dockers and despite building momentum in the third quarter they couldn't quite get their noses in front as they had done in Round 5. It was not quite nail-biting finish we had hoped for but still a thoroughly enjoyable game and great preparation for the forthcoming finals!

– Stephen Grech

## U12

This week saw celebration of a milestone as Yianni racked up his 50<sup>th</sup> game on home turf. This is a great achievement for Yianni, who came to the Dockers as a new AFL player only 3 years ago and what a talent he has proven to be. Yianni plays with passion and is a real competitor in every contest. Congratulations Yianni from your club and all your Dockers mates.

Sunday's game was against Ramsgate, who were sitting in 2<sup>nd</sup> position (with Docker's in 3<sup>rd</sup>), was destined to be a good quality competitive match and it did not disappoint. We commenced play in glorious sunshine on the top oval and the Dockers quickly got into their groove with good rucking from Tom and a couple of quick raids into the forward line from our

midfield.

These forward line attacks saw goals registered and confidence lift. When we didn't score goals, our forward line maintained good pressure to keep the ball in the danger zone and Will was rewarded with one of the goals of the season which he kicked off-balance from the sideline.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter was much of the same, with Matt in particular unleashing from the midfield with strong running kicks through the

goals. It was not one way traffic, however, as the opposition were able to run the ball downfield to place scoreboard pressure on us, but our backline held strong, with Jayden, Aiden, Adam & Gabe neutralising the attack. Aided by Fynn, these boys were then able to turn the traffic around and send the ball back towards the Docker goals.

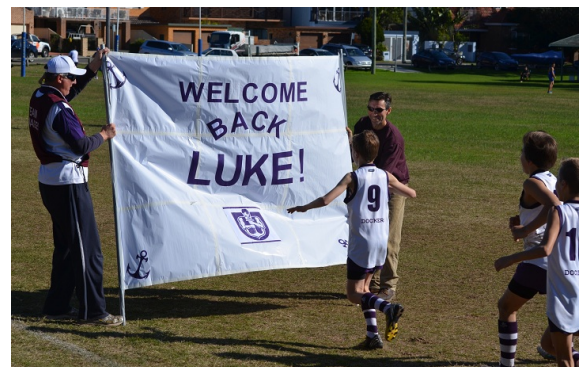
Third quarter saw a few positional changes, some worked, some didn't. Gabe coming down the wings gave us some much needed run, but we lost some ball gathering ability and as a result the opposition were able to close what was a 35 point lead down to just 15.

With the movement of a few magnetic pieces on the whiteboard and the pointing of a few fingers, Coach Ian changed things up and off we were again.

Alex and Flynn got us some more ball for us. Luke gave us some good runs and Lucas with some pinpoint kicking, got into our goal scoring zone, leading to a good long range goal to Aryan as well as goals to Gabe and Jayden to result in a resounding victory for the Dockers.

One of the plays of the day must go

to Adam as he rewrote the change room whiteboard rule of "2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> efforts" by adding a 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> effort out of defence down the sideline. This was a determined and heroic effort and done in the spirit of what this team was asked of, which was "play the ball not the man, good hard football, with eyes on the ball".



An AFL official in attendance commented after the game that the Dockers play a hard, clean, fair brand of football, something we've always known and something this team can be proud of. Go Dockers!

– Kyle Mahoney



## U14 Round 12

It was an unusual start to our match against Miranda, with the Kellyville team (that had just beaten Heathcote) clapping us out of the change room in a show of North West support. A usual situation, however, was that we did not have any interchange, with Super, Ninja and Justin all out. The Bombers were another unknown team and they quickly hit the scoreboard by pushing their forwards up the field and using a quick midfielder to break our defensive line and run into an open goal. Moving Wizard into a loose "Quarterback" position stopped this play, but the damage had been done. An excellent long goal by Liam was the highlight of our quarter and we went to the first break behind, 4-0 to 1-1.

A much tighter 2nd term saw us running the ball well out of defence, with Wizard proving a headache for the Bombers and Jaydan enjoying the open space of Olds Park. Our last line of defence in Jarrod, Dash and Hammer were miserly, showing great discipline to lock down their direct opponents and restrict Miranda's scoring options. We were battling hard to lock the ball into our front half, with Merlin setting a great

example. Late in Q2 Dash drifted forward to take a strong mark and post our 2nd goal, before Angry took advantage of a free kick down field and a 50m penalty to kick our third. Half time and we had clawed our way back to trail 5-0 to 3-1, with our Q2 effort pleasing the coach.

Miranda made some game plan adjustments, which resulted in a goal, however, Liam's fierce contest in the Ruck and Ranga's midfield run was making for a very even contest. After a dominant Q2, Diesel continued to have the "ball on a string" in Q3, with even the Miranda players kicking it to him – much to their coach's frustration. Despite this, we missed some opportunities going forward and failed to trouble the scorer, which saw us slip further behind at ¾ time (6-2 to 3-1) and in need of a big Q4.

Diesel kept accumulating possessions early in Q4, before a dubious high shot saw him leave the field and not return. Unfortunately, this resulted in us (Coaches and players) losing both concentration and discipline, which allowed Miranda to score 4-3 to 0-0 for the quarter. In the end, the final score did not do our boys justice, in a game in which

we played some good footy.

NRD 3–1 =19 lost to MB 10–5 =65

Goals: Dash (1), Liam (1), Angry (1)

– Michael Hudson

### U14 Round 13

We started the day with Ranga being announced as the player elected Co-Captain again (better late than never: how hard can it be to get 18 players to vote in a timely manner?) We were lucky to have Junior & Harro in the team with Super and Merlin unavailable. The breeze favoured the Glebe end in Q1 and they posted 2 goals to our 1, after Jaydan was rewarded for some hard 2 way running to open our account in a competitive first quarter. Liam was again breaking even against a bigger opponent in the Ruck, which allowed our midfield some opportunities. Bomber was providing some good rebound off half back, while Hammer and Jarrod continued their good form from last week. At the end of the 1st stanza we trailed 2-1 to 1-1.

Direct footy was the directive for Q2 now that we were kicking with the breeze and our forwards were given plenty of opportunities, with

Diesel roving the ball ups well and Harro causing problems for the Greyhound defence across half forward. Although we had plenty of shots on goal, we failed to convert, until Justin found space and finished with his usual poise. Unfortunately, this inaccuracy would cost us at the finish. Despite having more scoring shots, we trailed at the main break, 5-2 to 2-6.

Bull continued to dominate in the midfield going into Q3, winning plenty of contested ball as usual, while Rizza was again rock solid and reliable at full back, as it was Glebe's turn to kick inaccurately. Their frustration started to show, in the form of late/high hits on Docker players. A strong mark by Sticks on the wing, before playing on and kicking long to the goal square saw Junior goal and we were still only 3 goals down at three-quarter time.

Q4 and an incident in which both Diesel and Rizza were struck by a Glebe player, although there was no card or report, put a dampener on the game. The absence of penalty seemed to encourage the Glebe players and discourage us, as we failed to kick a goal in the final quarter. Although disappointed with the result, I must congratulate our players on the discipline they



showed in not retaliating and letting the Q4 incident get out of hand.

NRD 3 – 8= 26 lost to GG 8 – 10= 58

Goals: Jaydan (1), Justin (1), Junior (1)

— Michael Hudson

### Acknowledgements

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