

MATCH REPORT

HORNSBY BEROWRA EAGLES vs Manly Bombers

ROUND 2. 23/4/2023

Frank Grey Oval

Game two was at Brookvale where we faced the Manly Bombers. They usually give us a stern test in close games and this match was no different. Manly started the stronger but Andrew, Hamish and Josh kept them at bay. Logan's defence was also on point and Lachlan was in and around the ruck stealing the ball. Manly kicked the first behind, a long kick that curled round a little too late to count for six. This galvanised the Eagles who now saw more of the ball and played fast through midfield. Finn was sprinting and diving into tackles with no fear, Mason was showing good hand skills on the ground, Will, Andrew and Josh were kicking long. Josh won a free kick a fair way out and struck it beautifully for his first goal for the club. Logan then beat his defender with a huge step and kicked a goal from distance that Lozza helped shepherd over without touching it this time! The buzzer went with the Eagles 12-1 up and applying all the pressure.

Jon scored a goal straight away in the second quarter. Too quick for the match reporter to see (sorry). Our midfield was resolute with Lachy, Mason, Will and Hamish seeing plenty of ball, and Andrew tidying up loose ends. Will kicked straight onto Lozza's chest for a mark, but his kick skewed wide for a minor. Lachlan showed some nice hand passing skills to send Will away who found Finn, who found Loz but that was eventually defended. The Bombers then scored a behind on the break, but the lead was extended again by another great kick by Logan. Hamish finished the half with a huge kick that just missed the tall upright. 26-2 at half time.

Coach wanted harder tackles and more players going to the ball in the second half. The major concern was players getting isolated and overrun by Manly players. It was something Manly managed to exploit in a strong third quarter which saw them kick four goals three, twenty-seven unanswered points! It could have been worse but for great goal line defence by Angus, and a block on the mark by Harrison. Mason also made an important block, Jez tackled strongly, and Braden and Behrad also made themselves known grabbing possession. 26-29 at three quarter time and all to play for.

The fourth quarter was very exciting. Manly kicked for two more points to go five in front. Excellent defence by Angus, and Jez with lots of help from Andrew and Josh stopped Manly scoring again. The Eagles carried on battling away and kicked well to move the ball forward. With the clock ticking down we produced

our best move of the game. Angus to Will, Will to Logan, Logan to Hamish, Hamish to Finn. The ball advanced down the right wing and Finn sent it towards the posts. Forwards and backs rushed in, nobody could see what was happening but with the game on the line the umpire called a hold and Manly could kick away to take the win.

The Eagles trudged off looking a little downbeat, with some carrying injuries. Coach Brent soon had them gathered around to tell them the performance was very good for this stage of the season with little training, and that they carried out the basics very well. He said we'll be fine once we get to the ball a little faster with more help around the ball. Despite the defeat, there's plenty of good play to build on.

Player of the match: Jeremy Lea – excellent in all areas, massive defence in the last quarter, and plenty of skills on the ball.

Callum Mills award: Logan Bilbe – top performance through the mids and attack. Kicked two goals, defended well, and was involved in our best moves.

Courage award from game one: Josh Andre – immense first game for the club. Built on that and kicked a goal on game 2.

Result:

Manly Bombers	1	2	29	31
Hornsby Berowra Eagles	12	26	26	26



Match Report by Steve Barton.