



GRAND FINAL · 2019

LIONS NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Doncaster East FC

A promotional poster for the 2019 Grand Final. The top section features the year '2019' in white on a black background, followed by 'GRAND FINAL' in large, bold, red letters with white outlines. Below this is a central illustration of a lion and a man in a blue jersey, both roaring and holding a silver trophy. The trophy is inscribed with 'PREMIERS DIVISION 1 EFL 2019'. The bottom section has a red banner with 'DIVISION 1' in white, and below that, 'DONCASTER EAST LIONS VS CROYDON BLUES' in white and blue text on a black background.

2019 **GRAND FINAL**

PREMIERS DIVISION 1 EFL 2019

DIVISION 1

DONCASTER EAST LIONS VS CROYDON BLUES



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A word from the President

MARK SOLANAKIS

It was great to receive the news that one of our great DEFC family members Peter Dwyer is on the mend and can now start to have visitors.

A big **congratulations** to Brem and his boys on a successful 2019 campaign. They bowed out in last weeks Preliminary final in what turned out to be another nail biter. Their last quarter effort epitomised their spirit and great things are going to happen with this team in 2020.

On Saturday our Seniors are hosting Croydon FC in the "Big Dance". I implore all DEFC people to get to Tormore Reserve Boronia to support the boys, there aint no second prize.

DEFC Grand Final schedule:

Thursday training last training session, last chance to enjoy the fun and frivolity that is a part of this night and team selection.

Friday lunch is at Squires Loft, this needs to be via booking so contact Pete Sowes on 0408 383 118 to reserve your spot.

Saturday morning bacon & egg breakfast, the DEFC supporter bus leaves Zerbes around 11:30am and returns after the game. Regardless of the result everyone back to our home base to let our hair down and celebrate the 2019 footy season.

A very big thank you to the guys from Phoenix Tap ware who last month jumped on board as a Major sponsor of the DEFC in 2019. We love and appreciate all our sponsors, their generosity is why we are in the GF and why Zerbes is the place to be.

Good luck to all our DEFC family members involved this weekend and to all our supporters, your attendance can make the difference.

Go Lions

Highlights:

SENIORS

GRAND FINAL v CROYDON FC
SATURDAY 14th
TORMORE RESERVE
2pm

PRELIM FINAL

Reserves

DEFC 5.4-34

CROYDON 5.13-43

Goal Kickers: M. Vaiano 2, T. Davis 2,
J. Clarke

Best Players: J. Clarke, J. Phillips, D.
Prizmic, M. Young, D. Mead, A.
Rintoul



Senior Team:

A note from the Coach:

In what was a pulsating Semi Final v Croydon 2 weeks ago, we find ourselves coming up against the same opposition this week in the Grand Final after what can only be described as a hard fought win that we fully deserved. Some may have a different view but I believe the boys got the result they were after by just grinding away at Croydon with a massive last quarter effort, where we had 9 scoring shots to 2 & eventually came out 3 points in front at the final siren to take a direct path through to this weeks GF.

This Saturday has all the makings of a ripping game. Both teams have tasted success against each other during the H & A season in contrasting styles. We got the better of them in Round 2 by 98 points & then they returned serve in Round 10 & came away with the chocolates by 7 points. We now take a small psychological edge into the GF after that come from behind Semi Final. However we know that Croydon won't throw in the towel & hand it to us though. We'll have to work our butts off to get the result we want.

There promises to be exciting match ups all over the ground with both midfields being full of quality players. Micka v Lynch (14), Brock v Mckenzie (4), Locke v Hotker (9) & Smithy v Benson (32) just to name a few. Croydon believe they can beat us on the outside with their ball use & run & carry. We'll be looking to move the ball quick with our trademark style of corridor footy & disciplined adherence to structure, both with ball in hand & without it.

Our forwards will hold the key to hitting the scoreboard & putting pressure on via that resource. With Summers & Gordon being two massive targets up forward to release to & then the likes of Sholakis & Batsanis sniffing around their feet, it provides us with really dangerous attacking options. Our backs will need to set up well behind the footy & be really disciplined in their structure if they're to hold the dangerous & mobile Croydon forwards. This will be lead by our general down there in Simon White. If he can marshal his troops down there, couple that with some really strong midfield pressure, then we should be able to limit Croydon's opportunities & scoring. A massive challenge in itself but our backs have held up all year & pride themselves on being very stingy.

All in all, this looks like a cracking game of footy on paper & I have no doubt it will be. Hopefully our boys can put their best foot forward & represent themselves, their families, their club & their supporters with the qualities they have all year. We just need one more week out of this fantastic group of boys & then we can all celebrate together. I'm so proud of them all & love every single one of them, not just the 22 that will represent us on Saturday but everyone who has contributed to this teams success, not just this year but along the journey to date.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters who have backed us all year. Please come down & throw all your support behind your & our boys, because if there was ever a day they needed it, it's this Saturday against Croydon at Tormore Reserve, Boronia.

Go Lions!!

Bucks



PORTER DAVIS

Development Team:

A note from the Coach:

The Development Side took on Croydon in the Preliminary Final in cold, boggy conditions at Tormore Reserve. Croydon had the better of us throughout the year winning on both occasions, so we went in as underdogs however we had all the momentum behind us. The first 5 minutes of the game was dominated by Croydon as the ball didn't leave their forward half however our backline was unrelenting and didn't give away a goal in this time.

We eventually got the ball moving forward and kicked the first goal of the game thanks to Matt Vaiano. In a tight opening quarter, Croydon eventually kicked a goal in reply, and we went into quarter time down by 1 point, 1.1.7 to 1.0.6.

The 2nd quarter was another tough contest however Croydon had the better of us. They had 4 scoring shots to our none which showed their dominance. For all their hard work, they only kicked 1.3 to take a 10-point lead into half time. Another solid effort from the defence to keep the scoreboard in control.

Play started to open up in the 3rd quarter, we needed to start taking the game on a bit more which opened it up for both sides. Tommy Davis started to clunk a few up forward and hit the scoreboard while Jake Clarke was dominating in the middle of the ground with his little sidekick Jayden Phillips doing the same. We managed to kick 2.2 for the quarter however Croydon kicked 3.7 to extend the lead to 21 points at the last break.

We urged each other at 3 quarter time to give it all we had, take the game on and make them panic, which is exactly what we did. Dean Prizmic was dominant in the middle of the ground and Daniel Mead kept surging the ball forward. Tommy Davis kicked his 2nd and Matt Vaiano did the same not long after. We got to within 9 points with about 7 minutes to play and Croydon were panicking. However, to their credit, they created stoppage after stoppage in our forward half and milked the clock doing so. The siren eventually sounded, and our season came to an end, falling 9 points short, 5.13.43 to 5.4.34.

The coaching group are immensely proud of the boy's efforts today and throughout the year. To come from 0-5 at the start of the year and make a preliminary final, finishing 3rd on the ladder is an incredible effort.

Thank you to everyone at the club, senior players, senior coaches, committee, supporters and family for your overwhelming support throughout the year and finals campaign.

We still have a job to do this weekend and we can't wait to get behind our seniors in the Grand Final.

Go Lions!

Brem



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