

U9 HBE Red v Westbrook Bulldogs Blue
Round 15 – 13 August 2023
Rofe Park

It was back to our home ground for the last game of the season, Round 15 versus Westbrook Bulldogs Blue. Due to illness and other circumstances, we were unfortunately missing three players this week. Fortunately, Hux and Luke from U9 Blue were at the ground and keen to play, so we were able to field a team of nine.

We sized up our opponents - they were a tall team! and tried to position our players accordingly. A potent forward line of Tadhg, Hux and Billy got us off to a great start with speed and straight kicking for goal. Alex did a great job as usual in the middle and our defensive combination of Cam, Jack and Chris worked hard.

The second quarter was quite even, with not many chances forward. There was more good defending from our boys, but it was a bit of a struggle getting it past the middle.

Hux left us at half-time to be replaced by Luke. Our effort dropped off a bit to begin with, but the boys regained their composure to win a few contests. Once again though, genuine chances forward were hard to come by, with the ball ping-ponging around between zones quite a bit.

The pattern continued for the rest of the game, which became a bit of a slog and an arm-wrestle. It was clear that we were missing a lot of our midfield run and contested ball use today, and the boys may have been a little intimidated at times. However, credit to them, they hung in there bravely and did enough not to be overrun in the last quarter. It was a different kind of game this week to the last few weeks, with a little bit of "niggle" at times, and will be a good learning experience for them.

Player of the week was Vinni, who put in a good four-quarter effort of chasing loose balls and tackling. In a game where goals were hard to come by we had to reward good forward performance, with the Callum Mills award going to Tadhg. The boys sang the song one last time and headed to the inflatable obstacle course to wind down.

Thanks to Hux and Luke for their great contributions to the team this week. Thanks also to all of our parents for coming out each week, and your help and support through the season. We're all looking forward to a fun Gala Day next week.