

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 15 vs Glebe Greyhounds
ROUND 13– 27/7/2025
The Home of Football - Rofe Park

It was time for our next clash of Season 2025 - a home game against Glebe Greyhounds, a side we had success against in the past. However, before a ball was bounced we had our team photos to take care of. It was an early start but all players were assembled, ready for another photo together. Our boys were experienced in this field but it's never something that runs too smoothly. After writing these reports for a while, I've come to realise that there can sometimes be more to report on the taking of the photos than the actual game. I had my notepad ready, waiting to outline any madness.

A new addition to the photo experience this year was the 'action shot'. The boys were to be photographed kicking a ball to give that game-like feel I suppose. Each player had to kick a footy to Coach Nick who was standing about 10m away. As you can imagine, kicking the ball straight was a bit of a challenge for most. Callum managed to hit his Mum in the back with his kick, Jack R landed his on the roof of the Eagles marquee and finally Josh W managed to hit an innocent dog having a nap near the first aid tent.

Onto the team photo and things went pretty well without too much clowning around. I think Jake S received the award for 'best smile', Lucas for the 'most serious look' and a special 'wrong socks' award to Tom N who got to stand in the back row for probably the first time in his life (on his toes!) due to having non-matching socks. Things could have been much worse for the U15 Eagles in the photo department, we certainly didn't have the hi-jinks of previous years but after seeing the Girls' team photos early in the morning, it was a disaster in comparison.

The boys then had a long wait before their match but they managed to entertain themselves for the long stretch, enjoying each others' company like they do. Eventually, we were underway - the sun was setting and the lights weren't having much effect so it was a bit difficult to see. This didn't stop us from getting on the attack from the opening bounce - Luke and Emmett got us on the board early with 3 combined behinds. Lucas was also involving himself with positive play in the ruck and 2 nice marks. From this, Tyler found Emmett who kicked beautifully to Ollie who slammed through our first! Ethan kicked another major soon after with Henry, Emmett, Lucas, Luke A (from the 13s) and Jake G providing the lead-up. Josh A (from the 14s) nailed another, booting the pill into the canteen section with gusto. Archie (from the 13s) added to the misery for the visitors with a super tackle, Tyler got on the end of this and booted through yet another major.

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Our Eagles were pumped up and in a relentless mood! Finally, the Greyhounds managed an attacking chance but Henry was having nothing to do with this, slapping down their shot like a soccer goalie. From this, Tom C calmly kicked to Tyler who cleared the ball out of trouble. A big first quarter - Eagles 26-0.

Going into the 2nd term, Luke fired up the boys up in his inspirational style - the whole team looked focused and very much dialled in... Watch out Glebe... Despite our boys looking like they were about to run through brick walls after Luke's rev up, things were pretty quiet for the first 5 minutes or so of the quarter. We always seemed in control though and it wasn't long until the scoring started again. Alistair showed a bit of nice scramble up forward, setting up Jake S who kicked a monster goal from a distance. In the meantime, Coaches Tim and Nick were rotating players, giving any boys with niggling injuries a chance to rest. Back on the field, Zach lurked ominously - providing plenty of threat from half-forward. As a result, Jake S slotted another 6. I noticed Andrew from the 14s was having a great impact in the higher grade - in fact all input from the younger boys was exceptional. Thanks all for sticking around and making us even stronger! One of our regulars, Jack A continued to work hard all around the park - popping up all over the place with quality work. To finish the quarter, Henry sent a laser-like kick to Alistair who booted a very popular goal with the Eagles' faithful just before the half-time siren. HBE 47-1.

Into the 3rd, the lights were starting to work slightly better but it was very hard to make out all the players - apologies for things that I missed. I didn't miss Josh A getting the first goal of the quarter after some more nice lead-up play from Jack A, Luke and Ethan. Following this, Glebe got their first goal which was at least something for their small group of supporters who'd made the journey. Unfortunately for them, Hornsby got straight back on the attack with Luke getting our next after some unselfish and smart play from Emmett and Andrew. Ollie sailed another one through with Jack A providing the set-up work. Henry also dazzled the crowd with a sizzler of a goal! Jack R and Lucas had scoring chances but scored behinds, as did Ethan. Our defense wasn't needed too often but late in the quarter, Tom C and Jake G expertly defused a likely Glebe scoring chance. 84-8 Eagles.

At the beginning of the final quarter, the umpire recommended we take 2 players off due to the lopsided score - which we did. This didn't stop Ollie slotting another, Luke A got one too after a 50m penalty. Lucas grabbed his first for the year after a precision kick from Luke and Ollie added to his massive tally straight after. In the dying stages, Jake G put on the afterburners, making a long run down the flank and getting a big cheer from the HBE crowd in the process. You'll never guess who the benefactor of Jake G's brilliant play was - that's right... Ollie who kicked yet another 6. Finally, the siren went. Relief for the poor Greyhounds and for me as my fingers were starting to freeze. Another huge and impressive win for the Eagles - something along the lines of 118-8! The positivity and momentum continues to flow down Hornsby-Berowra way.

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There's a great feeling amongst the group as we rocket towards the finals... Whilst we celebrate and bask in our success, spare a thought for the parents and players of Glebe Greyhounds who were travelling back to the inner-west late on Sunday night. It was a tough evening for them and we certainly appreciate them coming along for the game,

Next week, we take on the Gulden version of the North Shore Swans which is sure to be a cracking match. See you out there for the next instalment of this exciting season...

Player Of The Match - Ollie Makin

Callum Mills Award - Jack Adams

Words - Greg Allan

