

# MATCH REPORT



## HBE UNDER 12 vs MANLY BOMBERS U12 HORNETS ROUND 6 -MAY 24 2026 ROFE PARK

There was excitement and perhaps some trepidation during the week, as U12 discovered that they had been promoted to Division 2. Round 6 confusingly became Round 1 as the competition restarted. Our entire squad of 21 came to the Eagles Nest to face the Manly Bombers, whose Division 3 team was our first opponent this year.

It soon became apparent that this Manly side were an entirely different proposition. Bigger, stronger and skilled, they jumped our side in the first quarter, piling on a score of 6.2 to 0.0. Calming words were required at quarter time to convince our boys that they were still in it.

The defence settled in the second quarter. Although the opposition attack kept coming, they were restricted to a more respectable 4.4. Our trio of "midfield grunt" - Alex, Dion and Nathan - fought hard to win possession against much larger opponents than they had faced thus far this season.

By the third quarter the team had regained some composure and were able to mount several offensive moves. There was some good ball movement through the middle of the ground and our forwards, especially Tom, were unlucky not to score on several occasions. Dion finally broke through for a well-earned goal, improving the deficit again at 3.3 to 1.0 this quarter.

With the opposition tiring a little, plus the undeniable benefit of an extra player, the fourth quarter turned into an enjoyable arm wrestle. Our boys defended strongly, conceding just one rushed behind. They rebounded out of the 50 multiple times, but could not quite complete the chain to their scoring end.

Final score: Eagles 1.0.6 to Bombers 13.11.89. Our solitary scorer was Dion (1.0) and he worked very hard for it!

It was a game to reward the defenders this week, so our Player of the Match awards went to Ryan and Cam, who applied solid tackles and kicked out calmly and accurately all through the game.

Welcome back to Division 2 everyone! A tough outing against very strong opposition. We are sure that the boys will learn from it and start lifting their game to compete at this level.

Report by Neil Saunders.

# MATCH REPORT

