

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 13YG vs Manly Bombers

ROUND 5 - 11/05/2025

Rofe Park, Hornsby

An old foe this week, one that the girls have come up against a couple of times a year for at least the last three years running – the Manly Bombers. Back at home on Mother's Day, and with the entire day at Rofe to ourselves, the girls had a lot to play for and after a slow first quarter (Manly outscoring them 1.2.8 to 0.0.0) the girls tightened the screws with the help of a few new faces from the U11s team.

Manly didn't score another goal for the remainder of the match, and our girls hit the front with goals in the second and third quarters as well as having several scoring shots but no majors in the fourth as well.

Players

- Maddie! She earned the exclamation mark and top billing this week - captain in her 50th game and showed up to play. Locking down a central defender role, she helped marshall a defense that didn't let through a single goal after the first quarter, starring at the point of Manly's attacks at foiling them with intercept their possessions and massive tackles. She even earned a 50m (and arguably more) by frustrating their attacks. We'll ignore her inability to run through a banner successfully.
- Lucy played up forward and showed great first efforts, and when she gets the ball in her hand her dash really opened up the field and was close to putting together several scoring efforts.
- Charlotte played up from the U11s for the first time and was not embarrassed. Overcoming some very reasonable nervousness, she won several key possessions up forward and managed effective handballs under tough circumstances.
- Sofia was a big ball winner as always, but worked on and succeeded at finding more space this week. She earned her Player of the Week with her efforts all over the field, even working right back into defense to take an intercept mark as well.
- Eliza dove straight into defending on the bigger Manly girls and displayed some fantastic body work just keep them off the ball and hassle them out of anything approaching a clean

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possession. She was a big reason we held them goalless in Q2 and on, including managing to kill a contest when three Bombers were heading towards goal by preventing them taking the ball until reinforcements arrived.

- Willow again starred in the ruck and midfield. Her cleanness at collecting the ball on the run, casually breaking a tackle or two, and then sending a long kick forward helped us lock the ball up forward in the second half of the game, and scoring a goal herself. She also often did double duty by dropping behind the ball to turn around Manly attempts to get out of their defensive half before they even reached mid way up the field.
- Hazel provided a consistent forward target for the girls as they worked their way up the field. She popped up with competent marking and forward pressure when the ball hit the ground.
- Emily demonstrated her value up forward, racing to the ball as it came forward to try to keep the ball moving in our favour.
- Josie played up from U11s too and tried hard against the bigger Manly girls, dashing around to keep their defenders occupied up forward.
- Sandy ran herself out on a wing to start with featuring her usual effective kicking but then got fired up and dominated the third, winning more of the ball in amongst the opposition and laying some hard shepherds to free Willow and others in the midfield.
- Nya matched Willow with a goal and simply owned the forward 50. Every time the ball was there she was dangerous and won it more often than not, running around defenders or through their arms.
- Kira started the game on fire this week, holding position over the ball even when surrounded by Bombers and kept picking up yardage with quick kicks in very little space to clear the ball from the congestion.
- Maia scared Manly every time she got the ball, as several times she showed her ability to turn a simple gathering of a loose ball into a long-striding run into space. She even rebounded from an unfortunate tackle on her hair to stick it out and keep them on their toes.
- Olivia continues her incredibly consistent defensive role for most of the game, providing a last line of defence and marking the ball when Manly tried to rush the ball forward. She transitioned into the midfield for a quarter yet somehow still found herself down back when needed. She even put her hand up for ruckwork down back late in the game to allow Willow and Sandy to keep their space for more effective rebounding (and according to my inside

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source, Olivia and the defenders discussed on the fly and deliberately set up to grab the Manly ruck's tap, showing some great tactical skills).

- Isabelle showed her usual hard tackling self, blunting several Manly attacks by dragging down the bigger girls and clever handballs and shepherds to create room for others to come through and rebound the ball up high.
- Zahra deserves appreciation for her strong in and under work this week, sticking tackles and dishing out handballs to release teammates out from Manly's congestion surrounding the contest.

Score

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles 2.3.15 dft Manly Bombers 1.4.10

Goals

Nya Nicolson: 1; Willow Nicolson: 1

Report by Donald Shepherd (Photos available on Teams)