



The Blast

ISSUE 8, 2011

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From The Committee

There are only 4 more weekends of competition before the start of the semi-finals. To the teams that are still in the hunt for semi final spots, we wish you all the best.

The presentation day for funskills, inhouse and juniors (mixed and girls) is on the 10th of September. Details will be sent to coaches and managers. Lots of prizes to be won on the day.

For the seniors, ladies and premier league players, the end of season dinner is on Friday, the 16th of September at the RSL Club. Details will be sent to coaches and managers. A great way to end the season.

We have indicated to Granville that we are willing to host games for the final series. We will request for assistance from coaches, managers and parents to help make this a great day for visiting teams.

Catch-up Games – Please keep abreast with draws for catch-up games. Any queries, please direct them to our Competition Secretary – Nick Rugg.

Join The Committee – With the end of one season, planning begins for the next. This is where you can help. We need coaches, managers and parents to join our committee to help with tasks that goes with running a soccer club.

Upcoming Events

- **21st Aug – Granville U8 & U9 Gala Day**
- **10th September – Presentation Day (Funskills, Inhouse, Juniors (Mixed and Girls))**
- **16th September – End of Season Dinner for Seniors, Ladies and Premier League**



MATCH REPORTS

FEATURE : *Breast, Ovarian and Prostate Cancer Charity Day*

Castle Hill RSL Rockets raised money for Breast, Ovarian and Prostate Cancer on Monday 13th June.

All Rockets Ladies and Girls team wore pink socks and the Boys wore yellow socks.





MATCH REPORTS

GIRLS & LADIES

U12 Girls Div 1

Round 4: Rockets vs Pendle Hill – Lost 3-0

Summary: Played in atrocious wet condition, again...almost a repeat performance of our game played 24hours before this game.

The incentive for our girls now will be to see how we finish the year. What is becoming obvious to me is that each of our girls is trying to prove how good they are and wont to be. Week after week, each of our girls work tirelessly as individuals, but we also have to remember that soccer is a team sport and results are achieved this way.

However, we mysteriously connected in patches of the game....I wounder if it had anything to do with our new incentive scheme???????

Time will tell.

Highlight:

- Player of The Match was Jamie. Just missed out on this yesterday and proved how good she can really be. (3 points)
- 2 Points was a very close second to being player of the match, Meagan. Found herself starting as sweeper with a great first half and then backed it up in the midfield in the second half. Great all round game. (2 points)
- 1 Point goes to ever improving Monique in goals. Only her fifth game ever and ever now and then pulls of a great save and never gives up.. (1 point)
- Mystery award and proud to say was Jamie and Taylor for a fantastic 1 – 2 play in the second half. Let's see more of this.

Round 10: Rockets vs Castle Hill United – Lost 3-0

Summary: Played in atrocious wet condition, our girls struggled to get into the game against a competition front runner that only fielded 8 players.

The big highlight for our team is that week after week the girls fight right to the end and are constantly looking to get a victory or even recognition of small break throughs. Each week we also we also see a different group of girls to stand up and display their strength in a very difficult competition.

Highlight:

- Player of The Match was Georgia. Georgia has shown what a very knowledgeable soccer player can do when in their chosen specialty position...consistently achieving. (3 points)
- 2 Points was a very close second to being player of the match, Jamie. Loves running with the ball but this time, looked positive from start to finish. Never gave up trying to get in front of the goals (2 points)
- 1 Point goes to ever improving Tenielle. For a tiny younger member of our squad, she has some much up front skill and is always prepared to take on a much larger opposition. One to watch when she gets older...and yes gets taller. (1 point)



MATCH REPORTS

U14 Girls Div 1 - Won 2-1

Round 4 - Rockets vs Beaumont Hills

Summary:

After the disappointment of their Round 10 game on the Sunday being cancelled just as the girls were about to run on to the field they were ready for anything come Monday at Eric Mobbs for their catch up game against Beaumont Hills.

True to form the wet weather kept up and once again the heavens opened with the first kick of the game. In all honesty though, the girls didn't let the down pour phase them one bit and were on the attack straight away.

With Maddie doing a great job in goals for part of the first half and Emma off sick it was Thalia and Gabriella who got the first points on the board, as usual neither disappointed with some relentless attacks at goal and with the addition of some excellent teamwork from our mids – Olivia, Fiona; Stefanie K and Gloria who passed the ball around beautifully Thalia finally scored from an excellent pass across goal from Gabriella.

Heading into the second half we were 1 up but the girls from Beaumont Hills clawed their way back into the game with a nice goal early in to even the match. Our girls had a plan though and positioned themselves nicely with several attempts until Stephanie I found an opening and placed one at the back of the net for our second goal of the game.

Some excellent passing with a slippery ball saw the girls moving the ball between them well and our defenders – Ashleigh; Dominique; Kathryn and Brienna tireless in keeping the Beaumont girls from equalling the score.

A gallant effort by all in miserable conditions – well done girls, a nice win!!

Thanks to the club for organising the fabulous pink socks and Sinali for their donation – the girls looked great on the field for an well deserving cause.

Thanks also to Emma's dad, Matt for stepping in to referee the game and to the dad's who came down early to assist with the ground setup on the cold and rainy morning and Aisha from the 14 2's for stepping up to help out.

Highlight:

Stephanie I's goal in the second half – nailed it in the back of the net after a fantastic assist from Thalia.



MATCH REPORTS

JUNIORS, SENIORS, O35 and PREMIER LEAGUE

Under 9 Mixed Div Yellow

Round 9: Rockets vs Dundas – Won 3-0

Summary: This week's away game with Dundas was one that the Rockets gained the upper hand very early and it stayed that way until the end. In the first half we had the vast majority of possession and pretty much camped inside their half. We've been working on maintaining a 3 attacking – 3 defending team structure that meant effectively we're pressing with 3 upfront against 6 Dundas players. Even with the mismatch in numbers, we continued to press and well rewarded with 2 well taken goals by Julian and Declan. The second half followed the same formula and our attacking pressure lead to another goal for Samer with the game ending with Rockets 3, Dundas 0.

It was really pleasing this week to see the team keeping their structure and looking to pass the ball around. In particular Samer was everywhere in the first half and had some important touches, but after a word at half time settled better and put in some good passes. Andre and Jasmine had some good opportunities on goal and Jayden had another solid game with continued excellent attack on the ball.

Highlight: Declan has been our most sold player all year. It was only fitting he receive our Player of the Match award this week, scoring an excellent goal in the first half and combining really well with the other players both in attack and defence. Well done Declan!

Round 12: Rockets vs Pendle Hill – Won 2-0

Summary: It was great to get the team back onto the pitch after 3 weeks away given our bye and washout last weekend. And given the start of the school holidays, we expected to be missing a few players, which proved to be the case. Although we were still able to field a full team of 7 players, Pendle Hill had even more players away and only had 5 players take the field. The mismatch in numbers meant that the opposition was always going to have a difficult time and sit back in defence. Even with this being the case, our front three of Samer, Julian and Jayden dominated the possession with both Julian and Jayden scoring within the first 5 minutes. Things evened up somewhat for the rest of the first half as a late Pendle Hill player took to the field, but we were still camped in their half, but couldn't break through. Samer had a number of late chances in the half and was unlucky not to score.

We mixed things up in the second half by having Dante, Andre and Abbey up front. Again we dominated but couldn't seem to score. Dante had some great runs but couldn't get that last pass away. Andre got some great passes away and Abbey got free a number of times down the right with some very good positional play. Aidan also got into the action with some great crosses down the left.

It was a good effort by the team, but we'll need to work on those finishes if we are to beat some of those better teams.

Highlight: Player of the game this week was Julian. He really set the tone for the team early with some good runs and the early goal. Well done Julian!



MATCH REPORTS

Under 9 Mixed Div Brown

Round 9: Rockets vs Greystanes – Won 2-1

Summary: An early morning start saw the boys full of energy to take on the Greystanes team. We welcomed a new player, Zeath, who took up a defensive role as sweeper and showed great enthusiasm straight from the first kick-off. The game was free-flowing and some real end to end stuff. Some solid defence from Zeath and Victor meant that Greystanes did not get many opportunities to score, whilst at the other end Alex and Joel were creating havoc for the Greystanes defence. After some excellent lead-up work, Alex managed to put one past their goalkeeper to put us 1-nil up. This is how it stayed until half time, with all the players giving it their all.

With the start of the second half we changed the formation slightly with Victor taking up goalkeeping duties. Hamish then went up front and not long into the second half some excellent work by Tim in midfield resulted in an opportunity that Hamish took with a nicely placed shot into the corner of the net. At 2-nil up we knew that we still had a tussle on our hands and not much later Greystanes got one back with a nice run finished off with a lovely strike. With a 1 goal advantage the boys all applied themselves, with Lachlan leading from the front with a non-stop effort. We had a few more opportunities to score, but the match finished with a well deserved 2-1 victory.

As always the coaches award was a difficult decision with everyone playing well and obviously enjoying themselves. The award did go to Zeath on his first week with us, for an excellent effort in defence and some great runs taking on the opposition.

Once again thanks to the referee for a great job.

Round 12: Rockets vs Norwest – Won 2-0

Summary: A cool morning saw us turn up at Bella Vista to play against Norwest. A strange start time of 8:50 had us confused until we realised the delay was needed for the fog to lift enough to be able to see the field.

We took the field with only 6 players, a situation we hadn't been in since Round 6. The opposition was also down in strength due to school holidays and likewise could only field 6.

The game started fairly evenly with play at both ends of the field until Zeath ran the ball up and put us on the board. They came back strongly and some good attempts saw Connor make some good saves in the goal.

The second half saw us get a better grip on the game and really test their defense. Zeath and Victor made sure they couldn't get back down our end, while Tim, Lachlan and Hamish harried them at the front. Persistence paid off in the end, with Lachlan scoring to take us up 2-0 at full time.

Coaches award went to Tim for being everywhere that he was needed.



MATCH REPORTS

Under 10 Mixed Div 3

Round 9: Rockets vs Merrylands – Lost 4-0

Summary: After a superb first half the boys slipped in to old bad habits and lost the game. The Rockets started brightly with the midfield of Qasim, Jordan, Brayden and Changuen getting on top the better of the opposition.

Although the defence looked a little shaky at times, they did not give Merrylands any clear chances.

Martin (once he woke up) and Steven doing particularly well. Mitchell R and Qasim had shots blocked and Jack was unlucky not to win a penalty when kicked by the keeper.

The second half was much the same until with about 10 minutes to go a shot from distance was well parried by Josh in goal, but was tapped in by an alert attacker as the defence stood and watched.

From there on it was all Merrylands as they added a further 3 goals.

Although both Patrick and Brayden did finally test the home keeper with long range shots.

The boys need to keep their heads up when they fall behind.

Once the first goal went in you could visible see the boys lose heart. All their hard work went to waste as they suddenly forgot how to play and gave possession away time and time again.

Highlight: Qasim won the man of the match award, his overall work rate was fantastic and he covered every blade of grass, chasing back and attacking.



MATCH REPORTS

Round 3 (Catchup): Rockets vs Castle Hill United – Won 2-1

Summary: What a game, what a performance.

On a cold winter Monday night the Rockets finally showed their potential and proved to a large crowd what a great team they can be.

With CHU sitting in 4th spot on the ladder and The Rockets down in 7th it was important to get off to a good start.

From the first whistle the boys battled for every ball and were dominating their opponents. After some lovely passing moves chances were created but unfortunately they fell foul to the Refs offside decisions. Despite then going behind The Rockets kept the tempo going and were rewarded when Patrick raced through on goal and calmly slotted past the keeper to equalise following Qasim's incisive through ball.

In the second half the game swayed from one end to the other (as did the crowd's cheers and screams) as both teams searched for a winning goal. It finally came with 5 minutes left when Chang delivered a free kick it to the penalty box, Mitchell R pounced on the loose ball and despite seeing his first effort crash off the bar he was alert enough to drill the rebound in to the net to claim his first goal of the season.

CHU pushed forward and had a string of corners which the boys defended very well. The referees final whistle was met with huge cheers from both the players and crowd.

Highlight: It was impossible to pick a player of the match for this game as it was such a superb all round team performance, at the back special credit goes to Mitchell L who played fantastically well despite clearly unwell and Martin who made some important blocks and tackles.

In midfield Charlie was excellent, chasing everything and winning the ball from the opposition on so many occasions and Jordan, off colour in recent weeks was back to his best form.

This was most definitely the Rockets best performance of the season both in terms of work rate and team play, players were making runs off the ball and passing to feet. It was especially pleasing for Coaches Wayne & Michael who were extremely proud of everyone. WELL DONE BOYS.

All credit to CHU as well for their part it what was a fantastic game.

Round 10: Rockets vs Castle Hill United – Lost 2-1

Summary: A very close game was fought out between the 2 local rivals on Saturday.

Chances were created and both ends but it was CHU that opened the deadlock during the first half.

Charlie hit back for the Rockets soon after half time with a well struck shot from the edge of the penalty box after a fine run from Patrick.

In the goal home goal Josh was having his best game of the season and was called upon to make several fine saves. He was finally beaten from close range and CHU held on to take the 3 points.

Highlight: Once again Qasim & Chang were superb and Javin playing his first game of the season did really well.

But man of the match had to go to Josh in goal who made some great stops and commanded his area very well.

Special thanks to Sze and to Qasim's dad for helping with Refereeing duties



MATCH REPORTS

Under 10 Mixed Div 5

Round 9: Rockets vs North Rocks – Lost 1-0

Summary: The Rockets knew that they were in for a tough match when facing their opponents North Rocks for a second time however to the surprise of everyone the game proved to be a challenge for both sides.

Working extremely well as a team the Rockets showed strong attacking skills and a very solid defence for the first half, matching North Rocks move for move and keeping the score to Nil all at half time.

With another possible victory in sight the Rockets came out pumped for the second half and held their own against their talented rival with some exceptional passing amongst the team. Working hard Divya had his work cut out for him as goal keeper and made some thrilling saves throughout the match but the team was unable to stop North Rocks in the final minutes from scoring.

While it was a loss overall for the Rockets, it highlighted just how much the team has grown since the season began.

Highlight: Player of the match went to Divya for excellent goal keeping throughout the challenging game.

Round 3 (Catchup): Rockets vs Greystanes – Lost 4-0

Summary: Rain Rain Go Away.

Ready to finally meet our opponent Greystanes from Round 3, the Rockets ran out on the field and the rain came down and never stopped. The Rockets played well however seemed a little slow on the up take. Hindered by the weather, a few errors on our behalf saw Greystanes obtain their first well deserved goal. The Rockets regrouped quickly and held their own until half time.

The boys a little disheartened went into the second half keen to regain the match. Great defence work by Nick and Oliver saw us in with a chance and Julian N showed excellent speed and agility travelling up the field but again Greystanes took control and scored.

The weather continued to pelt down and contributed to a few hard tackles but despite injuries the boys played on. However, the Rockets eventually ran out of steam and were unable to match Greystanes who scored twice more before the referee blew the full time whistle.

Highlight: Player of the match went to Nicholas for excellent game. Well done



MATCH REPORTS

Round 11: Rockets vs Ermington – Lost 3-2

Summary:

Having had mixed outcomes for our last few matches, the Rockets decided to mix it up a little and placed Julian in goals for the first half of the match. Within the first ten minutes of the game Dahhaak scored a great goal, making it 1 - nil our way and providing the boys with the confidence boost we have been waiting for.

Throughout the match Nick played a strong game and Julian saved a high attempt at our goals with a jump of Olympic proportions before Ermington evened the score. Unfortunately for the Rockets Ermington scored again just before half time leaving the score 2 - 1 at the break.

Extremely keen to even up the playing field the Rockets came out pumped. They worked very well as a team and thanks to Julian N we scored again. Unfortunately at the end of the day Ermington got another goal taking the final score to 3-2.

While it was a loss for our boys they put in a great team effort.

Highlight: Player of the match went to Izaac who had a fantastic game. Congratulations

Round 12: Rockets vs Kellyville – Draw 0-0

Summary: WOW

Well what an exciting match from the start. Julian A wasted no time in taking off like a rocket up the field and made some exceptional passes to his team mates.

Julian N was also a stand out with multiple solo runs up and down the field to almost score against our strong competitor. Sadly luck was not on our side.

Divya, our never complaining goal keeper, made some exceptional saves throughout the entire match.

Exciting footwork by Shane, Justin and Izaac also contributed to the thrilling game.

Our solid defence and a great overall team effort helped the Rockets redeem themselves by holding their own against Kellyville throughout the first and second half with the final score Nil all. The improvement and effort shown by all the boys is something to be proud of. Wow, what a nail biting game.

Highlight: Player of the match went to Josh – great work.



MATCH REPORTS

Round 13: Rockets vs Wenty Waratah – Lost 3-1

Summary:

Excited to be back on our home ground the boys were fired up to meet the opposition.

Within the first 10minutes of play Julian A showed his talent with a magical run up the field to score a fantastic goal for the Rockets. The crowd went wild.

The game proved so exciting that everyone wanted to get in on the action including a very relaxed Kookaburra and a very excited dog.

Unfortunately Wenty came back fighting and scored 3 goals before the half time whistle blew.

A little disappointed the Rockets regrouped to play an exceptional second half preventing their opponents from scoring further. This was attributed to the boys team work, great passing and some amazing dives from Karl who played goal keeper second half.

Special thanks to Lino for filling in as referee and for the great entertainment value when attempting to catch our four legged guest. Also thanks to James for stepping in as Team Official.

Highlight: Player of the match went to Shane – for his fancy footwork throughout the match.

Round 14: Rockets vs Dundas – Lost 1-0

Summary:

With the weather a little unpredictable the Rockets were keen to get the game underway against their rival Dundas.

The boys had a spectacular start, displaying their improved ball skills when passing and tackling.

Carl did a wonderful job as goal keeper for the first half of the game.

The boys control of the ball was excellent and allowed them to hold their own against Dundas with the half time score Nil:Nil.

During the second half the Rockets ran out of fuel at little and sadly Dundas was able to score. Div worked hard and saved many attempts by Dundas.

Trying to even the score Julian N made an excellent attempt but unfortunately the ball hit the net/post and was diverted away from the goal. Bad luck.

Overall the Rockets played a strong game and should be proud.

Highlight: Player of the match went to Ben – great effort and well deserved.



MATCH REPORTS

Under 14 Div 3

Round 9: Rockets vs Rydalmere – Won 3-1

Summary: The game started strongly for the Rockets with a strong kick from Patrick resulting in the ball curving in to the nets for the first goal of the match within the first five minutes of play.

This set the tone for the Rockets to show some good attacking football.

Approximately 15 minutes into the game Rydalmere almost scored with the ball travelling across the goal mouth. Rydalmere then had three corners in a row which were saved brilliantly by Harry.

Matthew had a shot at goal from the middle but this was saved by the opposition's goalkeeper. Minutes later Matthew backed up to land the ball in the nets bringing the score to 2-0 for the Rockets.

Just before half time Daniel went close to scoring after a great team effort from the Rockets.

The second half saw Luke open play with a strong clearing kick. Alex was playing well in defence and the boys were communicating well against the strong Rydalmere attack. Gil was everywhere in defence and Christian was all over the field in attack.

About 10 minutes into the second half Rydalmere had a shot from a free kick but were not successful. Five minutes later they backed up to score their first goal of the match after goalkeeper Harry was beaten one on one.

The 2-1 score line motivated the Rockets to achieve a third goal and minutes later Patrick had another attempt at goal without success. Only minutes later a direct penalty taken by Matthew resulted in Rockets bring their final score to a 3 goals to 1 win.

Christian was awarded player of the match for his high energy performance and important role in enabling this terrific Rocket's win.

Highlight: Patrick's skilful goal scored in the opening minutes of the match which set the game onto a positive note for the Rockets.



MATCH REPORTS

Round 3 (Catchup): Rockets vs Guilford – Lost 3-0

Summary: The encounter against the top of the ladder Guildford County promised to be a tough match but the Rockets were looking forward to the game. Unfortunately due to injury and illness three players were unavailable and only ten players took to the field.

The rain held off and the game started strongly for both teams. Patrick had an attempt at goal just five minutes into the game but missed the mark. Guildford County also had some shots at goal but these were well saved by Harry.

The first goal of the match went to Guildford County approximately 10 minutes before half time. Rockets kept up the momentum with another shot at goal from Patrick as he tried to scoot the ball into the goal just before half time but this was well saved by the opposition's goalkeeper.

The second half also started strongly for both teams with some terrific determination and team work shown by Daniel, Matthew, Braden and Will. Daniel was dogged in his efforts to chase the ball and challenged the Guildford players for the entire match.

Despite the best efforts from the Rockets players, Guildford County scored again just 10 minutes into the second half and again just five minutes later, bringing the score to 3-0.

The remainder of the match saw some more great saves from Harry and some attempts at goal from the Rockets. Will had a terrific game and was in the thick of play for the entire match.

The defenders Luke, Aaron, Jordan and Gil worked tirelessly for the entire game and were looking out for the ball and positioning themselves in anticipation of play.

Patrick earned the player of the match award for his consistent effort and level of teamwork shown throughout the game.

Coach Daryll said he was proud of the effort shown by the team and said that the level of effort did not drop for the entire game despite the 3-0 score against the Rockets.

Highlight of the match: The level of confidence and commitment to the game shown by the Rockets players throughout the match against the competition leaders.



MATCH REPORTS

Round 11: Rockets vs Rouse Hill Rams – Lost 5-0

Summary: With only 11 players at the game and no subs we knew we would have a challenge on our hands against Rouse Hill Rams. The Rams started strongly and had an early attempt at goal which was successfully saved by Harry.

Daniel had some good runs in the first half and was not intimidated by the strong Rams attack. Christian and Jordan also played well and looked for opportunities to free the ball and make up some ground.

Rams were dominant from the start of play but with Aaron serious and reliable in defence and with Will showing good energy the score remained nil all until the 20th minute when the Rams scored. Encouraged by this event and despite our goalkeeper's best attempt to prevent the goal, they scored again at the 23 minute mark. The third goal came just minutes later and at half time the score was Rams 3 Rockets 0.

The second half saw more persistent and energetic play from the Rockets. Patrick demonstrated some good passing and Rockets had an attempt at goal within the first five minutes but the ball hit the cross bar and was saved by the Rams keeper.

Rhys and Braden pulled out all stops in the second half and the pace of the game was more evenly matched. Matthew played consistently well all game and had some good breaks. Will played some tough contact soccer and showed determination against the strong Rams players. Gil was all over the field trying to anticipate the Rams play and had some good runs which were matched by strong Rams defence. His strong performance saw him awarded man of the match.

Two more goals to the Rams in the second half saw the final score at 5-0 and fortunately due to clever work by Harry the score was not higher!

Coach Daryll spoke to the players after the game reminding them that their goal is still to make the semi finals and acknowledged the Rockets had played a very good side in the Rams. As has been said before with the Rockets team, they played a much better second half but need to show this teamwork and enthusiasm from their first minute on the field.



MATCH REPORTS

Round 12: Rockets vs Baulkham Hills – Won 3-2

Summary: This match was one of the most exciting matches played all season by the team. The boys got off to a good quick start and both sides were on the ball from the starting whistle. Baulkham Hills looked very strong and confident and we quickly knew we had a challenge on our hands to win this game.

In the first half, Harry our goalkeeper saved a goal attempt from Baulkham Hills 10 minutes into the match and not long afterwards he swiftly stopped another.

At the 25 minute mark the score was still nil all when Rockets made their first attempt at goal but were unable to score. This disappointment soon turned to excitement as Patrick landed the first goal of the game just before half time.

Jordan and Gilbert were excellent in defence and worked very well together in containing the Baulkham Hills attack. Rhys had a fabulous game and had plenty of opportunity to show off his speed and agility on the field. Christian was instrumental in clearing the ball on a number of occasions and showed great energy. Will demonstrated some great kicks and played brilliantly in his position.

The second half saw both teams eager to make an impact and Christian had an early attempt to cross the ball for a goal without success. Rockets kept up the momentum and minutes later Matthew seized an opportunity and scored the second goal of the game for the Rockets.

Play was moving fast and around the seventh minute Baulkham Hills had a strong kick for goal which sailed over our goalkeepers head and landed in the nets.

Pleasingly, the Rockets did not lose their momentum and play went up and down the field continuously. Our new player Andrew was feeling the affects of being back on the field after a long break but his fancy footwork and ability to read the game and work with the other players was appreciated by all.

As the second half ticked by the spectators were hoping the Rockets would maintain their lead to win the game but at the 27 minute mark Baulkham Hills took advantage of a clearance around the nets and scored their second goal to bring the score to 2 all.

With only minutes to go and the game at fever pitch Rockets had plenty of action around their goal and after some false starts Andrew scored just before full time to bring the final score to 3-2 for a Rockets win. This game could not have been won without the personal effort given by every player in the Rockets team and all the boys should be proud of what they achieved, they played like a top side and should bring this enthusiasm to every game!

Coach Daryll thanked the boys for their efforts and commented that they did not flag even when the score line was evened up. The man of the match was awarded to Andrew for a solid effort and great team work but coach Daryll said he thought all the boys deserved to be awarded man of the match.



MATCH REPORTS

Round 13: Rockets vs Castle Hill United – Lost 7-0

Summary: With the Rockets starting the match with only seven players (due to school holiday commitments and a timing mix up) against a full United team we knew we were in for a tough game. But with the sun shining and the boys determined to give the game their best shot there was a positive attitude on show.

United started strongly and within minutes had scored their first goal. Acting goalkeeper Will was in unfamiliar territory but took on the role willingly. The team was boosted by the arrival of the eighth player about 10 minutes into the match but despite the best effort from the defenders the goals kept coming from United and at half time the score was 6 nil to United.

Daniel had some great runs and was right in the game with Rhys running up and down the field and putting in a huge effort. Matthew had a couple of breaks but the United defence was too strong to maintain possession of the ball.

Half time saw a pep talk from coach Daryll and the team came back onto the field with renewed energy and the arrival of the ninth player really boosted the capability of the team. United only scored one goal in the second half due to some great saves from Will and the improved team work and technique shown on the field. Despite a couple of attempts at goal Rockets were unlucky not to score.

Coach Daryll said after the match that he was extremely impressed with the effort shown in the second half and to have only one goal scored against the team was evidence of the effort shown by all of the boys. There was no man of the match awarded as all of the boys gave their best against a very capable and full strength side.



MATCH REPORTS

Round 14: Rockets vs Auburn – Lost 4-2

Summary: The rain held off and the sun came out as the game got underway against Auburn District sitting second on the ladder. Both sides started strongly with the Auburn players demonstrating some strong kicking skills making good ground across the field.

The first goal was scored by the Auburn team approximately 17 minutes into the first half. Auburn then had a couple more attempts at goal but these were beautifully saved by Harry.

Rockets made their mark in the game just before half time when Daniel scored a goal bringing the score to 1-all.

The second half saw more action from both sides. Rhys had an early attempt at goal but this was stopped by an Auburn player. Rockets were then awarded a penalty goal attempt and Matthew took the kick but unfortunately this was also stopped by the opposition.

Play moved quickly down the field and Auburn had another unsuccessful attempt at goal before landing their second goal of the match. This was followed by another two quick goals which saw Auburn leading 4-1.

Rockets were down to 10 players temporarily as Christian came off with a bleeding nose. Meanwhile Harry was making his presence felt with some terrific saves against a strong Auburn attack. Rockets were looking for opportunities to score and a great through ball from Andrew led to an attempt by Matthew to land a goal but unfortunately it went wide. A second opportunity soon presented itself for Matthew and he was able to score the second goal of the match for the Rockets.

The Rockets players stayed in the game until the end with Aaron having a cracker of a game and not showing any sign of tiring despite running all over the field for most of the match.

Coach Daryll said the boys had put in a pretty good effort against a strong team and he named Matthew as man of the match for putting in a terrific effort all game and jumping on every opportunity which came his way.

On a sad note Gilbert will be out of the game for the rest of the season with a broken leg which was injured at a training session a couple of days before the match. We wish Gilbert all the best for his recovery; he will be greatly missed on the field on a Saturday by his teammates, coaches and manager.