

U14's – Hornsby Berowra Eagles v Ramsgate Rams – Rofe Park 3pm – Sun 14 April

The air was filled with anticipation as the first official game to open the season was upon us. So many questions around what lay ahead - Would the new sling-shot style, handballing strategy stand up under game pressure? How long would it take for the new squad members to find their groove? How would the team cope with the 3pm bounce? Would there be enough bacon left for a mid-afternoon snack? and of course how far into the winter season would Chris bravely don his lucky singlets.

The imaginatively named Ramsgate Rams were an unknown force from the other side of town. No doubt smarting after \$21.57 in tolls to traverse Sydney, the Rams looked focussed and ready to go in their warm-up.

The opening stanza saw the Rams click into gear quickly from the opening bounce. Living up to their namesake Jake S and Ronin copped some heavy contacts/rams early but the eagles weren't to be intimidated with Archie Floyd (first game since U9's) laying some strong tackles and barnstorming runs. Continued pressure saw the Rams soon hit the scoreboard repeatedly with 5 goals 1 behind for the quarter and the eagles only managing one forward 50 entry for the quarter. 31-0

2nd quarter

The second quarter saw more slick ball movement by the rams with accurate kicking consistently finding the target. The scoreboard could have gotten even uglier if not for several huge defensive efforts by Josh W at the back marking on the line, smothering kicks and somehow spoiling almost certain opposition marks. Hornsby rallied with some nice passages of play and after some repeated efforts out of the middle by Hamish and Luke M, Andrew Livy (from the U13's) was released into space and came agonisingly close to a goal only for it to clip the post. Half time score 52- 1.

3rd quarter

The third quarter was a bit more of an even contest with the eagles adjusting and fighting with a bit more grit at the contests. Josh Hogan was everywhere playing ruck, mids and half forward. 3 booming efforts from range either hit the post or were touched but after each effort the rams hit back with precision and kept the scorers occupied 64-4.

Final stanza

A rare clean win out of the centre bounce re-start saw the eagles finally get some repeat forward 50 entries and eventually the eagles got their first major with a silky kick on the run from the pocket by Jake Sefton. Some more end-to-end play by some tired players on both sides followed. After some clever forward craft by Luke A to draw away two defenders and slap the ball into the goal square the ball was swooped on by Alastair D to kick another major for the eagles. After a similar goal last week in the intra club match

Alastair is hopefully going to make this a habit! Final score 83-17. Callum Mills award – Josh Ward and player of the match – Archie Floyd

Great to have season officially underway and a big thankyou to Tim and Nick for their coaching efforts and Clare as manager and lots of work in the background on the committee. In the wide-open expanses of the full field, aerobic fitness is king so please take the opportunity over the school holidays to get in some extra fitness work..... and maybe take the kids along as well.