

AUGUST, 2020 • VOL. 55. ISSUE 4

# THE SEAGULL FLYER

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



## SEAGULLS FIRST AWAY GAMES THIS SEASON

The Seagulls enjoyed their first away games this season with most teams playing at Bexley Oval last weekend.

Congratulations to Riley Matthews of the U12's on reaching his 100 game milestone!!

Have a great weekend of games!!



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# MATCH REPORTS

## SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

### U6



Well done Brighton Seagulls U6s Player of the match, Leonidas!

First game of rugby league today. If today's game was any indication, he has a bright future ahead.



### U7

Report yet to be submitted.



Tries: AJ 5, Dennis 2, Adem 1, Natalea 1    Converted goals: 6

It was a beautiful sunny morning at Bexley Oval on Saturday and U8 team was ready to take the challenge against Hurstville United.

Our boys and girls were training extra hard this week to fill in the missing gaps. It was a pleasure to watch our team play with confidence, control and team play. Communication was the key to this game.

Holding their positions all players had an important job to do. In the first quarter we seen Elijah's quick stepping and fast running making up meters for the team while AJ and Dennis scored the first 2 tries converting both goals. The Hurstville team was playing strong in attack but they couldn't simple go past Adem, Luchiano and Natalea.

In the second quarter Natalea ran with a bang scoring a try followed by 2 more tries from fast runner AJ and quick stepper Adem.

What a game ... the excitement was even bigger at this stage and the kids wore even more hungry for a win. Hamudi was there to help out again and he played his heart out ... well done and thank you.

In the last two quarters Hassan Noah was putting his body on the line with strong tackles and great runs . Hurstville team just couldn't get Luchiano down, with his strength he just keep pushing players out of his way. Dennis had a great run with quick stepping but unlucky he knocked on... he didn't give up without a fight he played the ball again scoring the last try for the day.

All of our boys and girls did a great job and I can keep talking about how awesome each and everyone is !!! Well done everyone. Thank you parents for coming on time in the morning and supporting the kids - they are a true Champions. Thank you coach Luke and trainer Angie for doing a great job.

Player of the Match - Dennis Meintanis



## **U9** Brighton Seagulls 48 v Hurstville United 16

Report yet to be submitted.





## U10 Brighton Seagulls 40 v Kingsgrove Colts 34

Tries: Nathanael Tavana (2) Stelios Mougios (5)

Goals: Christian Matsas, Dylan Kotevski, Luca Barbato, Nathanael Tavana, Romeo Nasr, Stelios Mougios.



It was a glorious winter morning for the Seagull's U10's game at Riverwood Park against the Kingsgrove Colts. Everyone was keen to warm up and start the game with a 3,2,1 – Seagulls (loud and proud cheer).

With a full side and 3 on the bench, the first quarter started with Kingsgrove scoring and converting in the first minutes. This created a fire in the Seagulls as they worked to get the ball with JTairik pushing through the defence making up metres for Stelios to score the first try, followed by a conversion. Mateja and JTairik continued to get the ball up the field receiving some hard tackles, resulting in Nathanael getting the ball over the try line followed by Luca B kicking the conversion.

Second quarter started with Dylan giving an amazing tackle though with the Colts trailing, they pushed hard through the Seagull's defence and scored though missing the conversion. Christopher showed determination as he, along with Dylan, Romeo and the two Luca's making their way up the field. Stelios was determined to get the ball over the try line and pushed off multiple defenders to score. Dylan's kick for conversion saw the quarter end at 18 v 14.

After the drinks break, the Seagulls brought on Gabriel, Jazzie and Peter from the bench. Jazzie was straight into the game, stopping a play. With the fresh players on, both Gabriel and Peter powered through some hard tackle making up some yards as well as Greg. The game continued with Stelios scoring with Romeo converting. Kingsgrove was determined to catch up with a try and goal bringing the score to 24 v 22. But this was not for long as the Seagulls made their way up the field, Jazzie took a tap receiving a hard tackle though it followed with a try and conversion from Nathanael.

The fourth and last quarter saw Romeo run hard into the Colt's defence receiving the first tackle with Mateja also running hard and receiving some hard tackles. Kingsgrove scored, then Stelios scored again.

It was becoming like a cat and mouse game as Kingsgrove scored one more time bringing the score to level 34 v 34 with only two minutes remaining. With Seagulls in possession of the ball, they tackled hard into the Colts defence with Stelios making the last and winning try for the game with Christian making a beautiful goal resulting in the final score of 40 v 34.

Great win, well done Seagulls!

Congratulations to Stelios Mougios for the well deserved Man of the Match.



## U11 Brighton Seagulls 18 v Hurstville United 30

**Raine & Horne**  
Rockdale

A new month and a new game providing us with a fresh start and a chance to move on from the disappointments of the previous games played so far this year.

Our first away game this season and I think the parents were relieved as we would not need to set up\pack up do BBQ or canteen duty.

For the kids on the other hand it was a just a canteen that wasn't as good as our home ground and a cricket pitch in the middle of the field. Luckily due to the rain it would be a little softer than the usual road that it is.

The team looked ready before the game and after a pump up behind the goal posts it was time to take the field and take on the Hurstville team.

The Seagulls accepted the kick off and it was game on. With the slow starts that we have encountered so far it was time for us to start with a bang, and did we what. Our captain Alex stepped to the mark grabbed the ball and with a brilliant show and go sliced straight through and scored a brilliant try under the posts.

Our defence in the first quarter was almost everything that we asked for, the boys were making an effort to come up off the line and we had numerous plays in the in goal where we were able to hold Hurstville up over the line. Highlighted by Adam and Mohammad Ali and a team effort to hold up Anna over the try line which is a great effort considering how powerful she is.

After pulling himself off his sick bed to ensure he would not let his team mates down Leo was able to extend our lead with a great run down the short side fending off the opposition at will to score try only he could. Slotting over the conversion to boot Leo extended our lead to 12-0.

The team had some great contributions from Kobe- hitting the ball up strongly and pushing up hard in defence, Bukhosi with his grinding runs and Jason building on top of the platform being laid before him.

In the backs Adam Roman and Mohammad Ali were busy being backed up well by Omar and Rob.

Crisp service from dummy half by Cooper ensured the time and space was available to the team to head off in the right direction.

After the Break the boys would be kicking off. After a brilliant kick there was an opportunity to trap Hurstville in goal and although the chase was good Hurstville were able to claw their way back out. The effort was still there the end polish just was quite.

With Hurstville hitting the lead for the first time in the match it was time to knuckle down with Leo hitting the ball up flicking a lovely offload to Mohammad Ali and then on to Bukhosi who again dragged the opposition along for the ride we were trying to claw our way back.

With the fight back on Alex again went to the line with another neat dummy and forced his way over for another try in the corner. With Adam slotting a great conversion under pressure the boys were back in front and heading towards a win.

The race to the finish would unfortunately see Hurstville eventually coming on top for the day. It was not a lack of effort that was the difference today it was more the fact that we moved away from what was working for us.

The moving up in defence along with line speed, the set structure that we work on at training. The effort is there from each player but now we need to put that effort together and work harder as a team both at training and out on the field.

Our boys are getting closer to the victory and everyone's support is really appreciated.

Quitters never win and Winners never quit. I know our team won't quit and we will be back next week to give it another red hot go. 1-2-3 SEAGULLS

Coaches award – Bukhosi, ran strong and put his body in front in defence.

Player of the Match – Leo, climbed off his sick bed and gave everything he had and a whole lot more.



Tries: Jayden Rawson (2), Matthew Martin, Mak Ilievski, Aydin Kocak

Goals: Hugh Somers

Our first away game of the season saw the mighty Under 12's take on Hurstville United at Bexley Oval.

Coming off a near perfect performance against renown in Round 2, the boys were looking to cement a position at the top of the table and ensure our skipper, Riley "Tooves" Matthews would remember his 100 th game for the club with a victory. The boys started well with a try to in form centre Matthew Martin in just the second minute. Our conversion was missed, but the Seagulls were up and away! 4-0.

But after a sharp start, a hint of arrogance crept into our attack. We dropped plenty of ball and our passes missed their mark. Suddenly we were well into the match and our 4-0 lead was looking far from being enough. But, of course, "Wonder Woman" was on hand to rescue the situation with Jayden crossing in the ninth minute. Hugh Somers added the extras and it was 10-0 Seagulls.

But our attack kept faltering. Offloads were pushed. Long passes went to ground. Sometimes even short passes went to ground. It seemed the boys couldn't quite find their mojo. It wasn't until the eighteenth minute that Mak Ilievski was able to find himself supporting after a strong line break. Receiving the ball from Matthew Martin, Matt jinked off a big left foot step to find himself in space and ran away to score. At 14-0 the boys took the half time oranges in control of the match but far from home.

Again, the game featured plenty of questionable penalties against us while our opponents seemed to be able to go unchecked in comparable areas of the game. There was still plenty of work to do, and the boys were going to have to do it without any help.

Whilst our attack was sputtering our defence was holding firm. Noah Williams and Chaise Lio were busy in defence, bundling the ball carrier into touch in the corner on three separate occasions. When it comes to "pride in the line" these boys have been head and shoulders above the rest. So far this season in just 2 and a half matches they have been responsible for shutting down 6 potential try scoring plays and are together a big reason that we have conceded just two tries all year.

Others were showing their commitment to a nil score line too. Our defence failed in our own territory and Hurstville were away. When most would have put the cue in the rack, Mak Ilievski and Riley Matthews showed the character that is defining this team, turning and chasing what appeared to be a lost cause. Mak was holding his own but struggling to make ground. None the less he kept chasing. Staying in the play. Giving himself a chance. Meanwhile Riley Matthews was in pursuit with the turbo chargers on. Gaining on Mak and therefore the ball carrier Riley kept pushing, kept in the play. When Mak pulled out to give Riley a clear passage, "Tooves" gave us another example of his defensive capabilities, bringing the man down after a 60 metre chase. It was exceptional commitment and a true "footballers" play. With the score at 14-0 it closed the door on any thoughts of a second half Hurstville revival.



Our attacking woes continued, and it wasn't until the 27 th minute that we managed to get back on the board. "Wonder Woman" slicing through the defence for his second try. 18-0 Seagulls.

Aydin Kocak ran strongly through the second half and was rewarded in the 33 rd minute with a strong surge close to the line bringing up his maiden try of the season. 22-0 Seagulls.

A much improved Hurstville, together with a clunky attack made our boys work all match for their points. In the last minute Jake Kotevski broke through four tackles to find the line.

Unfortunately, his first effort saw the ball hit the post before being grounded. His subsequent grounding was ruled a double movement in a poor decision as the siren sounded.

While our attack wasn't absolutely on song the boys were looking to play expansive footy all match. Trying to use all the attacking weapons at our disposal was good football but some patience and remembering to respect our opposition is essential if we want to maximise points. There were still plenty of bright spots again and plenty to like.

Defensively the story was similar. Our line didn't always move up as one. Their big men made a few breaks and we are still getting the hang of the three man tackle. In years past the combination of attack and defence on display may well have seen us in trouble.

However, the attitude defensively could not be faulted. The willingness of these boys to give 100% efforts on every play is fast becoming a feature of the boys game and this week it was the difference between a comfortable win and a difficult day in the office.

Matthew Martin has been at home in the left centre position this season. Yet again his defence was impeccable, and he is showing a real knack for getting his hands on the ball and

making a difference in attack. This week he nabbed himself a try and a try assist taking his tally to three tries and two try assists in the last two matches. His performance made him a worthy man of the match recipient. Well done Matt.

Jake "The Big Show" Kotevski and Jayden Rawson have formed a lethal partnership in the back row. Defensively their work rate is massive with every hit jarring their opponents. In attack they operate like a well oiled machine. Putting each other through holes on the edges seems to be done at will and while our attack was faltering all match, the Jake Jayden

combination continued to trouble the defence and was responsible for the breaks that led to four of our five tries. The pair have added real starch to the forwards and have turned in consummate performances all year for us. Great work boys.

"The Galloping Greek", Peter Kokontis is showing no signs of letting up from his explosive start to the season. Up against a bigger harder running pack this week, Peter showed he is ready willing and more than able in defence and hit the ball up hard in attack. His performance saw him play his first full game without replacement in more than three seasons and he is fast becoming one of our most valuable assets. Well done Pete. We're all loving watching seasons of hard work come together for you on the footy field.

Hugh Somers has been great for us all year and while some of his passes didn't quite find their mark this week, he made sure we got the job done. It wasn't always easy though. Too often the ball wasn't on his chest forcing him to adjust to make the play. It's a tough day for a half back when he isn't getting clean service but the best rise above it and Hugh is certainly one of the best. Our poor hands meant we only got to our kick twice all match.

Hughey was on the money with both – a grubber near the try line saw Hurstville forced to restart a metre out from their own line, and later, a quality touch finder got us out of trouble after a tough set. A real thinking mans footy player, Hugh as always uses his brain in attack and his guts in defence, holding our left edge beautifully again all match. Well done Hugh.

Aydin Kocak might just have worked out why he is so suited to footy. This week Aydin seemed to be looking to assert his dominance on the field through some of his best hard running yet. Watching him bump off defenders with each run this week was exciting as we saw a glimpse of what is likely to be a very effective front rower in the future. His try was a credit to his strength and his commitment to developing his footy. In defence Aydin was a willing worker and does really well to be around the play and able to make the tackles required in the middle. Always looking to do his job in attack or defence Aydin is going from strength to strength each week. Great work Aydin.

After being unable to play in the first two matches of the year “The Ball of Steel”, Deyan Bugarcic made a grand entrance to the 2020 rugby league season. Deyan got himself involved early and ran hard and straight for valuable meters. He combined with Riley on the edge for a strong twenty five metre run swatting away three defenders and his regular hit ups all gained us ten metres plus. More importantly Deyan is working on his defence and making sure he makes his tackles. His positional play was excellent and his communication with team mates in the defensive line shows he is becoming more and more at home on the footy field. Last year saw glimpses into the footy future of Deyan and Saturday showed us last year was no fluke. Excellent first hit out Deyan. No doubt there will be plenty more to come.

Mak Ilievski had another full game at fullback and already is growing into the role. Mak put an early error behind him and got on with his footy. Smart support played bagged him his second try of the season.

Early in the tackle count he defends strongly up in the line before dropping back for the kick. Mak fielded the ball from kicks well for the remainder of the game including a really nice take on the full from a roosting kick down field. Add to that his effort on every play and Mak looks set to make the position his own. Really good work Mak. Your attitude to training really spills onto the field on game day and your improvement continues week to week. Excellent work.

Hadi El-Husseini backed up a man of the match performance with another huge defensive effort this week. Again, at dummy half Hadi worked well with Hugh and is slotting in to the team beautifully. Still working on his passing after 4 years out of the game, Hadi is only going to get better every week – and he’s already pretty damn good. Well done Hadi.

Josh “The Engine Room” Gauci and Abdallah Agha look like they’re starting to find their 2020 footy feet with vastly improved performances. Both boys have struggled to get involved so far this season, but both started showing what they are capable of. More tackles were made, and their runs had that little bit of punch they were lacking in recent weeks. A few more miles in the legs and both will be back to their best for the run towards a possible third grand final appearance. Good work boys. Keep looking to get involved and your skills will speak for themselves in no time.

Abbas Saleh has struggled with a stomach complaint, but this week saw him manage his first full game of the season. Unfortunately, our misfiring attack meant Abbas, like Noah didn't see the ball on the wing but nonetheless his defence out wide was impeccable. Our attack failed our wing men this week, but our wing men didn't fail our team, their defensive efforts a key to the nil score line. It was great to see you get through a full game Abbas and we'll get you time back in dummy half as soon as we can mate.

Jordan "The Axe" Postin does what Jordan always does. Gets everything he is involved with right. Targeted by the opposition kick off in the second half Jordan secured the ball beautifully, giving us a much needed successful kick off return. Again, Jordan along with Abbas and Noah didn't get any opportunity from our disjointed attack. Again, he took it on the chin and went about working in defence for his team. Well done Jordan.

Our skipper Riley Matthews was impressive all game. When the forwards looked tired Riley would jump in and make three or four tackles in a row before getting back to lead our right edge defence. When our defence failed our fearless leader chased to preserve our line. In attack Riley makes opportunities for his outside men. This week he started running forwards on his outside drawing and passing to put Deyan into space for strong meters.

Another consummate performance from Riley in his 100 th game for the club - the under 12's second centurion. Congratulations on your achievement Riley, and congratulations on another fine game.

If our match against Renown showed the skill and class of the boys, this week was an exhibition of grit and effort. Far from our most convincing win, the match showed a flint like attitude from our boys to get them home. Its always nice to watch a slick performance. But as a coach, the measure of a team is their ability to maintain composure when things aren't quite coming together. The performance showed a team hungry for success and the boys are clearly maturing into hard edged footy players. Winning ugly is what the classy teams do, and these boys are showing week in week out that they are among the classiest going around.

Really good job boys. Kingsgrove this week will be another step up, but I have no doubt you'll take them in your stride. 3 from 3. Let's make it 4 from 4.



# Over 35's Leaguetag

Brighton Seagulls 12 v Gymea Gorillas 44

With no reserves at the game the men's team were tested, facing Gymea, who's team consisted of many ex nrl players and one that had played for Australia, the men knew it was going to be a hard game. Within the first 10 mins of play you could sense that Gymea knew that our guys were not going to give up and had already subbed off 3 players.

Hassan blew them away with his speed and agility and made the first try for our team, making the conversion also. With spirits lifted the men still didn't give up all playing the full 50 mins with no chance of taking a break.

Steve and Peni played their first game of the season and safe to say there efforts were outstanding !! Always forces to come across Bman, Arthur & Pat stopped many of Renown players gaining that extra yard on the field, Jason M took many dives and tags throughout the game with Josh close on the feet to any player trying to get past him.

The enthusiasm and commitment from the team on Saturday was consistent from every player for the full 50 mins. One player throughout the game was a stand out to coach, Andy, awarded man of the match receiving a voucher for Mikes Bar & Grill Engadine!!

Although we didn't come out with a win this week, the team is going from strength to strength each game and I am sure that a win is on the horizon!!!!

Special mention... The team wishes one of our players Astro and his partner a big CONGRATULATIONS on the up and coming arrival of their baby - we cant wait to see them in a Seagulls Jersey



Note - Reports submitted after the cut off may be added to the newsletter at a later date.





# Brighton Seagulls JRLFC



## Draw Round 4 Saturday 8th August

RamsgateRSL

Team	Opponent	Ground	Time	Sponsors
U6	Kingsgrove Colts (Red)	Beverley Hills Park	9:50am	
U7	Kingsgrove Colts	Beverley Hills Park	10:40am	
U8	Arncliffe Scots	Beverley Hills Park	9:40am	HARLOW SLOAN HAIR
U9	Kingsgrove Colts (Red)	Beverley Hills Park	10:00am	
U10	Renown	Renown Park	10:40am	
U11	Kingsgrove Colts	Beverley Hills Park	12:40pm	
U12	Kingsgrove Colts	Beverley Hills Park	1:40pm	
Over 35 Leaguetag	Kurnell Stingrays	Todd Park	1:00pm	