

JULY, 2020 • VOL. 55. ISSUE 3

THE SEAGULL FLYER

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



SEAGULLS IN THE MIST

The mist rolled in over Scarborough Park as the sun came up and our dedicated volunteers set up for another day of home games.

Thankyou to those who helped on the day - especially first timers in the canteen.

Good luck for this weeks games.



ABMS Construction
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Ramsgate**RSL**

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PRESIDENT**

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DRAW



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another successful day of home games last Saturday at our home venue of Scarborough Park. Thank you to those Committee members and parents who set up the ground in the early hours and helped throughout the day.

I understand the difficulties of operating in these times with the required protocol we are expected to follow, however the Club still needs to operate a canteen & BBQ to allow necessary funds to be made. When we have home matches the Club requests the support of parents via team rosters. So far support to these rosters have been poor and I ask all of our parents in future weeks to please give it more attention.

Also can team Managers support the request for match reports to be sent to Kayleen by the cut off. Our players and parents look forward to their team report each week. If managers find it difficult to submit a report each week then just delegate it to another member of the team!

May I also convey best wishes to Under 11 Team member Michael Elhage who suffered an injury on the weekend. I hope your recovery is swift Michael.

Bruce Hartley
Club President

MATCH REPORTS

SATURDAY 25TH JULY

U6

Another mighty effort by our newly formed under 6's team for 2020. We played Kogarah Cougars at home and made everyone watching us feel proud!!!

Ali scored a try and ran straight and hard the whole game.

Lucas scored three tries showcasing his amazing ability to change his running direction to fool the defence.

Kobi in his first season also scored three tries, catching the ball on the full from the kickoff and running around everyone.

Mohamad scored a try and tackled like a master. He even backed up to help the under 7's.

Maximus is getting more and more involved with every week.

Harvey congratulations on being named captain of the team for the game. You were involved in everything.

Conner has the longest run of the game, almost scoring on the day before his 5th birthday.

Suburu is always ready and willing to help and get involved.

Xavier has several runs and is getting closer to scoring.

Thankyou to Bay Vista for the Player of the Match \$50 voucher.

Player of the Match: Round 1 - Harvey. Round 2 - Lucas.



U7

Report not yet submitted.



Tries : Adem 2 , AJ 1.

Feeling Disappointed after last week game U8 team trained very hard during the week to reverse last week game and came back with a bang!!! Despite we only had seven players on field in the first 2 quarters our boys and girls played as a team helping each other with great defence and fast attack. Our fast runner AJ showed his skills scoring a try and putting his body on line for every tackle. Adem was also the star of the day with his quick stepping scoring 2 tries. Noah, Dennis, Natalea, Luchiano and Elijah was always there to support the team with great tackles ,strong defence and great Communication. Hurstville team did not stand a chance.

Tries : Dennis 1 , AJ 2, Natalea 1, Adem 1.

Goals: Dennis 1, Natalea 1 , Adem 1, AJ 1.

Big thank you to Mouhamed from U7 for helping out in the second 2 quarters against Penshurst. Brighton Seagulls absolutely smashed it with confidence. Natalia and Elijah were absolutely awesome in some tackles pushing Penshurst players out of the line, while Luchiano was clocking some meters every time he had a run getting the team closer to the try line. Hussein Noah and Dennis hold their positions through the game showing great skills with fast running ,strong defence and attack.

As a parent and manager I am super proud for our team. The time and effort all off us parents has put in is so little but so big at the same time. Seeing their happiness and achievement after the game is priceless. Thank you to every single one of you.

Player of the Match: Adem Gradinaj

U9 Brighton Seagulls 0 v Renown White 36



We turned up at Renown on Saturday morning knowing that we were playing a much stronger team then the week before.

Renown are a well drilled side with intelligent players.

We talked all week about completing our sets and holding our defensive line. We did none of the things we should have.

We conceded from the kickoff and never recovered. With the ball we looked like we were trying to run into their markers rather than to run into the space. We once managed to run all 6 plays to the left-hand side when all the play the balls were on the left. The right was open, and no player managed to run right.

Haney, Hamzi and Jerome managed to hold the middle with some good strong tackles. We were grabbing instead of hitting in the tackles. Our line was not coming up together and Renown's fast players were able to run through the gaps. We let the Renown players get in our heads and hopefully we learn the lessons from this game.

The good point is that we know we can play a lot better than that and we must turn up and perform against Hurstville next Saturday.

Haney got our man of the match for his strong runs and big tackles.

As Dream sang in the 90's - Things can only get better!

U10 Brighton Seagulls – BYE



U11 Brighton Seagulls 18 v Kogarah Cougars 28

After a gritty loss against Penshurst in round 1 which saw the Mighty Seagulls almost snatch victory it was time for the Kogarah Cougars to enter our home ground. With the Cougars not being involved in our competition for a few seasons the boys were unaware of what to expect.

With a key loss to the playing ranks I was interested in how the team would respond. After a solid defensive line from the first set lead by Leo, Adam, Cooper and Roman the team was holding well through the middle and edges of the ruck. With the Cougars being held in these areas they would test their luck with a short kicking game. The Cougars produced a smart grubber in behind the advancing defence to score first points in the corner. The mongrel of a bounce was able to split Alex and Roman with the opposition flying through and latching onto the scraps. The Seagulls looked to lay a strong foundation through the middle with the likes of Michael, Kobe, Bukhosi and Jason having strong runs. Unfortunately due to silly errors with ball in hand the opposition was able to claw back the ascendancy and produce further points much to the despair of the crowd. When Michael left the field with a bleeding nose it looked like we may be in for a long day.

The Team came into the first break a little rattled by the tactics that were being employed by the opposition. Last week the Mighty Seagulls were taught a lesson in courage and who wants to win more, this week we were being taught a lesson in aggression even though it was not being used in the correct manner by the Cougars.

The second quarter was again fought out in the same manner with the Cougars taking further ascendancy due to mistakes and handling mishaps. Leo again led the way with his strong defence and proving pivotal in attack with his silky hands, power running and sneaky off loads. Alex was elusive as always and Adam was working well in his Fullback roll in attack.

One of the moments for me of the first half had nothing to do with scoring tries it was a diving cover tackle produced by Roman which saw him in combination with his team mates bring down a certain try scoring opportunity. It highlighted that the work we completed during the week on tackling from behind was really starting to hit the mark.

Although the scoreboard was against the team the effort was still there to be seen. Our line speed in defence was the major difference between the two sides. Once we work out that we can cut down the opposition's time with the ball by moving up off the line we will give ourselves even more of a chance to bring home the win.

Raine&Horne.
Rockdale

The second Stanza saw the vests changed with Leo and Roman taking charge and although the team tried hard the half was unfortunately marred by an injury to our favourite front rower and world's biggest winger Michael. Thankfully Michael's injury was not due to any foul play from our counterpart's just bad luck and a relapse of a previous break. As tough as he is Micko never flinched after the incident. I would like to thank the first Aiders that helped Michael from the field and also the support his team gave him once he made it back to his feet. Michael will be sadly missed on the field although not entirely lost to the team. I am hoping that he will accept my initiation of being the stats guru for the boys. Commentator maybe more up his alley as we all know he loves a chat.

As everyone is trying hard out on the field at the moment I would like to write a couple of words for each member of the team. We may not have registered a win yet but that does not mean we are not trying at training and out on the field. I am extremely proud of the boys, and proud of how tough they all are playing a game that requires not only great skill but courage that only a few possess.

In Jersey order:

1. Roman – Missed the first week due to school holidays but came back this week to wear the pink vest. Worked hard in defence and supported well while we were in possession. Great to have around at training always willing to compete.
2. Mohammad Ali – Loves the contact and is always putting his hand up for work whether it is in attack or defence. His kick chase has been a highlight of the opening 2 weeks.
3. Robert – Only came back in the week before our first game. A flyer on the wing but it has been his defence that has really impressed the coaching staff. Looking forward to a few more bone rattlers this year like the one that was pulled off during this weeks game.
4. Omar – His cousin maybe gone but our Omar is still with us and are we glad about that. The smiling assassin he has picked up another yard of pace over the off season and looking to use it whenever he can.
5. Position currently vacant
6. Alex – Our captain, Looking dangerous as always edging closer to the magical 100 game mark. Leading from the front and pushing those around him.
7. Adam – Energetic as always, has been trying out a new role so far this year and has been excelling. Dangerous with the ball in hand and providing some great defensive efforts throughout the first 2 games. Grabbed man of the match honours in today's game.
8. Michael – Off the back fence as usual he picked up where he left off last season. A disappointing end to the season for Mick he will be sorely missed on the field although not lost to the team. Looking forward to him joining the coaching staff as the stats guru.
9. Cooper – Solid at dummy half as always, was a little gun shy with his running during the first game although picked it up against the Cougars. Showed great resilience to stay on the field after taking a battering during the first half.
10. Position currently vacant
11. Leo – Was provided with an opportunity at first receiver this season and although still finding his feet he has done a great job so far. Man of the match in the first game his defence complements his ball skills. Looking forward to watching Leo develop over the season. Even though he likes to palm the opposition defenders off like flies his speed has improved immensely over the off season.

12. Jason – Our only debutant this year, Jason has been a great addition to the team. Really started to find his feet during the second game with some big runs and great defence. Always great to have around training and eager to put his hand to have a go whether it is during the game or out on the field.

13. Kobe – Played his first game since before last year's semi-final. Kobe was missed in the middle of the park last week. Had a real go during this week's game, was great to see him back out there with the boys. Always gives his all at training, we will need him fit and ready with the loss of mad Micko.

14. Bukhosi – A real pleasure to have around the team. Always keen to learn and asks as many questions as possible during training. Hands down the best dancer in the team, look out if we have another Seagulls Disco this year. Has really come on in leaps and bounds during the short preseason that we had.

Hold your heads high boys the first victory is only around the corner and will be sweeter than any red frog you have ever eaten from the canteen.

1-2-3 SEAGULLS

U12 Brighton Seagulls 42 v Renown 4

ExpressTransport
AUSTRALIA

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

Williams, Peter Kokontis, Riley Matthews, Chaise Lio. Goals: Jayden Rawson, Chaise Lio, Jake Kotevski

After a shortened opening round victory, the mighty Under 12's were back at Scarborough Park for round two against an unknown quantity in Renown United. Renown had not fielded a team in this age group since taking out the Under 9 Premiership in 2017 and we had no idea of what to expect.

We didn't expect to be in trouble from the kick off but we were, knocking on and surrendering possession. The boys defended the error well before getting the ball back.

We didn't expect to knock on from our first run, but we did.

The extra pressure put upon ourselves gave Renown possession deep in our territory and they were quick to pounce, scoring in the second minute. The conversion was missed and it was 4-0 Renown.

The start was less than impressive, and improvement was desperately needed. No one saw what the Under 12's had coming! From that point on the Seagulls looked to be in an exhibition of footy. The remaining 38 minutes were as close to the perfect game of football as these boys have ever played. Defence was crushing. Excellent ball movement saw tries coming in all parts of the field. Renown never looked to be in the game.

Two minutes of mistake free football saw us draw level through a try to Matt Martin. Again, the kicks from out wide were problematic and it was 4-4 after 4 minutes. The game ebbed and flowed for the next five minutes but the Seagulls defence was sound. An attempted last tackle kick from Renown was scooped up by Jayden Rawson who sprinted 90 metres to score. Converting his own try, Jayden put us in front 10-4 after 9 minutes.

Three minutes later the class of the Seagulls started to really tell. Easy metres with the ball saw us on the Renown line on our last tackle. Enter Hugh Somers - halfback, tactical genius. Seeing an overlap out wide Hugh opted for a long flat cut out pass rather than a kick. His pass found its mark in Matt Martin who broke the line before passing to Mak Ilievski for a try. Another missed conversion had the score at 14-4 after 12 minutes.

The left hand side had tries to their name and the boys on the right were ready to enter the fray. In the fifteenth minute Chaise got the ball in his hands in some space and toyed with multiple defenders before delivering an excellent last pass to the ever ready Noah Williams to score in the corner. 15 minutes gone and it was 18-4 Seagulls.

Then "The Galloping Greek" struck for the second week in a row. A strong run and a great fend saw Peter Kokontis replicate his stunning try from week one, again breaking the defence on half way and racing 50 metres to score his second try of the season. Kicking hadn't been our friend this half and the 22-4 half time score could have been so much worse for a seriously out gunned Renown.

The second half was only four minutes old when Jayden "Wonder Woman" busted the line mid field and streaked away to score his second try. His partner in crime Chaise Lio added the extras and it was 28-4 Seagulls.

In his first full outing at five eighth, Riley "Tooves" Matthews capped a solid performance with a try in the 28 th minute and it was 32-4.

Matthew Martin had a stellar day out and wasn't finished yet. His second try came in the 32 nd minute and it was 36-4.

Chaise Lio backed up his first half try assist with a try of his own to open his account for the 2020 season. Jake added the extras and the boys ran out 42-4 winners in a truly entertaining game of footy.

In a game where so much enterprising attack was on display, it was the strength of the defensive effort across the park that really left an indelible print in the minds of the Seagulls faithful.

The line was always moving up as one. Two and three man tackles were the order of the day. Most impressive though was the ferocity of the defence. Contact was always heavy. The sounds of bodies smashing were ringing out across the ground. Even after a slew of 5 first half penalties, Renown were unable to breach the defence from the second minute onwards.

Jake "The Big Show" Kotevski partnered well in the forwards with Jayden Rawson. Both were exemplary in defence, both in terms of workload and intensity in tackles. Both boys had been strong in our shortened season opener and a full game showed the ability of these two to really dominate in the middle. Excellent work boys.

"The Galloping Greek", Peter Kokontis played a truly inspirational match. Footy has been a big learning curve for this bloke but he persists and wants to be the best. And he's getting damn close. After receiving Man of the Match honours in Round 1, Peter backed it up with a real strong performance. Another line break and sprint to score was great to see, but nowhere near as good as his 15 tackles in the first half. Peter is fast becoming the must have starter for our pack and his commitment has been exceptional. Keep it up Peter, you're becoming one of our teams biggest assets.

This week's man of the match in theory could have gone to anyone. We scored nine tries. We had 7 different try scorers. We saw beautifully timed passes. We saw plays based on vision and reaction. There were so many things to like in our attack. Our defence was so strong across the park that most of the time we only conceded 20 metres per defensive set. We absorbed 5 first half penalties and never cracked. But through all this was one constant - every set of defence was characterised by real hard crunching, heavy impact defence from Hadi El-Husseini. It was one of the most forceful defensive efforts from a single player I have witnessed in junior rugby league and has set a standard for our team. Hadi was playing his first game at dummy half and passed with flying colours. He provided real starch in defence that fed the other boys and his service to Hugh was high quality. Congratulations Hadi. I said last week it was great to have you back. This week I'm ecstatic. Great game! Hugh Somers as always led our defensive line on the left and organised our plays. Hugh's defence is probably the most reliable aspect of our game and his attacking flair - passing, kicking or running, has delivered many a fine result for the Seagulls. His game is of a very high standard week in week out. His decision not to kick on the last, but to pass instead, showed real vision and quick thinking that sets him aside from many others in the half back role. His first game with a new five eighth outside him didn't phase him. The team ran like clockwork as usual. Great game Hugh. Keep playing what's in front of you. Your attitude to your game and its development will take you far.

Matthew Martin played in the centres on the left and made a real impact. Two tries and a try assist is a big day at the office for anyone. Add to that some really good defence out wide. Matt dominated his opposites when they had the ball and when he had the ball. We have long read about Chaise in the right centre position, now it looks like we may have found a left side counterpart that will add to our attacking potency on either side of the field. Really strong game Matt. Well done.

Mak "the Mongrel" Ilievski had a full game at full back for the first time. With limited instruction Mak acquitted himself well. His positional play was excellent all game and he showed initiative in chiming in to the backline on a couple of occasions. He created an option for Matt that resulted in his first try of the season through smart positioning and support play. A very sound performance and a promising start in a new position Mak. Well done.

Noah Williams has been working on his defence since coming to the team last year. It has certainly paid off. After two match defining tackles last week, Noah was called on to defend again this week and he did it with ease. But Noah is more than a bloke willing to tackle out wide. He is ever ready in attack regardless of where the ball is. A feature of Noah's play is his determination to be up with the ball even when it's not out his way. By constantly maintaining his readiness, Noah allows his team an option if needed to finish a play. This week his alertness and support play resulted in his first try of the season. Well done Noah. You are fast becoming a high quality, reliable winger - so often a rarity in junior rugby league - but so valuable in a team that wants to be the best they can.

On the other wing Jordan "The Axe" Postin was up to the task. Again, this bloke gave away size and speed to his opponents. Once again he used his skill and technique to fell someone twice his size. Jordan always gives his best effort and this week his defence was again impeccable. The sight of Jordy taking down players twice his size is becoming regular for Seagulls faithful and are reflective of his courage, determination and effort. Excellent job Jordan.

Riley "Tooves" Matthews played his first full game at five eighth earlier than expected after the season ending injury to Max in round one. For years our starting dummy half in the thick of the action, new and different responsibilities in defence could well have seen us caught out. But Riley was on from the word go. He led the right side defence beautifully and was creating opportunities in attack. A nice try saw him open his account for the year and he looks set to form a lethal attacking combination with Hugh and his outside men. Excellent work yet again Riley. Well done.

Chaise Lio is just a very special player. His defence is as close to impenetrable as it can be, and his attacking ability is second to none. Our top try scorer in 2019, Chaise has had limited opportunities this season. Nonetheless he is always on and this week saw him also open his scoring account for the season and deliver a try assist for Noah. Chaise always gives 100 percent for his team and this week saw a real evolution in his attacking game, positioning his outside man well, adding to our attacking potency. Great work from a class act. Well done Chaise.

Abdallah Agha was asked to get more involved on the field and after a quiet debut in round one managed to up his work rate in both attack and defence. Abdallah has some really good technique. 2020 is about getting more involved and so far Abdallah is heading in the right direction. Some nice tackles and a couple of good strong runs were encouraging. Maintaining intensity for longer periods will see Abdallah blossom in 2020. Keep it up Abdallah.

Aydin Kocak took the field for the first time in 2020 and looked set to build on an excellent debut season. The biggest of the big men, Aydin worked hard in the defence line and made a couple of strong runs. Another who will only benefit as he gets more miles in his legs; Aydin is sure to be essential to the teams 2020 campaign. Keep it up Aydin. There will be plenty of opportunity for you throughout the season.

"The Engine Room" Josh Gauci did what Josh Gauci does. He ran hard and straight when his team needed it. He tackled hard in the middle. He got the job done. Josh always looks to get straight into his work and this week was no exception. With the addition of Jake to the forwards, Peter's huge improvement in both skill and workload, Hadi's move to dummy half and the ever present, always dangerous Jayden in the pack, Josh can expect more assistance than he is used to freeing him up to express himself. Josh has been the corner stone of our pack for years and his example has become the standard that all our boys aspire to. Well done Josh. Another tradesman like performance from the leader of our pack. Abbas Saleh has been struggling with a stomach complaint all season but shows real guts at training and on game day each week. This week saw him on the wing in the second half. While there is every reason for him to under perform, Abbas always looks to excel. Effort and courage are hallmarks of his game. This week was quiet for Abbas but nonetheless his defence was sound. Clearly a little unwell Abbas committed to his play and turned in a strong performance under difficult circumstances. Well done Abbas. Take the time you need to get yourself right, because you add options and flair to our team regardless of where you play.

Over all it was a comprehensive display from the boys, who played quality footy across the park. The defensive line looked better than in last year's successful Craig Rimmer Cup campaign, but importantly was characterised by real heavy contact, which the boys have been working on at training.

Ball movement was again exemplary with 5 of our 7 backs scoring tries. The football was damn entertaining to watch and a credit to the hard work you each put in over many years. We will need to be undefeated or damn close to it if we want another Grand Final appearance and the chance to proclaim ourselves the best footy team in St George. With two wins from two matches we are on track and Deyan "the Ball of Steel" Bugarcic still hasn't played!

Boy's this was probably your best game of footy ever in terms of execution and intensity. It is sure to test any opposition. Great work. We have Hurstville this week at Bexley. Let's make it three from three. When you play like this you really showcase the fruits of your hard work and effort. It is a real pleasure to watch.

Over 35's Leaguetag

Brighton Seagulls 0 v De La Salle 26

Report not yet submitted.

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



Draw Round 3

Saturday 1st August

Team	Opponent	Ground	Time	Sponsors
U6	Hurstville (White)	Bexley Oval Micro field 1	9:00am	 INSPIRE · CREATE · DELIVER
	Hurstville (Blue)		9:20am	
U7	Hurstville United	Bexley Oval Micro field 1	10:00am	
U8	Hurstville United	Bexley Oval Mini field 1	9:00am	HARLOW SLOAN HAIR
U9	Hurstville United	Bexley Oval Mini field 1	9:50am	
U10	Kingsgrove Colts	Riverwood Park	11:30am	
U11	Hurstville United	Bexley Oval Mod field 1	10:50am	
U12	Hurstville United	Bexley Oval International field	11:50am	
Over 35 Leaguetag	Gymea Gorillas	Bexley Oval International field	12:50pm	