

Point Post

Round 6, 2015

Editorial

Based on results in the first rounds, the GSJ Association has completed a process of “redivisionalisation” with a small number of teams moving down or up a division, and some changing of the draw in some divisions to assist the lower teams on the ladder. The draw for the rest of the season is now on-line.

There are no matches on the June long weekend, but don't forget the Club Photo Day (and matches!) on Sunday June 14th. Managers will supply more details to their teams.

Auskick

We had the AFL come out last week to run the level 0 training session. It was a great turnout and the parents really enjoyed learning some ball skills. At the end of the game the parents had a competition against the kids to see who could get the most goals. Much to the Auskickers delight they won! Due to this the parents had to pick up all the balls and equipment at the end of the day.

As Sunday morning was quite cold, coach Matthew had the boys doing

laps to keep them warm, they did one and then wanted to do more... a very energetic bunch! This week we spent a large amount of the session playing a game, many goals were kicked and marks taken. They are really getting the hang of it and enjoying themselves.

Standout players for the Auskickers this week included Dillion, who had great clearances of the ball out of the centre showing his sportsmanship by passing to his fellow team-mates. John, who was up forward, demonstrated great determination for the ball and played his position well in the forward pocket for the black team. Liam participated well throughout the game, especially when he picked up a spilt ball and quickly handballed it to John to run on and kick a goal! Also showing great teamwork was Miller who kicked the ball to Charlie to take an excellent mark, and especially Scarlet who kicked a fabulous goal over the heads of the black backs.

Well done to everyone, only 4th week in and it looks like they are really getting the hang of AFL.

– Melinda Jenkins

U9 White

The latest instalment of the 2015 season took place in perfect conditions against Westbrook Bulldogs Blue at ELS Hall Park.

Within seconds of the start of the match, the ball was slicing through our defenders like a hot knife through butter. The time clock showed 9 minutes 47 seconds, indicating that the first goal took a mere 13 seconds to travel from the centre to between the big sticks. Wow. A quick review of the Guinness Book of World Records, indicates that this was indeed a new world record. The coaching staff were most concerned – if this was repeated for the whole game, it would be a disaster. Forty minutes of game time divided by 13 seconds per goal = more goals than the coaching panel can work out without a calculator, hence they did not bother.

Whilst the ball was being delivered to the centre, the coaches met in a huddle to decide on the next steps. “Should we adjust the team positions?” “Perhaps move everyone to the backline to clog things up?” “Pray for rain.” Fortunately, the boys toughed it out and dished up some rapid fire footy themselves. A mobile

midfield, lead by Captain Aarish and his trusty team companions Lincoln and Harrison, repeatedly forced the ball forward to key position talls Nikolaj and Kaelan who contested the ball in the air and made space for the fleet footed Jack and Ryan to run riot.

By quarter time, Ryan had registered 2 goals and Jack 1. Ryan’s first goal came from good work further up the field from William, Aarish and Nikolaj. Ryan’s second goal was a special one where he picked up the loose ball, following a strong tackle from Nikolaj and snapped on his right. Jack, always the opportunist, intercepted a pass from the Bulldogs and kicked truly.

The second quarter saw the Bulldogs coach ringing the changes, as the game was swinging towards the Dockers. William, Sean, Leif and Charlie were posted to the forward line in an attempt to overwhelm the Bulldogs defense with size. No opposition has 3 tall defenders, so the strategy was sound. Charlie found himself within goal scoring range on several occasions and with a few more games under his belt, will apply scoreboard pressure on top of the physical pressure he applies. Both Sean and Leif kicked fantastic

running goals from at least 25m out.



In the third quarter, the Bulldogs turned our free flowing game into an arm wrestle. That said, there were still highlights that will live long in the memory, like when Charlie put on his angry face and brought down a much bigger opponent with a fierce, bone jarring tackle. Harrison, not to be outdone locked the ball into the Dockers forward line displaying an effort only seen by seasoned veterans.

Lincoln, who has the makings of a star midfielder, was again strong in the contest whenever the ball was in his vicinity. Kaelan continues to

grow each week and put in another fine effort and was frequently cheered by the home crowd.

This game was the first of the season where the red substitute vest was utilised. Hugo, who has been in dominant form in Auskick, with Nat-Fyfe-like best on ground performances for the last month, was brought in to add some youthful enthusiasm to the team. He was finally able to run on to the ground in the last quarter when he replaced Harrison, who was dumped into the turf in a very late and heavy tackle. The slow motion replay showed that he had clearly disposed of the ball prior to being slammed, however, given the speed of the action, it is understandable that it was considered in play. Harrison initially channelled Dermott Brereton from the 1989 GF by refusing to come off the ground, however, after the coach's persistence, he obliged. Hugo impressed in his first outing for the U9s and we look forward to his involvement again soon. Congrats on a wonderful debut for the U9 Whites.

Well played boys, another great game! Player of the match was Leif, and special thanks to Tom and Jeremy, who asked to play for the

opposition all game and did a solid job for them. The Bulldogs coach even offered them a permanent position on his team. What he does not know is that these boys are on 9 year, multimillion dollar contracts. We look forward to playing the Baulkham Hill Hawks in round 7.

– U9 Whites Coaches

U9 Purple

With the sun shining, and cooler temperatures, Callum again ran the team out for our first encounter against Baulkham Hills Nippers. From the first ball up, it was clear the Nippers had come to play, as they hit it from the start, and they hit it hard. We welcomed Ayan back from illness, but lost both Daniel and Brayden due to doctor's (Mum's!) orders.

We would like to thank Naushad and the U9 Whites for giving us the numbers to match up against Baulkham Hills. Charlie, Jeremy, Thomas and Ryan all pitched in to support the boys, and made noticeable contributions throughout the game.

We had a fairly quiet first quarter, with the Nippers taking the majority of possession and play. We rallied and chased hard but

with not much of the pill coming our way. The second had Conner showing strong defence and clear-out's, but again with the Nippers taking plenty of robust marks following on with clean kicks, it was difficult for the Dockers to gain any momentum.

We tried to rally in the third with Ayan being the clear standout through plenty of chasing resulting in some deserved tackles, possession and kicks. Luca B supported well with combination kick – marks in an attempt to stem the steady flow of goals by the Nippers. Luca Z also assisted with the games tackle count during the quarter. Without much possession it was difficult to shine, however Callum in his usual form had plenty of ball and desperately tried to lead by example.

We did not give up in the fourth, with Nick and Jarryd chasing the opposition hard without much triumph. Will managed several touches during the ball-up's in the forward pack, and with Brodie being at the right place at the right time, he welcomed some lucky bounces finally coming our way.

Unfortunately it was a pretty tough day at the office, but to give credit where credit is due, they simply out

played us in all aspects. Nevertheless, we dusted ourselves off, belted out the war cry, determined to come back and have another crack next week – “just you wait and see, hey!”

– Mark Boyd

U11

At the start of the season Coach Darren said to the boys, “Every week, we are going to learn something new so that we never stop improving”. The improvement in the team has been impressive every week so when the boys realised they were to play Kellyville Patful, the team that we had played and beaten in the first week, there was an air of confidence before the start of the game. That confidence was still evident even though a few of the experienced boys had already muddy and looking a bit tired having filled in for the Under 12s!

To ensure there was no complacency, Coach Darren brought the team together in the rooms for the pre-game address. All the boys sat on the benches and absorbed an atmosphere that made the whole team seem older, more mature and downright professional! The thunderous sound of 19 pairs of boots

stomping out of the rooms echoed like the roar of a capacity SCG crowd as the boys headed out onto the field!

Perhaps the boys were a little mesmerised by the dressing room routine because Kellyville dominated the first quarter from the opening bounce. Before any player had even raised a sweat the Magpies had an early goal and had set up camp in their forward 50. The Dockers looked a little shell shocked and lacked their trademark intensity and commitment. As the minutes ticked on Kellyville kept the ball forward and the Dockers started to look like they wanted to return to the dressing rooms. For the first time this season the Dockers didn’t trouble the scorer for the entire quarter. They were second to the ball and completely lacked their trademark spark.

Fortunately, somewhere in his game day bag, Ashton had packed a match! He used his pace to break through a pack and kicked long under pressure. His kicked into space but he was so quick he almost marked his own kick! The Kellyville player that did actually beat him to the ball was tackled immediately and Ashton used the resulting free kick to propel the

Dockers into attack for the first time in the game. It was a team lifting play and woke up the rest of the boys.

With the fire started the boys lifted and started to dominate the game. Cam and Fuzz proved the Under 12s game really was just a warm-up and immediately got on top around the stoppages and started the score board started ticking over. The second quarter was a complete turnaround with the Dockers piling on 2 goals three to the Magpies solitary behind. That dominance continued into the third quarter with the boys adding 4 more goals without conceding one. At three quarter time, with just under a 5 goal lead, most people thought the result was already decided.

Now let's go back to the beginning: "Every week, we will learn something new". This week's

lesson? There are 4 quarters in a football game and in a fast paced game the difference between comfortable and worried is precisely 7 minutes. That's how long it took the Magpies to pile on 4 unanswered goals. Full of run and confidence the Magpies dominated all over the ground while the Dockers had reverted to their first quarter lethargy. The flame that had burned so brightly for 2 quarters looked to have gone out again and the prospect of back to back defeats started to loom. Clearly the heartbreak of last week's defeat still burned fiercely in Tom. You could see him in the half forward line just pleading with the ball to find its way to him. When it didn't come ... he just went and got it ... then, much like Ashton had done in the first quarter, he grabbed the ball, kicked it long, chased his own kick and simply forced the ball forward until he was



rewarded with his 3rd goal for the game. It was the goal that stopped the Magpies momentum, secured the Dockers win and very deservedly earned Tom the footy cards for this week.

Once the siren had sounded the spectators were able to return their hearts from their mouths and Coach Darren was able to reflect on all the other lessons learnt during the game. Ryan had demonstrated smart play in tapping backwards in the ruck. Liam showed that he can float into space to switch play across the ground. Huey knows when to run past a player in the pocket, improve the angle and snap a goal. Harrison is tenacious and can kick a great goal. Micah has learnt how good it feels to kick a goal ... twice! Lachy can be just as effective down back as he is in attack. Mitch gets his hands up and can get free from almost any tackle. Cam can kick a pretty effective banana. The two Matts – Buster and the Wall – are solid defenders who just never give up. Fuzz can run all day. Aiden loves to run around packs and Luke loves to run through them! Josh's height and strength makes him an intimidating opponent and Kyeton is a completely fearless player who is never ever intimidated!

This week's most memorable lessons were delivered by James and Rhys D, both of who played their best games for the year. James showed us some previously unseen forward line flair with twists, turns and evasive skills that left his opponent behind before a perfect pass to the top of the square. Rhys D showed he has a lethal combination of pace, tenacity and endurance and can chase and tackle all day. Well done boys for really stepping up when the game was in the balance.

... And perhaps the best lesson for us all? The Dockers have depth, talent, commitment and play for each other and are absolutely busting to get out there and do it all again next week!

– Stephen Grech

U12



U13

What a pleasant afternoon for a game of footy. Bright blue skies in St Leonards at the very picturesque Willoughby/Mosman oval. The pitch was definitely on the heavy side, however without a breath of wind, it was perfect for footy.

With the excitement of the game I lost my notes for the first half, so we will leave that to history!

The second half was set up by some stern yet structured comments from Coach Charles and also a rev up from Kyle (who had made the trek East to assist).

Brok continued his dominance in the midfield. If he wasn't wrapping up opponents he was forcing two or three of theirs to stop him, leaving others in the ruck area to get open and drive forward momentum. Harry was pinging quality kicks forward. During one play, Nick took the ball wide to Matt who kicked long and straight to Blake, who ran rings around his opponent, and on the third effort managed to get the ball to Harry who marked, played on side-stepped his opponent and goaled!

Matt, playing his third game of the day, was continually bullocking his way forward. Lachlan took a few

leaping overhead marks and Cam and Jack were far superior in the second half when the ball came in more regularly. Quality chasing and second efforts from Zann and Dan in the middle was reflected well on the scoreboard. A goal to Jack saw the Dockers win the third quarter 14 – 8. Great result.



Sharing the ruck duties around, Matt and Lachlan got many of the tap outs and it seemed the far bigger Swans were feeling the effects of their lost third quarter. Nick was solid in defence, often leaving his man to set up waves of attacks. The Mosman team were effectively playing with an extra forward which didn't help them when the ball rarely found their forward line. Fynn who ran all day continued the midfield dominance. Yanni who looked as if he had played all day, again won the

dirtyest jumper award was aggressive and strong in defence and managed to get some good ball forward.

Hugh played a great last quarter, with second efforts being the norm. Riley and Tim, despite giving size away to their tall opponents, played well in defence. Hugo got amongst it and, again despite giving away size and reach, managed a heap of tackles. A second goal to Jack and goal to Cam saw the Dockers run out a fourth quarter scoreline of 12- 16, leaving the second half scoreline 26 – 24 in the Dockers favour. Well

done boys and a special thanks to all the U12's and parents for their efforts and support.

– Matt Wilson

Acknowledgements

Thanks to managers and coaches for their reports, and Amanda Jubb and Craig Parr for photos. Club sponsors are gratefully acknowledged for their support. And special thanks to all goal umpires, boundary umpires, orange providers, timekeepers, bbq chefs, canteen servers and other volunteers!

