



U12 Harbour Div 1

Coach – David Hemmings
Manager – Nicole Hayhow

TROPHY WINNERS

Defender of the Year	Nicholas Fischer
Midfielder of the Year	Daniel Gauci
Forward of the Year	Noah Hemmings
Most Improved	Maverick Wells
Leading Goal Kicker	Noah Hemmings

Played - 18

Won - 13

Loss - 4

Draw - 1

Position – 2nd

SEASON SUMMARY:

BACK TO BACK or BACK TO REALITY?

After the ultimate success of winning a Sydney Harbour Div 1 Premiership in 2016 our off-season got off to a flying start. Despite the ordinary weather in Sydney earlier in the year we were able to sneak around ground closures with some stealth training sessions. With the core group of last years team being selected in the Div 1 team again it was also a sign of the age groups strength seeing a number of new players edge out others for a spot in the Div 1's for season 2017.

Our pre-season training weekend in Avoca was a huge team bonding experience with a number of activities including Raw challenge, paddle boarding and battling 15 foot surf during recovery swims. This was also a great opportunity to get to know new teammates and allocate them a nickname. We had Coach Dave's team living the dream in the Penthouse, Thommo looking after the house on the hill with no rules & the Sackay team living in the dungeon.

There was no doubt about the groups hunger to go into the 2017 season ready to defend their title and go BACK to BACK. We hit the ground running and throughout the season played some amazing football never dropping lower than 2nd place during the entire year. We definitely peaked at round 9 beating our arch rivals Manly by mercy rule in a brilliant game of football that would eventually change the course of our season. As we would find out after the Grand Final this game caused Manly to reset their season, recruit other players and drop a number of players down a division.

The season rolled on and like most teams we had a few stumbles, injuries and rough patches however we battled right to the last game of the regular season to finish in 2nd place and give ourselves a double chance in Finals. Who would believe that our Finals campaign would be a replica of 2016. Semi Final we get beat by Manly and once again come up against Willoughby who we beat 69-1 in the 2016 Elimination Final... 2017 would see a fiercer Willoughby Wildcats in an elimination Final we will remember forever with scores drawn at Full time.

This game would prove to demonstrate everything that these boys stand for winning a thrilling game in extra time and a trip back to the Grand Final and an opportunity to go BACK to BACK.



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The Grand Final was another epic battle against our arch rivals MANLY in a game that would see the wind have huge influence over the result. Both teams played their hearts out in a very physical game of footy and despite having the lead going into the final quarter of the GF Manly took advantage of a massive tail wind to beat us in a brilliant Grand Final that would bring our season to a close 1 WIN short of our team goal.

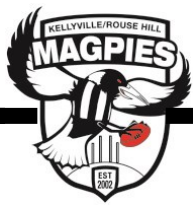
Despite the disappointment I couldn't be prouder of my team of superstars and their sportsmanship at the presentation was outstanding. In all honesty in 2 seasons of division 1 Harbour Football we have played Manly 10 times. Out of 10 games we have only beaten them twice. Once was in the 2016 GF and the other was our mercy rule WIN in 2017. If you asked me if I would be happy for this team to go back to back Grand Finals and be locked at 1 x premiership each with Manly??? Absolutely! What a success the past 2-years has been.

Without big noting this team there is not another team at the club that trains harder than this U12 group. As a team we leave no stone unturned and if you are down at the ground on a Wednesday night you will hear the noise from the group with drills performed and standards well above the age of these players. The entire playing group, parent group and coaching panel are a tight family unit and on a normal Sunday game we would have close to 50 supporters cheering these boys on.

As the head Coach of this team I have enormous pride in my players and the commitment they give each other for 8 months of the season. Each and everyone of my players is tough, loyal, humble, caring and REAL. These boys have personality and most importantly they understand what teamwork is all about. I can't thank the parents enough for supporting the team values that I implement and as we have seen previously if you are a parent who only cares, cheers and wants success for your child then you would not be well suited to playing in this team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their support, banner making, food night, social outings, lollies, oranges and the list goes on and on.

To the siblings I would like to say thanks for giving up your Sunday to support your brother. To the Goal Umpires thanks for waving those flags each Sunday. To my coaching crew including Gav Jones and Scott Eldred I have loved working with you guys and our real joy has been standing on the training paddock on Wednesday nights having a laugh, educating and entertaining this group of bozo's. To my runners Glenn & Anthony you guys have done an amazing job this year helping, encouraging and occasionally ROASTING the players.

To Drinks and A.B words cant describe how grateful I am for your mentoring of these boys during the season and the time you gave up to attend games. Loving thanks to my amazing wife for putting up with me during footy season and to my boys for sharing me and the tough love they get when your Dad is the Coach.



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After a month break from footy I am already excited about what these boys can do in season 2018 and look forward to another brilliant phase of their football development next year. If I have missed thanking anyone then THANKS!





Player Profiles

Jacob Jones – Is the brains of the midfield with a huge bag of tricks. I am most proud of Jacob's ability to develop as a leader this year. When it was time to step up in Finals Jacob was the first to put his hand up to Captain this side and lead them out to battle

Liam Sankey – had a season that presented him with a number of hurdles. Despite his injuries this guy is the ultimate team guy and attended every single training when he was injured. I love Liam's back attitude and witty jokes during training. I am expecting a huge off season and some high flying pack marks in 2018

Angus Lewis – had his best season to date developing into a natural Winger. I was most impressed with the growth in Angus' confidence throughout the season. Absolute pleasure to Coach and the one player that when he would greet me at training would actually ask how I was? Class act GUS..

Caleb Knight – The ROOKIE.. First season of AFL and you land yourself in the top team. What a steep learning curve you went through. Your improvement was amazing in season 2017 and I cant thank your parents enough for their commitment and trust in my coaching. I cant wait to see how much improvement we can get out of you in season 2018

Maverick Wells – Brilliant season as one of our key defenders. Your versatility would allow you to play in multiple positions however I love your commitment to provide us with amazing exit from difficult situations in defence all season long. Do me a favour... find 10kg in the off season.

Lachlan Cardwell – I would like to thank you for your resilience this season. We pushed you, challenged you and demanded you to improve your physicality this year. To your credit you became one of our toughest competitors on the training paddock and this rewarded you with some great games towards the second half of the season.

Jarvis Hemmings – Congratulations on challenging yourself all season long. As a Coach you are one of the players I trust to always take your marks and most importantly stick your head over the ball. You are one of the most accurate kicks in this team and show maturity well beyond your years.

Jack Lyneham – What a season? I guarantee that no one in our team worked harder than you this year. Because of the extra training you put in during your own time your improvement was off the charts. I wish the season could go for another 2-weeks because I seriously think that you developed into one of the toughest players in the entire competition. Absolutely fearless.



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Ethan Hyams – What a pleasure to welcome you to our team during the season. You are a raw footballer with all of the attributes to become a game breaker. Most importantly you are a humble well mannered boy who has fitted into this team perfectly. I am excited at the opportunity of coaching you again next year.

Daniel Gauci – Something special..... and despite your raw talent I would consider you to be the most damaging player in the entire U12 competition. Your team mates respect you and you are the most down to earth 12 year old I have ever met. If I had your ability when I was 12 I would have had the fattest head on the planet. 2018 look out Sydney Harbour!

Riley Mackay – Our very own Tom Papely / Eddie Betts. I love coaching you because you are a natural BIG TIME game player. I truly think full field in 2018 is going to suit you perfectly and I have already visited Sportsbet to back you to kick 50 goals in 2018

Noah Hemmings – Genuinely proud of your commitment and passion to improve this season. You have all the attributes of a traditional full forward and it was great to see you come second in Division 1 for goals scored this season. With a commitment to keep training hard and a huge growth spurt in the off season we look forward to seeing what you can achieve in 2018

Ben Murray – You are a pleasure to coach and one of the most selfless players in the team. I love seeing your attack on the footy and the pride you take in defence. You have done an outstanding job as Captain of the defence this season and I know Glenn and Mick will be picking you as house captain at Avoca in season 2018.

Jesse Eldred – You have only scraped the surface of your capabilities and this year you can hold your head high having the ability to play almost every position in a game of football. Your athleticism is brilliant and I am looking forward to seeing you focus completely on footy in 2018. With your run and jumping ability you provide our team with an X factor next season

Luke Hayhow – It was great to see you challenged this season and when you play your best footy you can do the most amazing acts of brilliance. If your performance in the Cronulla game is anything to go by then your footy future is looking bright and I hope you are bursting with excitement for pre-season.

Nicholas Fischer – It has been a blast coaching you this season. You are well liked by the team and despite that annoying song you sing we love having your energy run off on everyone else. You have been the absolute anchor of our defence and one of the toughest players our opponents have to play on. Looking forward to moving you up the field in 2018.



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K-Dog – You are one of the best body on body marks of the football in this team. Although you can be a wild, loud lunatic at times I know that you are a kid who loves footy more than anything else in life. You always work hard at training and it is an absolute pleasure to Coach you.

Ethan Garcia – What a great season and despite a number of injuries it was goods to see you develop on field resilience this year. You are a natural football player and I look forward to seeing your improvement as part of the Swans Academy in 2018. Your Dad has been voted MVP of the cheer squad for the Finals.

Thanks boys for a great season and I cant wait to get stuck into BIG BOY FOOTY next year on a full field.

Cheers

Coach David

