

Miranda Bombers Australian Football Club



THE BOMB SHELL



ISSUE 3/2009

The President's Report

I hope everyone had a good return to footy on the weekend.

Just a couple of things this week, firstly how good does the work that has recently been completed around the clubhouse look! A big THANK YOU to Janice Park for her time and effort organising this project.

Thank you to Lisa Bernath & Caroline Noye for running the club house canteen on Tuesday for the under 15s AFL competition - job well done ladies!

With regards to the club house, can all managers please make sure it is swept clean and left tidy after training and on game days.

Rep trials start this weekend; if your coach has not asked your child to attend then please do not send them. They must be nominated so they can attend. Good luck to all of you who are having a go at the trials.

The part of the field closest to the clubhouse has taken a bit of a beating due to recent rain, and in this regard, could I ask all coaches to please stay off this side of the field whilst training.

There will be a level 1 coach's course coming soon. I ask all coaches who have not got this accreditation to please attend. I would like extend this invitation and welcome any parent who would like to participate to also attend. It is most important our current coaches are accredited for insurance purposes. To make sure the club has the best possible coaching available we will

cover the cost. Please contact Janice or myself if you wish to attend.

Mike and I will not be at the ground from 10:30am on Saturday so please help out if help is needed.

Any manager who is owed umpires fees for last Saturday please see me in the morning or the money will be in the canteen in a marked envelope.

The Under 11 red will have ground duty at our next home game. The rest of the year's roster will be published in our next bombshell.

Good luck today.

Go the Bombers !!!

Jason Noye
President
Miranda AFC

Ground Duty Roster

Round 4 -	9/5/09	Auskick
Round 5 -	16/5/09	U11 Reds
Round 7 -	30/5/09	TBA
Round 8 -	13/6/09	TBA
Round 10 -	27/6/09	TBA
Round 11 -	4/7/09	TBA
Round 13 -	25/7/09	TBA
Round 14 -	1/8/09	TBA
Round 15 -	8/8/09	TBA

The Club would like to thank and acknowledge the following sponsors for their contribution to the club. Please where possible give a thought to supporting the club by supporting our sponsors. Their sponsorship enables us to kit out our teams. The Tradies are Miranda Bombers JFC MAJOR SPONSOR for 2009.





**MIRANDA
BOMBERS
MATCH
REPORTS
ROUND 3
2 MAY 2009**



Auskick/Under 9

Round 3 we were hosted by Penshurst up at Olds Park and Heathcote was the 3rd side that joined us on a crisp but sunny autumn morning. It was a challenging morning with around 110 children participating. The Under 9's peeled off and went their respective area to do some training drills before getting into a game situation. The rest of the children began the day by doing basic skills before being placed into a game situation. It was great to see so many parents and relatives there and a special thank you to those who helped out with various tasks such as umpiring, goal umpiring or helping out with the skills with the children. Congratulations to those award winners for round 3, Tim Everitt, James Hatton, Luke Kendrick, Nathan Phillis, Cameron Creighton, James Malley and Liam Stokes. Go Bombers !!!

Coach: Stuart Kensitt
Mgr: Wayne Marshall

Under 10 Vs. Penshurst Green

Miranda Bombers 24 13 157
Penshurst Green 2 0 12

After four weeks off, Miranda's U10s travelled to Olds Park for a battle against Penshurst. The day didn't start out well after none of the boys (except Julian) listened to their coach and went to have a kick on the field. The warm-up on the field when we were waiting for the other game to get themselves organized wasn't too good either. A few remarks were heard by the boys and myself when we practiced our goal kicking.

The boys didn't once believe what the other team was saying as the first quarter would show. 8 goals to one was scored by Miranda in an all round fantastic effort. The midfield played well to get the ball down to forwards, where Dave, Riley and Michael each shared the goals. Well done to Ben, who led the team as captain this week, and had plenty of the ball in the first half, as he kicked two of the four goals scored in the second term. The boys still weren't listening to their opposition, despite a few more mutterings coming from Penshurst. At half time, 12.6.78 to 2.0.12 should've told the kids that what Penshurst said weren't true, and that what was said was the exact opposite. The third quarter saw 5.4 scored to nothing as the team continued to play well. Che (award winner) took a couple of ripper marks in the second half, as his team cruised to victory, 24.13.157 to 2.0.12. The goal kickers from the game are Paddy 4, Julian 3, Dave 3, Riley 3, Michael 2, Jack 2, Che 2, Ben 2, Anthony 2, Joel 1, Congratulations boys, let's head over to Waratah next week and show Heathcote what we can do! GO BOMBERS
Nick Bernath

Under 11 Black Vs Penshurst Green

Penshurst Green 10-12-72
Miranda Black 0-1-1

It was a beautiful sunny morning at Olds Park and the boys were keen to get going after the Easter break. It was also good to welcome back Lachlan Fitzpatrick to the team, having played with the boys last year. This game was always going to be a tough one, up against last year's Grand Finalist, Penshurst. But the boys weren't worried about the bigger bodies from Penshurst and started the game strong, matching them at every contest. The first quarter finished with Penshurst a couple of goals up, with Nathan Harvey, Ben Fuller and Ben Challen defending strongly, laying tackle after tackle.

The second quarter was much of the same with Miranda struggling to rack up those important 'inside 50' stats that would lead to our first score. Despite some controlled taps from our big ruckman, Ryan Greer, and some super centre clearances from our centres Ben 'Chop' Lamb, Kyle Sier and Justin Khaw, we were struggling to get the ball to our forwards. Nathan Walsh was a pillar in the defence taking some strong marks and clearing the lines on several occasions.

A team reshuffle from Coach Phil at the big break was hopefully going to change the direction of the game for Miranda. Again the boys came out strong with some 'Brett Kirk' like tackles to restrict the Penshurst ball movement. Harry Beardsley and Jayden Carter battled hard all over the park trying to move the ball forward for Miranda. But our boys seemed to be tiring with Penshurst scoring at will. Still no score for Miranda!!

In the final quarter Miranda had Adam Stephanou, Michael Ray and Lachlan Fitzpatrick up forward doing a lot of hard work. They continually applied tackles to keep the ball in the Miranda forward 50. This pressure resulted in Miranda having their best chance at scoring. Finally Miranda gets on the scoreboard – a behind from Nathan Harvey!

Not one of Miranda's best results, but as Coach Phil explained after the game, the boys did everything they were asked and could not be faulted for their never say die attitude. Justin had one of his best games, popping up at every contest and laying on some super tackles, and was a deserving winner of the MOM award.

Well done boys and here's to another great effort next week!

Under 11 Red Vs Cronulla Black – Sat 2 May 09

Miranda Red 1 – 2 : 8
Cronulla Black 11 – 11 : 77

After a long break from the field after round 1, we finally returned to the paddock and under the leadership of our captain for the day Baeden Clark, we went into our most physical game ever.

From the first ball up it was certainly game on – Lachlan Hill showed some defence that left his marked player wondering what and where that had come from.

Hastings saw that and it wasn't long before he too got into the defensive action. These actions simply gave Aidan the motivation to join in, and he certainly did.

To their credit, Cronulla showed what they were made of, and the game continued to be our toughest ever.

From an attacking perspective, we were a little off the mark – poor clearances, no passing, and very few connecting kicks. We allowed the momentum to stay with Cronulla, and they took every advantage. There were a couple of shining moments; great defence from our new signing Jackson Hughes (watch this name in the next couple of weeks!!), leading to a smart clearance from April, a long kick from Paddy, the mark by Jesse, who kicked the goal. Beautiful to watch!

We never stopped trying all game. The determination shown by Isabella, Tristen, Jack, Joshua and Robbie in trying to get us into the game is worth a mention.

More game time will see the improvement we need to hear the Bombers song after future games.

Finally, congratulations to our Player of the Match, Hastings Christopherson, for his tireless defensive efforts all day and staying focussed all game. Well done!!

Under 11 Red Vs Bankstown – Sun 3 May 09

Miranda Red	5	3	33
Bankstown	3	4	22

This was our make up game from the wash out in round 2, meaning a double header for the weekend. There were a few injuries from the Cronulla game the day before, and we had to call on a couple of our trusted reserve graders to step. An up front congratulations to Paddy Tegg and Dominic Soffe, who both played an outstanding game, and contributed on every aspect to the favourable outcome on the day.

Coach Martin was asking for a couple of specific things from every player on the day; the same strong defence we showed in our last game, and giving ourselves some options to kick to in attack. Every player delivered.

To mention the standout players in defence, I would have to mention every player. Our defensive efforts shut down their momentum, and restricted their offensive options. I'm not sure what defensive breakfast cereal April ate on the morning, but we will be making sure she has it before every game!!

There were many highlights during this game;

Aidan – one goal, full field running, playing on after the mark

April – super defence, covering more than one player at a time

Baeden – two goals, strategic field position

Hastings – might end up with the nickname 'cement' after cement Gillespie. Strong and tireless defence, great marks

Isabella – the thinker, great hand passes and clearances

Jack – strong in the rucks, purposeful in defence

Jesse – spectacular marks, made the score sheet

Dom Soffe – great defence, smart kicks, great field position, sound marks

Lachlan – beginning to find his feet, not much got past him

Tristen – tight defence, strong running, good clearances

Paddy Tegg – sensational mark, and smart playing on.

Good pace and smart field position

Paddy Noakes – Man of the Match, two goals, strong defence (what about that bump off the ball!!) smart hand passing

It was fantastic to hear the team song after that game – you could see the feeling of the players in their beaming faces. If we can concentrate on replicating what we did today, we will definitely hear our song more often.

Well done Bombers, let's keep this style of play going.

Under 12 Black Vs Cronulla

Miranda Black 8-2:50

Cronulla 4-4:28

History reveals that Cronulla, more often than not, is a strong club across all age groups, so any match against the club is usually a tough one in both physicality and the footy skills required to match them. The Bombers passed that test thanks to a much improved performance compared to Rounds 1 and 2, especially in skill level and positional play, to eventually run out winners through a blistering open to the final quarter.

After a slow start last Round, the boys knew that they had to get off to a positive start against such a strong team. They did this though a couple of early goals to Justin Hess and Matthew McPherson. The strong football in the quarter was created by an even performance across the team. Some notable contributions were strong shepherding by Elliot Heeney in the backline, hard tackling by Luke Murfitt and some fine handballing in the midfield by Harley Hill. Ryan Catbagan was inspirational in the midfield, gathering a number of contested possessions and Alex Cartner's confidence grew by the football minute as he gathered the ball a few times and distributed some perfect handballs to running players. However, Cronulla struck back with a couple of goals later in the quarter and it was game on as the intensity lifted with. Cronulla went into quarter time with a 1 point lead.

The Bombers were pumped in the quarter timed huddle and a hard 2nd quarter was guaranteed. After a physical 1st quarter in the ruck, 50 gamer, Mitch Johnson moved to centre half back where he positioned himself well, took some telling marks and held up the Cronulla attacks. Justin Hess went into the ruck and did a fine job against a much bigger opponent. His greater mobility compared to his opponent meant the Bombers almost had an extra man in the midfield. Alex Slater slotted nicely into the forward pocket after a run on the wing, pouncing on the loose ball and moving it forward. In one of the plays of the day, Max Simmer beat a couple of opponents on the half back line, handballed to Luke Donnelly who had a run and bounce and delivered the ball accurately into the dangerous McPherson/Mansour forward combination who finished off the superb team goal.

The boys were rewarded from the hard work they put into repetitive training drills that they practised. As a result the Bombers came in at half time 2 goals up, keeping Cronulla goalless for the quarter.

The 3rd quarter was very physical as Cronulla attempted to regain control of the match. Justin Maldgri, who had been inspirational in the midfield, copped 2 hard knocks but remained on the field in the half back line and kept an opponent quite while still collecting some telling possessions. Cronulla hit back with 2 goals but a fine mark and goal by Matthew McPherson ensured that the Bombers remained in control of the match at $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

The Bombers took the wind out of Cronulla's sails in the first couple of minutes of the 4th quarter with 2 perfect ruck and centre clearances (J Hess/Catbagan combination), to the forwards where Marcus Mansour dominated at full forward though his quality leading, marking and kicking for goal, straight out of the Tony Lockett coaching manual. Without the services of Justin Maldgri, the midfield lifted another notch to ensure that Cronulla saw little of the ball, as Vaughan Barnes made his presence felt, working hard, up, down and across the field. Likewise, Lachlan Hess played a top team game at centre half forward. He led at every opportunity, often not receiving the ball but created space and opportunity for his teammates. However, he did also take some fine contested marks and kicked a fine goal.

There has already been a big improvement in skills, positional play and team members supporting each other this season. If the boys can keep up the improvement in these areas and combine it with hard attack on the footy and tackling, they will challenge any opponent in the competition.

Go Bombers!
Paul Donnelly – Coach

Under 12 Red Vs Ramsgate – Sat 2 May 09

Miranda	2-1:13
Ramsgate	9-8:62

After a four week break, and on a fine warm sunny day at Tonbridge Oval, we faced an opponent that appeared to set the benchmark for the quality and standard of footy skills required to go all the way this year. The boys, captained on the day by Brendon Johnson, put in a brave effort from the start but appeared to be consistently outplayed at many of the contests around the ground, with our opposition able to run in numbers and provide effective and clean disposals to running players throughout the game, resulting in half a dozen scoring shots each quarter to our 0/1.

Conor Soffe and Paddy Heptinstall showed the Ramsgate boys that we meant business, taking control around the centre wing area in the early stages of the first quarter, with their consistent and tight tackling, while Jai Thomas and Mitch Ballard worked together effectively at half back, repelling early Ramsgate inroads, ably assisted by Lachlan Walsh showing good ball control skills along the ground. Cameron Andrew put on a goal saving smother in the square and eventually managed to get a touch on a Ramsgate shot at goal to give them the first minor score. It appears we were

under ambush from the start with all the play in their forward line, and despite a valiant rucking effort by James Farquhar. Ian McLaughlin put on a strong defensive mark, followed soon after by 2 quick Ramsgate goals. We were constantly under attack and in a position that we really were not used to facing after coming off an 18 goal win last game. Patrick Heptinstall provided some renewed spark to the team up forward late in the quarter, with Macauley Crossan also getting some ball, hand passing and running well. Brendon took a really strong mark with minutes remaining and Adam White ultimately earned a free kick close to goal and slotted it through for a nice catch-up goal. Mitchell Ballard ended the quarter with four consecutive tackles on opponents around the wing area to stop another surge forward by our opponent. All was not lost at quarter time, at 2.1 to 1.0, but the signs were there that we really had to lift to another level to be competitive in this game. Coach Dave could see where this was heading, instructing the boys to mark-up on opponents and be more aware of where team mates were by looking up and around and thinking before each disposal.

Tim Tegg was now fired up and put in a superb effort in the second term, showing his opponents a clean set of heels more than once. Despite an early goal to them, the play went from end to end in a hard fought and often scrappy period. Zach Holdsworth, in his first game, was running well and getting involved. Lachlan Walsh took an exceptionally strong mark at centre half back, effectively stopping a certain run on goal. Conor Soffe was again in everything through the centre, calling for the ball and helping team mates with his talk on the field. Despite Tim Tegg's hard attack on the ball, it was all attack from our opponent with yet another goal scored. Lachlan Walsh was showing some smart thinking with long kicks back into play from the goal square, picking out some good options and targets, but time and again we were beaten to the ball and couldn't retain the control over the play that we are so used to. We'd been held scoreless for the quarter and were looking beaten at half time with a 4.5 to 1.0 score line. Coach Dave could sense the impending demise, but more importantly could see why we were in this situation and made it clear at the half time break, taking the team into the huddle far from earshot of the crowd. Our ball control and disposal was letting us down, we needed to run harder, tackle harder, don't ever consider yourself out of the play, don't watch the play going on around you, go and get the ball.

The pep talk appeared to lift the team and each individual for the start of the third term, with Conor Soffe coming out fired up, though it wasn't long before they scored another goal after a concerted effort from Paddy Heptinstall in tackling, running and ball smothering. Conor continued to tackle hard through the quarter and at one stage took a really good mark in defence. The half time talk also seemed to inspire Harry Bundy, who ran hard at the ball and got some good effective possessions early on. Brendon Johnson also continued to tackle hard, but the play was all in our opponents favour, and even the bounce of the ball would consistently go against us. The boys were getting frustrated given the renewed effort they were showing. Mitch Ballard and Cameron Andrew were scrambling well in defence and seeing heaps of the ball.

At this stage Eion Crossan really showed his hidden skills with a beautifully weighted boundary throw in from the forward pocket at the Tonbridge St end (great work Eion). Cameron Andrew fired up late in the quarter with a bursting and bustling run through a congested pack and clever hand pass to a running team mate. If we could string together these good individual plays into a cohesive team attack, we could have been back in the game, but to Ramsgate's credit, they were able to negate any consistency we may have been able to achieve. Jai Thomas was getting to the ball first in a number of late contests, and Zach Holdsworth was effective in running and paddling the ball out of trouble, being rewarded for his efforts by a crowd pleasing running shot to slot the ball through the big sticks for our second goal late in the term – great effort Zach, and we can see many more to come this season. Ian McLaughlin's defensive efforts late in the term left the Q3 score at 6.7 to 2.0.

Any hope of a revival was lost after our opponent scored first in the final term, all despite Ian McLaughlin's huge efforts, assisted by Adam White and Patrick Agius, in clearing the ball forward, consistently running and chasing. Brendon Johnson was throwing everything he had into the final minutes, showing again his 'never say die' attitude and coming away with a sliced eyebrow and blood streaming down his face – what a sight – but he was straight back on the ground after a bit of medical attention. Tim Tegg didn't stop running until the end, but it seemed we were well and truly outplayed on the day. One positive to take away is that we now know the level of footy required of us to match it at the top end.

Go Bombers

Under 12 Red Vs Bankstown – Sun 3 May 09

Miranda Reds 3-3:21

Bankstown 8-7:55

The boys arrived at Kelso Oval a day after their biggest loss in two years to play this make-up game for the washed out Round 2 on a fine and sunny Sunday with the ground in great condition for a fast game of footy. We were without two of our tall players, but the assistance of Aiden Martin, Dominic Soffe and Paddy Tegg was very much appreciated, and they certainly did themselves proud, picking up many possessions and generally making life difficult for their opponents, a big strong well-prepared Bankstown outfit that was never going to take a step backward. Despite some really pleasing passages of play, we only managed to score one more goal than the day before, while conceding only one less, for our second biggest loss in two years.

Conor Soffe seemed to continue on from where he left off in yesterday's match, tackling ferociously from the start, but along with some effective clearances out of defence from Lachlan Walsh and strong defensive marking by a stitched up Brendon Johnson, it wasn't enough to thwart the many early inroads our opponents were making into their forward line, resulting in an early goal to them. Sustained pressure from Ian McLaughlin and fierce tackling from Aiden Martin allowed Macauley Crossan to take possession for a couple of classy runs around the far side wing to put some spark back into our play, though the ball continued to bounce back into their forward line to keep the pressure on us. Cameron

Andrew was soaking it up well with an inspiring mark, play-on and well targeted hand pass in defence to a running Tim Tegg who tried relentlessly to get the ball forward of centre. Despite a couple of nice effective kick outs from Lachlan Walsh, one of which found Brendon Johnson for a crowd pleasing mark, and Cameron Andrew's consistent clearances out of the goal square, they put yet another goal on the board. As time ran down, Aiden Martin, having warmed up in the curtain raiser game, was able to run through some scrappy play to get the ball to a running Zach Holdsworth who sped downfield in a classy display of running footy, kicked forward, chased and tackled to show us what we needed to do to make the inroads we needed to get back into this game. Q1 found us scoreless, against our opponents 6 scoring shots (0.0 to 2.4). Coach Dave instructed the team to hold their positions and don't leave loose, unmanned opponents around the ground.

Cameron Andrew, as game day captain, came out of the quarter time huddle barking instructions to his charges, which had an immediate effect with Brendon Johnson moving the ball forward of centre to a running Zach Holdsworth who sprinted forward, snapped a quick shot for an unfortunate behind. Lachlan Walsh was working tirelessly, running with the flow of play and tackling hard. Patrick Agius was making his presence felt with the first of numerous plays to turn over possession, teaming up with Tim Tegg and Paddy Heptinstall to move the ball swiftly up-field. Harry Bundy was piling on the pressure, at one stage forcing his opponent to kick out of bounds on the full to again turn over possession. The tide of the game seemed to be turning with another strong mark to Brendon Johnson who hand passed to a running Mitch Ballard for a shot and another unlucky point. Brendon Johnson's persistence soon paid off after a brilliant turnover tackle and eventual strong mark up forward provided our first goal for the game from a set shot. Ian McLaughlin helped consolidate our strong showing for the quarter with some nice marking efforts at centre half back, at one point getting the ball to a running Tim Tegg who managed to out-pace and out-play four opponents in one passage of play, controlling the ball out in front of him like it was on a string. Despite consistent and strong defensive efforts from Lachlan Walsh and Patrick Agius, Bankstown soon had another goal on the board to negate our good work. This seemed to incense the team with Cameron Andrew effectively bumping and smothering, Mitchell Ballard throwing himself into tackles, Tim Tegg and Paddy Heptinstall giving everything to clear the ball forward, and Patrick Agius bustling through congested packs, but the big boys from Bankstown were standing firm. Q2 found us down 3.4 to 1.1, and Dave was imploring the boys to retain their field positions and avoid running loosely around the ground, giving their opponents numerous options and targets to retain possession.

Though the third term was probably our best quarter of the game, our opponent managed to sneak in two early goals before we managed to fire up. Tim and Paddy Tegg were combining well with Conor Soffe, Paddy Heptinstall and Adam White to run, chase and clear the ball well, while Patrick Agius continued to make his mark by targeting the ball in congested play and running though the ruck to spoil or take possession – this is really effective stuff Patrick.

Mitch Ballard marked well early in the term and targeted a nice kick to a running Zach Holdsworth who hand passed off well. It seemed we were starting to string together some effective plays to move the ball forward. Cameron Andrew continued to control the ball well along the ground and Harry Bundy was pressuring his opponent well, again resulting in a turnover of the ball. Our best passage of play for the day brought the crowd to their feet when the ball passed smoothly across three-quarters of the ground from Conor Soffe to Ian McLaughlin to Cameron Andrew and onto Tim Tegg for a sensational goal. Cameron Andrew was inspired, bustling strongly through the packs, providing good ball onto Lachlan Walsh and eventually to Paddy Heptinstall for the second major score in succession. We'd come to life after a weekend of mostly uninspiring footy, showing what we are really capable of doing. It appeared the speed of the game had increased, with more urgency among the players. Cameron Andrew and Lachlan Walsh finished up the quarter with some outstanding work at centre half forward, using their strength to take on the Bankstown mob at their own game. Q4 found us down by 5.4 to 3.1 and still in the contest, but the warm conditions were sapping energy across the ground and it would prove a hard task to catch our opponent from here.

The final term was a scrappy affair, though we started in a promising fashion with Conor Soffe providing some nice disposals, and Paddy Heptinstall and Mitch Ballard taking some good early marks to retain possession. An early poster by our opponent was a temporary relief until they piled on three unanswered goals to put the result beyond doubt. The final stages were highlighted by some strong tackling by Patrick Agius and Aiden Martin.

The weekend's game results did not flatter us at all, but more importantly we need to think about how we allowed our opponents to take control and what we need to do to avoid a repeat. Go Bombers!!!!

Under 13 Black Vs Cronulla

Miranda Black	1	3	9
Cronulla	9	14	68

No report received

Under 13 Red Vs Penshurst – Sat 2 May 09

Miranda Reds	1	2	8
Penshurst	15	8	98

Well, after 5 weeks of no football, we finally got our season underway and it was certainly not the best game to clear the cobwebs. We came up against a Penshurst side that was strong right across the park and we suffered from a lack of football.

It's best to just put this game behind us but there were some positives to come out of the game. Our mid-field was very competitive early and forced a few positional changes from Penshurst. They continued to match it against Penshurst's best.

And our first-year players are showing great promise. It is difficult to come into a new sport at this age but Cameron, Nick F and Will S are all showing signs that they are adapting quickly and once they get used to the

mechanics of the game, their pace and leap will be great assets.

It is interesting to see that in the corresponding game last year we lost 28 – 96 and still made the finals so we will move on and just try to improve each week.

Under 13 Red Vs Bankstown – Sun 3 May 09

Miranda Reds	1	4	10
Bankstown	13	6	84

With our game against Bankstown washed out in Round 2, like the rest of the Reds, it was going to be a big weekend backing up from a tough game against Penshurst Saturday to meet reigning Premiers, Bankstown on Sunday. But the goal is to get a bit better with each game and we certainly did this.

Once a few match ups were sorted out in the first quarter, we were able to stem the flow from Bankstown and to keep them to just 4 goals in the second half was a great effort. We are starting to sort out our positional play and teamwork. Sema had an awesome game, winning every contest at ground level and even out-marking her taller opponent. Brett played at Full-Back for the first time and did a great job, denying Bankstown of numerous certain goals if not for his pressure and persistence. Alex P was moved into the backline to pick up a tall forward and not only shut his man down but got plenty of disposals himself and teamed up well with the smaller runners.

Again, our 12s were amazing, playing their third game in two days. Conor, Zac, Tim T and Brendon, ran themselves into the ground on the big field and still held their own against the Bankstown giants. Will C was moved into the backline and must have covered about 10k for the match rebounding out of defence and then going forward to kick our only goal. Ryan M was moved into the Ruck and stepped up with some hard contests around the ground and loads of possessions.

Our mid-field of Tim G, Simon, and Brendon went looking for the footy and acquitted themselves well with second and third efforts in and under resulting in numerous turnovers for us and regular forward surges. Simon has fitted in extremely well and when he didn't have the ball in hand he was tackling, shepherding and supporting. With the wind in the third quarter we created several opportunities and both Tom and Alex Mc were unlucky not to score. And in the last quarter Ryan Mc ran onto a hand pass and kicked on the run to drive the ball into our forward line and show that he is in for good things this season. Nick J did a great job of finding space in the forward line but had few opportunities as the Bankstown backs closed in quickly.

Our first-year trio of Will S, Cameron and Nick F all improved in their second game and showed that they will soon be mixing it with the best as they settle into their roles. Nick found a lot of the play on his wing and did a great job of swinging onto his preferred left foot and driving the ball forward. (He even did OK on his right when faced with no option)

We have another tough game next week but with some tighter defence and more confident forward play, we will give ourselves the best possible chance.

Under 14 Vs Cronulla

Miranda 1 – 2 :8
Cronulla 6 – 13 : 49

Apart from not winning the game, as coach I was very pleased with the entire team's effort on Saturday afternoon. We came up against a team with some gifted players whose individual performances lift and carry the entire Cronulla side. We matched Cronulla for large periods of the game only to see Cronulla sneak a goal past our resolute defence from time to time. At the other end of the park, although we could get the ball into our forward line, we just couldn't get the ball through the posts.

The final score is a poor reflection of what was a real stirring effort by every player in the U14 squad (and the three U13 boys who played up, thanks for your contribution). Pleasingly, like our previous game, even though the score line was negative, all the boys continued to battle until the final siren. You can't ask more than that. During the game the boys showed glimpses of what this team can achieve with very stylish passages of play in attack and hard hitting defence, maybe our fitness let us down on what turned out to be a hot afternoon.

For best and fairest points, Yianni and Nicholas shared the minor points for their tireless efforts throughout the game. However man of the match for the second time this season goes to Luke. Luke again put in a huge amount of effort in his half back flake role, repelling numerous Cronulla attacking raids. Well done Luke. We host Bangor next game and Ramsgate the week after that. I'm looking forward to the re-match with Ramsgate as I know we can put in a much better performance than our loss before the holidays.

U14 Coach

Under 16 Vs Miranda

Cronulla 18 17 125
Miranda 0 5 5

The year so far has been challenging for the under 16s with limited numbers and training for the season start and now a coach change. There is certainly a lot of desire and effort from the boys and with some regular training things will start to happen on the score board as well. The great news is that if we have a full roll up we should now have 19 players and with Chris as the new coach there are lots of opportunities to take this youthful and raw team to the next level. Against Cronulla no one gave up even though the score was not working for us. We had Liam and Nicko join the team for the first time and show that by going hard for the ball you can make a difference even though you are new to the team and the game. The mid field continued to run and make a contest, whilst the backs and forwards contributed against the bigger opposition. It is difficult against older sides and those with such a height advantage but the contest was there and with more skills work at training we should see things come together on game day. Keep up the effort, go hard and things will go our way. Dave

PS: Thank you to all those under 14's that have been helping out so that the under 16s can get numbers on the field. You have all played really well against the older and bigger boys.

Check out the bombers web site....

www.mirandabombers.org

Follow the links at the scores and draws page.

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And of course copies of this newsletter can also be found on the web site





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