

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs Manly Bombers

ROUND 11 – DATE 27.7.2025

Rofe Park

A chilly afternoon at the Eagles Nest was made even colder by the wind sweeping across the oval, setting the stage for a fierce contest. The question on everyone's mind—could our Eagles topple top-of-the-ladder Manly and keep finals hopes alive? The team ran out from the shed and through the banner celebrating Tristan's milestone 50th game.

With the wind slightly in our favour, both teams came out with intensity. Manly applied early pressure, but strong tackling efforts from Josh, Sharpy, Andrew, and Lachy set the tone for a gritty contest. The Bombers struck first with a snapped goal, but we responded quickly—Andrew linked up with Ryan, who took a strong mark and converted confidently. Finn was active early, just missing two tough set shots. Tristan was prominent around the ball, while Will, Ewan, and Finn found more of it as the quarter progressed. Ryan added another goal with a great finish from 30 metres out, before Manly replied with one of their own. Eagles trailed narrowly at the first break: 2.2 (14) to 2.3 (15).

Ryan sparked the second term with a third goal, this one soccered through in traffic. Big tackles from Tristan and Josh helped shift momentum our way, while Will was winning key leg races. Josh linked well with Loz and Jesse, and the Eagles' combinations began to flow. Andrew continued his outstanding form, stepping through defenders and delivering with precision. Lachy saved a certain goal with a brilliant defensive chase. Despite Manly pressing hard with two behinds, our midfield drove forward, and Ewan pushed the limits, narrowly avoiding injury in a courageous chase that almost ended in the medical tent!. At half time, the Eagles trailed by just two points: 3.5 (23) to 3.7 (25).

The Eagles lifted in the third. Josh delivered to Finn, who marked but his kick fell just short of goal. Andrew, having a standout game, delivered a booming kick to Jesse, who marked well but the kick was rushed behind. Ewan continued his strong run into the forward line, linking up with Jess and Finn. Josh was involved in everything and kicked to Loz who marked and slotted a goal to put us in back in the game. The pressure was high, with Sharpy taking on two defenders, Henry winning a critical 50-metre penalty, and Will continuing his run and carry. At three-quarter time, the Bombers slender one-point lead: 4.7 (31) to 4.8 (32).

With the wind now against us, the final term became a defensive battle. Despite enormous efforts from Josh, Andrew, Tristan Lachy and Will, the Eagles struggled to exit their defensive 50. The Bombers took full advantage of the wind, piling on 4.5 to finish the game strongly. Henry was amazing in this stanza. He made untold tackles and contributions. Riley was also fronting up. We had moments—Sharpey with a great mark, and a chain of play from Josh to Ewan to Tristan and Finn—

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but a cruel bounce denied us a goal. Andrew continued to break tackles and launch the ball forward, but our forwards, Ryan and Loz, were left working with scraps.

As the sun set on the oval, so too did our finals hope. Our valiant display didn't go unnoticed by the Bombers with their coach and manager admitting we gave them a proper scare and were mightily impressed with our play in the first three quarters.

Best on Ground: Andrew, Josh, Will, Tristan, Lachy

Milestone: Tristan – 50 games

Goals: Ryan (3), Loz.

Period Scores				
END OF PERIOD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U14 Div 3	14 2.2	23 3.5	31 4.7	31 4.7
 Manly Bombers U14 Div 3	15 2.3	25 3.7	32 4.8	61 8.13

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