

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 15 vs Glebe Greyhounds
ROUND 15 – 11/5/2025
Jubilee Oval

You go on plenty of adventures as an Aussie Rules parent and this was another - Jubilee Oval against the Glebe Greyhounds right in the heart of inner city Sydney. The trip looked daunting but it wasn't too bad despite the tolls, which I just don't want to know about. Parking was scarce as you'd expect, but luckily we'd brought the tiny Yaris along and we were able to squeeze into a spot not far from the ground.

Now that we had arrived, the oval was really quite beautiful. A lush green surface, a picket fence boundary, surrounded by the water, Moreton Bay Figs and Palm trees. The toilets were probably not recommended though. I commented to Craig when we happened to awkwardly convene there before the match, that they were most likely made in convict times when hygiene and privacy were not a huge priority.

Match conditions were perfect - overcast skies and not too hot. After some impressive form of late, the mighty U15 Eagles were ready for their next clash. The boys looked dialled in as Tim, Nick and Rich put the team through the paces as the rest of us counted down the minutes to the bounce.

We were underway and after a brief burst from Glebe, Hornsby were on the attack. Unfortunately, a shot in front only registered a behind. It was end to end stuff early, I figured it could be like this for a lot of the match given the smallish ground. Henry, Jack R, Josh, Emmett and Ollie were our top contributors in the beginning stages as they worked the ball up the field. Alastair was also having some presence in front of goals. Our marking was a feature already, there were plenty of smart kicks and sharp grabs on display. We were looking the goods but 4 shots at goal had all hit the post in very bizarre scenes! Jack A was looking good and getting involved in the front half and Josh continued to bustle for the pill. Henry and Jack R got us out of trouble whenever the Greyhounds made a forward charge and Lucas was starting to dominate in the ruck. A nice clearance from Ethan and a super tackle from Josh gave Zach a late shot but our first goal continued to be very elusive. We led 8-0 at quarter time - all behinds!

Into the 2nd and some fantastic tackles kept our momentum going the right way. Tyler reaped the rewards of our strong team play by finally slotting our first goal! After an absolute mountain of one pointers, the relief on coach Tim's face was immense! Another super intercept from Henry stopped a Glebe incursion, he found Ollie who dashed upfield, Ollie handpassed to Luke who kicked another major from a handy distance.

MATCH REPORT



Unfortunately, the Greyhounds hit back with their own goal shortly after... This was a bit disappointing seeing as we seemed way on top but didn't have a huge lead to show for it. Never mind, some nice work from Augie (guesting from the 13s) gave himself a shot at goal which just missed to the left. Henry followed this with an absolute cracker from close to half way which sailed through the posts like a bullet! Following this, a beautiful passage of play which involved Jack R, Josh, Tyler and Luke saw Augie with another set shot at goal. As was the theme of the day, his shot crashed into the post. I was beginning to think there was a magnet placed inside the ball. We went to the half time break up 32-7. A strong lead but if some of those behinds had gone through the big sticks we'd be threatening triple figures!

During the main break, I took some time to commend Nathan on his superb throw-ins from the boundary. This is a new skill that the parents of HBE have had to adopt this year and Nathan was making this difficult job look quite easy. In typical style, this topic has really blown up on the Eagles WhatsApp with Nathan providing some stats on how hard he worked out there. Gloria countered with some stats of her own from last week's effort, including an impressive 'overall stress level' of Level 23 - whatever that means! Who was better? You be the judge... One thing's for sure, being a Kiwi, Nathan will shamelessly bring up the underarm bowling incident of 1981 to try and link it to any dodginess if anyone questions his ability on the boundary line.

Back to the footy and Glebe had come out with a bit of fire in the belly to start the second half. They managed a good set shot in front but even they hit the post! Their positive stint was cut short quickly as Callum, Ollie and Tyler nailed three goals in quick succession. Meanwhile, our first class work in the middle carried on. Emmett was looking very sharp with his tidy-up work, Ollie continued to dominate and Lucas was looking like an out and out ruckman at every ball-up. Ronin looked to be carrying a bit of an injury but remained as hard as nails at the back. He received great support from the two new Toms who were having some classy touches. What's better than one Tom? - That's what I always say. Another guest from the 13s who we're always grateful for was Luke A who was making plenty of valuable contributions. Jake, as ever, was tough across the park.

The first scoring play of the 4th was an off-break of a goal from Josh which Tim May would have been proud of - except that he didn't really spin the ball. More importantly, this gives me my second obscure cricket reference of the report. Back to the action and Luke grabbed a sharp snap from the side of the goals which the Hornsby crowd enjoyed, adding another 6 to our mammoth total. Another goal soon followed, Lucas was able to get rid of the ball in the midst of a tackle, he found Josh who sent a cracking hand pass to Henry who was on the fly. Henry put the issue to bed by ruthlessly drilling the ball through the posts for another major. To make matters worse for the home side, Josh nailed another right at the death. The barrage of Eagles goals was only stopped by the final siren.

MATCH REPORT



The mighty HBE Eagles had achieved a massive 82-8 victory! Whilst Tim and Nick would have been concerned with the amount of behinds we kicked (22 in the end I think), I'm sure they would have been very happy with every other aspect. As is tradition, Luke ended proceedings by leading a raucous team song which threatened to bend the train tracks above us.

From my perspective there were some really pleasing signs out there today. There were some standout performances for sure but I thought the team looked great as a complete unit. It was obvious that a lot of guys are stepping up and really growing into their roles. All of our Eagles looked a force to be reckoned with as they kicked, marked and tackled as a pack.

Finally, Happy Mother's Day to all our brilliant Mums at HBE. I'm sure you enjoyed what was a great day at the footy!

Final score Hornsby-Berowra Eagles defeated Glebe Greyhounds 82-8

Words - Greg Allan

Callum Mills Award - Henry Brown

Player Of The Match - Ollie Makin