

JULY, 2020 • VOL. 55. ISSUE 2

THE SEAGULL FLYER

The latest news and updates from Brighton Seagulls J.R.L.F.C



SEAGULLS FLYING START TO 2020

What an awesome sunny winters day at our home ground Scarborough Park for the first round of the season!!

Congratulations to our players reaching milestones this week -
Gabriel Wood (U10's) - 50th game
Jake Kotevski (U12's) - 100th game

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a struggle but we finally made it with the resumption of our 2020 season taking place last Saturday at Scarborough Park!

Since March when notice was given for the suspension of the 2020 season it has been a trying time for everyone. Eventually permission was granted, with the co-operation of summer sporting organisations we will now be allowed to play our sport until the end of September, providing 10 weeks of competition.

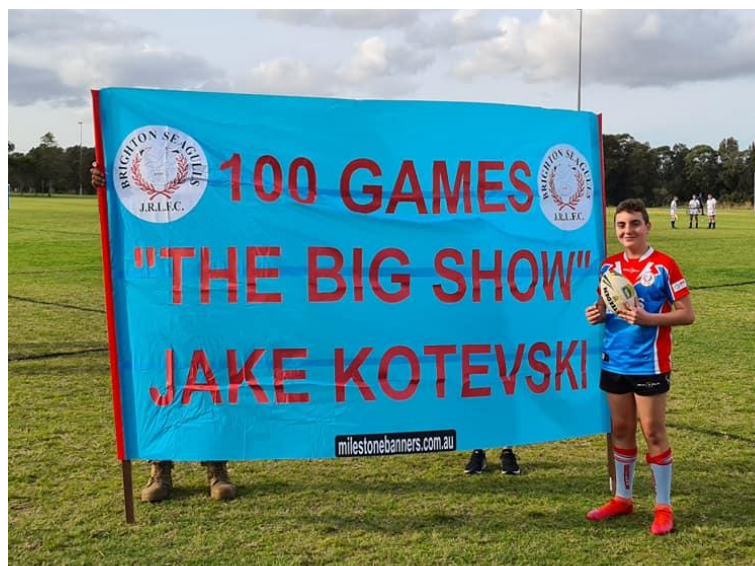
We were responsible to conform to strict Covid-19 safety conditions at the ground last Saturday and I feel all of those who attended the ground complied with the correct protocol and we thank you. All games were played in the right spirit, although there were isolated references of spectators interacting negatively with players and match officials whilst games were in progress. I ask parents to please avoid making comments that are unacceptable and not in the spirit of the game where our club matches are played.

Unfortunately the injury to Max O'Brien (U12s) spoilt what was a perfect day of footy and resulted in the second half of the Under 12 game being suspended. We wish Max, who is a much loved member of our playing group, a speedy recovery.

A big thankyou to Peter Mougios for again presenting \$50 vouchers to his Bayvista Restaurant in Brighton Le Sands that will be presented to each team's 'Player Of The Round'. The Club appreciates your support Peter and we urge Club Members to support the Bayvista Restaurant, and all our club sponsors.

Saturday's programme featured a first for both St George Junior League and our club with the playing of the Over 35 Leaguetag game. We hope this venture will benefit all involved and become an avenue maybe for parents of players to get actively involved as well as maybe seeing former players return to the fold.

Bruce Hartley
Club President



MATCH REPORTS

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

U6

We welcome our U6 players and their families and hope you all enjoyed your first game. We look forward to seeing you develop your footy skills and having heaps of fun throughout the season.



U7

Game forfeited by Riverwood.



U8

Brighton Seagulls team U8 and parents were very excited to be back on the field for our first game of the season at our home ground.

Our boys and girls did a great job playing a 3 way game against Kingsgrove Colts and Penshurst. In the first 2 halves Brighton scored 3 tries followed by 3 goals bringing the score to 24. In the second 2 halves our team was playing their hearts out with strong defence and playing the ball fast scoring 3 tries followed by 1 goal bringing the score to 20.

Special thank you goes to Zak and Mohamed from U7 for teaming up with us and playing on the day. Another BIG thank you goes out to our new coach Luke and our new trainer Angie for training our team. Brighton Seagulls U8 are a bunch of great and amazing kids with a positive and never give up attitude that we are all proud of. There's always room for improvement so we are going to work together and train hard to achieve the best results. Thank you parents for supporting our team.

Player of the Match - Angelo Malifa

HARLOW SLOAN
HAIR

U9 Brighton Seagulls 38 v Arncliffe Scots 22

Tries: Conor 5, Heaney 1, Micah 1 Kicks: Conor, Jerome, Daniel, Lucas, Hamzi



We had our first game of the season at Scarborough Park on Saturday.

The kids had been training great for the last 5 weeks and were keen to finally get a game.

We welcomed 3 new players to the team, Haney, Atakan and Micah. We also welcomed Brad to the Seagulls for his first game as trainer. We were all excited during the warm up. The friends and family had gathered in large numbers (socially distanced, of course) and were keen to see how their kids would get on.

The team started brightly and some strong runs from Haney and Amelia got us into Scots half. A couple of high tackles got us repeat sets and finally the pressure told when Conor darted over for our first try of the season. We were sloppy off the restart and didn't set up our defensive line correctly. The Scots player darted down our left side untouched to score off the restart. The team didn't let that effect them. They continued to go through their sets and gain metres. Hamzi, the cannonball smashed into the Scots defence with every run. Haney then took off and barrelled through 3 defenders to score his first try in rugby league and our second.

We continued to control the game in the first half. Our defence was excellent. Led by Jerome who played a storming game from marker. He didn't give their big boys a minutes peace. He tackled them before they could get a head of steam up and let the rest of the team be able to get off the line and help bring them down. More good play from Lucas and Rafael allowed Conor to grab our 3rd try of the game. Scots managed to score off the last play of the half when a mix up call from the ref of held saw our players stop playing. Scots continued and ran the length of the field. Even after this we led 18-12 at half time after a strong half of footy.

We introduced Atakan and Micah for their first taste of action with us at half time. The two boys were keen to get out and have a go. We started the second half with a dropped ball from the kick off but then defended great to put Scots into touch and regain the ball. We worked our way down the field with some strong runs from Atakan and Lucas. Conor managed to spot a gap in the Scots defence and run from 30 metres to score in the right corner. We led 24-12. Scots managed to pull a try back but off the restart we unleashed our hidden weapon. Micah who maybe the next Usain Bolt, tapped off from the restart and then manged to turn on the afterburners and dash down the left wing untouched to score his first try in rugby league. Scots scored to make the score 28-22 at the end of the third quarter.

We played a great 4th quarter, both in defence and attack. We managed to stop Scots scoring with some more great defence. Jerome was all over the first receiver and Haney made a great covering tackle on their biggest player as he tried to score in the corner. Haney smashed him into touch and got us the ball back. Hamzi, Lucas and Jerome made some good metres to start our set and then Amelia took off on a 60 metre run down the wing. She copped a knock for her troubles but this allowed Daniel to dart out of dummy half and give the ball to Conor to score. We led 32-22 with a couple of minutes on the clock. More good tackling from Atakan, Hamzi, Conor and Haney saw us stop Scots again. Haney then made metres with some strong runs through the middle. Quick play from Daniel and Micah allowed Conor to get the ball 20 metres out with seconds left on the clock. He tried to go for the left corner but as 2 defenders closed in on him he stepped off his left and was met with just the fullback. He charged at him and managed to reach out and score. We won 38-22.

It was a very good first performance of the season. The effort from all the kids was outstanding and they tried their best to stick to the things we asked of them in training. We look forward to next week when we hope to improve even more. Well done to all the team. Very proud of their first up performance.

U10 Brighton Seagulls 28 v Penshurst RSL 10

Tries to: Dylan, Gabriel, Luca (2) & Stelios (2)

Goals to: Christian & Dylan



First things first, let us acknowledge our returning players Christopher, Dylan, Gabriel, Greg, Luca, Jtairik, Mateja, Nathaneal, Peter, Romeo and Stelios.

We also welcome our newest team members: Christian and Jasmine.

It is a Hip Hip Horray to the Mighty Seagulls U10's win on their first game of the season.

It was awesome to witness the cohesion of the players, some old and some new as our team expands to 11 on the field. With the coach watching on from the sideline and the trainers also off the field, it was a new format although the team had a win in their sights. The Covid19 rules see 10min quarters played with the Brighton team scoring 2 tries in the first quarter and Penshurst with 1. Score at first quarter a close 8-6.

The second quarter defence was super strong with some really good runs, clocking the metres. Two further tries were scored finishing the first half at 18 to 6, with our first conversion. Similarly, the third quarter saw really strong defence as Penshurst really tried to put the ball over the try line without luck as the Seagulls kept the defence tight with an amazing save by pushing the opposition out of play. Another try and conversion by the Seagulls saw the score at 24-6.

By the final quarter, we saw ALL our players contributing to the game with strong runs and tackles made. Offloads and kicks during play. Penshurst did get away with a try but with no conversion. With 3 minutes remaining, the last Seagulls try was scored seeing the final score at 28-10.

With a change of code from Soccer to League, Christian played a strong game on his debut for the Seagulls. The same for Jassie, the moment the ball was passed to her she was determined to make some metres.....and

she made offence and defensive plays. These guys are keepers.

Thanks to the coaching staff for preparing the team for this game and future games ahead. Despite the restrictions it was good to see the Brighton Seagulls Family standing strong on the sideline giving their full support. It certainly was a convincing win.

U11 Brighton Seagulls 38 v Penshurst 44

After a long and anticipated wait the footy season is finally back. With a short pre-season that focused mainly on fitness due to the social restrictions, our boys looked fit and ready to go.

With no reserves available due to school holidays and sickness the team was going to be in for a tough outing, and with the weather turning it on down at the Seagulls cauldron the quarter time breaks were going to be as important as line speed in defence.

As with our starts during last seasons games we were slow out of the blocks. Penshurst raced to an early lead and the boys would be up against it to try and peg them back.

Although our first half effort wasn't one of our best there were patches of the game that showed we were on the right track. Strong efforts in defence from Waheb and Leo, Adam and Alex saw the mighty Seagulls hang in there with a chance. With mad Mick coming off the back fence and Bukhosi chiming in with some strong runs the platform was there we just couldn't gain the advantage from it.

The second half started a lot better for the team with more urgency shown both in attack and defence with our captain Alex diving over with a nice try early on.

After gaining confidence from that the boys tried a few switch plays that didn't quite go to plan but showed a lot of promise for the remaining games.

Raine&Horne.
Rockdale

Supporting the ball was something that was spoken about before the match and was highlighted with Alex going to the line with numbers and being able to slice through and go over the line virtually untouched.

With our mighty team going down in what became a closer game than many thought there were many positives to come out of the game.

Leo being thrust into the first receiver vest for the half did a great job with some slick passing both before and into the line.

Our energetic Adam having a crack at the full back/roving roll which caused plenty of panic in the oppositions defence.

MA's kick chase and slow motion try from dummy half.

Robert pulling off two great tackles on the wing which should give him plenty of confidence for the rest of the season are just to name a few.

The loss was not the ideal start for our season but it showed there is plenty of improvement left within the team. If we can work hard for each other we will be a very competitive outfit.

Looking forward to getting back into training this week and the challenge of the next game ahead.

ONE, TWO, THREE SEAGULLS!!!

U12 Brighton Seagulls 14 v Penshurst 6

ExpressTransport
AUSTRALIA

Tries: Peter Kokontis, Abbas Saleh, Hugh Somers. Goals: Chaise Lio.

Months of waiting came to an end at a sunny Scarborough Park

on Saturday and the mighty U12's were raring to go against traditional bogey team Penshurst.

But it wasn't just the boys ready to go. The rugby league roller coaster was on hand all week to make sure an already difficult season would be full of ups and downs for the Seagulls.

It started a week out from kick off when reigning Club Player of the Year, Jayden Rawson was ruled out with a foot injury. Combined with the unavailability of the biggest of our big boppers, Aydin Kocak due to pre-arranged family commitments we were down to a squad of 15.

Or so we thought. Matchday came around and Deyan Bugarcic was forced to pull out with cold and flu symptoms in our COVID world and then there were 14.

But every cloud has a silver lining and the absence of two of our most dominant forwards meant there were opportunities for others to impress. It was time for the Seagulls to soar and they had everything to play for. Jake Kotevski was playing his 100th game for the club and it was incumbent on the boys to celebrate his milestone with a victory.

Kick-off saw the first truly full field game of footy featuring a Brighton Seagulls team in five years was underway.

And what a start to the season it was! Penshurst kicked off and in less than a minute "The Galloping Greek", Peter Kokontis burst through the defence on the halfway line to run and sprinted away for our opening try of the year. 4-0 Seagulls.

The restart saw Penshurst with possession in our half. The boys defended enthusiastically, if a little clunkily and kept Penshurst outside our twenty. A last tackle cross field kick could well have created problems for us on the last, but Noah Williams defended strongly saving any chance of a lucky try.

The boys looked good in attack, using the width of the field and moving the ball well. It wasn't long before a long pass from Max O'Brien was pounced on by Abbas Saleh out wide to run away and score in the 5th minute. With goal kicking in front of the posts no longer guaranteed we missed our second shot from out wide. 8-0 Seagulls and it looked like 2020 was going just perfectly to plan.

Another restart from Penshurst was well defended again by the Seagulls and once again the last tackle kick was deployed to try and break what seemed like impenetrable Seagulls defence. Again, it was Noah Williams with fine game awareness and a strong tackling technique that saved the day for us.

A third Seagulls raid on the try line nearly saw us back on the scorers sheet when a smart kick from Hugh put the Penshurst defence under pressure. Our boys couldn't clean it up though and Penshurst got the ball just inside the field of play.

And then the rugby league roller coaster came back. Poor discipline and technique in defence saw four consecutive penalties awarded to Penshurst. The easy meters put us under enormous pressure on our own line and our earlier ill-discipline was compounded by a lazy effort on our own line allowing a simple try to Penshurst. Conversion successful and it was 8-6 Seagulls after 12 minutes.

The boys got straight back on the job when we finally got the ball back and after a strong surge downfield Hugh Somers found the gaps and managed to score in the 13 th minute. Chaise Lio was the first boy to convert from out wide and it was 14-6 Seagulls.

From there possession was shared for the remainder of the half and the Seagulls defence was beginning to resemble that of 2019. Until that damn roller coaster came back. As the half time bell rang out Jake Kotevski made a break through the middle before capitalising on good support play to keep the ball live. The boys moved the ball back to the right and then turned it back left. It was an attractive passage of play. Then as the ball found Max O'Brien, he looked inside to keep the ball live and was blind-sided by Penshurst's biggest and best player. It was a legal and quality ball and all tackle that should have finished the half.

But it did much more than that. The full weight of the tackle was taken on Max's shoulder when the boys went to ground, and it was soon apparent that major damage had been done. A broken collar bone ended what had been a very strong game from Max and, as an ambulance was required ended the match for everyone. It was an unfortunate end to the return to footy and an unfortunate end to Jake Kotevski's 100 th game for the club.

Whilst the circumstances of the finish were distressing, it has to be said that the boys performed well, if a little rusty in their first hit out of a badly disrupted season. There were some really good individual efforts from a number of players.

Jake Kotevski showed yet again why he is the heart and soul of this footy team and has been over the last 5 years. Some real crunching tackles were complimented by strong and smart running that saw him dominating the idle of the park.

Peter Kokontis knows he is training and playing each week for the starting prop position and his performance was a career best. The try was stunning, but it was his defensive effort and work rate that was really impressive, making three consecutive tackles in one set of six and four in another.

Noah Williams is really starting to impress on the wing. His commitment to doing what is needed when it is needed has seen him improve his defence consistently in the time he has been with us. When we needed it on Saturday it was rock solid.

Max O'Brien was on track to play 100 games this year but unfortunately won't now. His game was one of if not his best with strong ball play both short and long and in defence he picked up where he left off last year leading the right hand side.

Hugh Somers was as always exemplary in defence leading the left side and showed his ability to use his spark in attack to get points. His kicking game wasn't really tested but when he did have to kick gave us an opportunity to score.

Hadi El-Husseini played his first game for the club since Under 7's and looked like a hand slipping into an old glove. His effort to be involved in every play and willingness to make his tackles added starch in the forwards. Hadi as had to overcome significant hurdles to get back on the park. Suffice to say we're glad he persisted.

It was a tough day at the office for the Seagulls, but a day that they took in their stride - good and bad. Max's injury will mean some positional changes will need to be immediately implemented rather than phased in, but these boys always play as a team and always try and complete their job they are given. Renown this week is an unknown quantity, but I have no doubt the boys will give their all and make sure Renown have to work if they want a chance at a win.

On a personal note I would like to express my thanks to all the U12 parents and players for their messages of support for Max. It has lifted his spirits (and mine) and shown us all what a close knit team and community we have built together. I wouldn't want to coach anyone else and Max wouldn't want to play with anyone else. Thank you all so much.

The show must go on so let's go out and show Renown what the best team in the competition can do. Well done boys.

Over 35's Leaguetag Brighton Seagulls 22 Kingsgrove Colts 24

Our Over 35's league tag team had a great game against Kingsgrove Colts with the final score being 20-18.

Special shout out to the following players -

3 points to Ashro for keeping the opposition honest all game with his attacking flare all over the park.
2 points to our fullback Hasan for continuously keeping our defensive line in check with explosive runs every set.

1 point to Lee finishing with the amazing attack down the right side - was good to see.

It was a great turn out for our over 35's and we look forward to the next game!!





Brighton Seagulls JRLFC

DRAW - ROUND 2 SATURDAY 25TH JULY

Team	Opponent	Ground	Time	Sponsors
U6	Kogarah Cougars	Scarborough Park	9 am	
U7	Kogarah Cougars	Scarborough Park	9:50 am	
U8	Hurstville Renown	Scarborough Park	10 am 10:20 am	HARLOW SLOAN <small>HMB</small>
U9	Renown	Renown Park	10:50 am	
U10	BYE			
U11	Kogarah Cougars	Scarborough Park	11:50 am	
U12	Renown	Scarborough Park	12:50 pm	
Over 35 Leagues tag	De La Salle	Scarborough Park	1:50 pm	







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U6	Kogarah Cougars	Scarborough Park	9 am	
U7	Kogarah Cougars Kogarah Cougars	Scarborough Park	9:50 am 9:50 am	
U8				HARLOW SLOAN HAIR
U9				
U10				
U11				
U12				