

Match Report

U9 HBE Red v Westbrook Bulldogs Red

Round 14 – 6 August 2023

Mike Kenny Oval, Cherrybrook

It was a cooler start than in recent weeks for our round 14 rematch versus Westbrook Bulldogs Red and the 8 am start was our earliest for the year. Perhaps that, combined with an exciting Swans-Giants game the night before, explained our rather sleepy start to the game! The Bulldogs jumped to an early lead with a couple of quick goals. Our boys managed to get close down the other end but managed only behinds in reply.

At the quarter-time address Tom explained that we were constantly second to the ball and were not laying our usual effective tackles. The boys took this on board and played a much stronger second quarter. The forward line combined well to even up the game, while better chasing and tackling took the sting out of the opposition attack.

The coaches asked for more of the same at the halfway mark and the boys responded brilliantly in the third quarter. The midfield delivery was very good, with quick kicks and handballs from the clearances. Strong forward line pressure led to multiple goals, including a classic "lucky bounce" from the boundary. The last effort led to a goal after the siren which was enjoyed and celebrated by the whole team.

The team came home strongly in the final quarter. Trademark strong tackles from "Wally" (Oscar W) kept the ball away from the back third, allowing the other mids to clean up and get it forward. Some quick handballs from Kieren and clean kicks to the forwards allowed them to run and seal the game with more goals.

This was a great comeback game, showcasing the resilience that the boys have developed over the season, and was greatly enjoyed by the players and their families on the sidelines. After some frankly lacklustre singing in recent weeks, the boys proudly belted out the club song. It was a great team effort from all of our players.

Player of the week went to Alex for a great four-quarter effort even in the difficult first quarter, lots of run and deadly accuracy in front of goal. The Callum Mills award went to Jack who worked hard in defence and had a string of important "one percenters" in midfield, including one delightful reflex tap-on to Tadhg.