



Under 13s Grand Final Report.... By Simon & Roger

The final words to our boys before they burst through the banner as one was to hunt the ball carrier (be the predator). And that is exactly what they did! If we were to be challenged, rely on the strength of our formation – our mates.

It was a fast and furious opening, with defensive acts from both sides making clean ball handling difficult. We finally got our first major after Henry ran into the hot spot to accept the pass and goal from a set shot. Trist started to break free and kick the next two. Jezza was competing well in the ruck giving us first use of the ball. Boxy was showing great dash in the backline by running into space to clear the ball from the danger zone (no sign of his suspect Hammy). Just before the siren Tom slotted a classy goal to give us a four goal buffer. The scene was set. The foundation laid.

Kicking against the wind in the second quarter didn't have any effect on our predators, as they continually pressured Whitehorse to shank their kicks. At every opportunity we had to make Whitehorse dispose of the footy. We played in front and picked off so many balls that were in dispute. That is a game style. That is a part of our game plan. Ben I was doing a magnificent job on Lake, and started to run off him and chimed in for two goals. Ben P was starting to work his way into the game by continually putting his head over the footy and working it into space, until he copped one on the knee. Lochie Mackay showed his want to get the ball by running 50 metres to cause a stoppage. When the siren sounded for half-time the boys were satisfied with their workman-like effort, however were focused on the task ahead – the job was not done yet.

Whitehorse came out after half-time all fired up and our boys just soaked up the pressure. Ben B kept on winning his own ball and Jordy R had the ball on a string, moving the ball effortlessly out of defence. Cam was getting his usual share of disposal and giving it first time every time. Will was presenting every time the ball was there and Pat ran and ran and ran as always. Paul made a bone-crunching tackle, and Liam chased his opponent for a full 50 metres – both acts epitomised the boys' commitment to total team footy. Chris gave his man nothing, but the sea of black & white in the crowd gave us everything. The three-quarter time huddle was quiet as the boys regrouped, focused and prepared themselves for one last scrap. They knew the last quarter wasn't going to be pretty, as the wind had picked up, the ball bounce was unpredictable and fatigue was starting to set in. We know that you never get shorter in the last quarter, but we knew the fighting spirit of Surrey is something special.

As expected, the last quarter was a real slog and again our boys showed character by fighting it right out. JB found room and ran well and Jordy M suffocated his opponent. Lachie Martin produced a moment of magic with the best ball pick-up you would ever want to see, and Jake lost his opponent to find space on the forward line and took a clever mark. As the clock wound down to more goals than minutes left, we knew we had it. The final siren sounded, the boys went bananas (even at \$12 per kg!) and belted out the song.

That ended a season to remember, a season of development, a season of commitment, a season full of satisfaction and a season playing Surrey Park footy.

Memories will fade as we embark in the next phase of our footy lives, but remember this – it is how we conduct ourselves that will set us apart from everything we do in life and the Grand Final was no exception. Be proud of your efforts as both of your coaches were of you.