It was a beautiful day in sunny Cygnet. It felt as if half of the Huon Valley had come to watch the much-anticipated rematch between these two great rivals. By the start of the main game there was a strong breeze to the Southern end of the oval. The Port welcomed back George O’Neill from injury and Pat Verrell who has been dominant in the reserves to replace the injured James Zeitzen and Reece Scotland who had gone back to the colts. In contrast to the start of the game from the previous week – it was the Cygnet Football Club that started well. Big man Reece Schuth started well winning the majority of the ruck contests and giving his on-ball brigade first use of the ball. As a result, the Port were able to win the centre clearances for the quarter. Cygnet also dominated the inside 50’s for the quarter but unfortunately, the delivery into the forward line was not always great. Young speedster Luke Paton was very lively up forward kicking 2 goals for the quarter, with Braden Livingston picking up where he had left off the week before getting plenty of the ball. Down back Adam Duggan was the General – repelling many forward thrusts from New Norfolk. Cygnet kicked 3 goals this quarter while the Eagles could only manage a solitary behind.  Goals in this quarter went to Luke Paton (2) and Barry Hall.

Cygnet 3.0.18 Vs New Norfolk 0.1.1

As expected, the Eagles came out firing after the quarter time break. It was the experienced and big bodied players of the New Norfolk Eagles that began to make a move within the midfield as they managed to even the centre clearances for the quarter. As a result, it was the Eagles that dominated the inside 50’s for the quarter as well. Down back the Cygnet defenders were under some serious pressure – and it was Kane Nielsen, Adam Duggan and Jackson Gordon thriving. While the Eagles managed 5 goals for the quarter the Port could only manage the 2. As a result, the Eagles took a slender lead into the half time break of 1 point. Both goals for the Port for this quarter came from Barry Hall who was providing plenty of headaches down back for the Eagles.  Cygnet 5.2.32 Vs New Norfolk 5.3.33

After a big spray from Coach Ben Cato the Cygnet team came back out after half time with a little more intensity. The Port dominated the centre clearances as well as the inside 50’s in this quarter. In what was a very entertaining quarter, with the quick free flowing game a feature. There were 8 goals scored, with 4 from each side. Up forward Barry Hall was proving pivotal kicking 3 goals in this quarter with the other for the Port going to Braden Livingston. Once again it was Adam Duggan leading the way within this quarter and in the middle Reece Schuth and Toby Cowen were all over their New Norfolk opponents.  Ben Halton, Andrew Palmer and Ben Cato were doing a lot of the hard work for the contested ball within the midfield. As the teams went into the 3-quarter time break – there was only a solitary point in it. Cygnet 9.5.59 Vs New Norfolk 9.4.58

The final quarter started the way the game began – at a fanatic pace. Cygnet again dominated the centre clearances and the inside 50’s in this quarter. The massive and very vocal home crowd seemed to lift the Port when they needed it the most. Half way through this quarter the Eagles seemed to run out of legs and Cygnet seemed to have the advantage. The final quarter saw a couple of positional moves that would prove pivotal. Ruckman Reece Schuth was moved to the forward line and Joe Direen was moved into the ruck. This had an immediate impact as Joe was able to get himself into the game and Reece continued his domination on the forward line taking a number of contested grabs. Up forward goals in this quarter went to Barry Hall (2), Reece Schuth (2), Braden Livingston and Ben Halton. A team building win for the Port – who have the whole town of Cygnet behind them. Better players on the day were; Adam Duggan who worked tirelessly under some serious pressure, Nathan Duggan who did a fantastic job shutting down one of the leagues better players and Jackson Gordon who provided plenty of spark off the half back line. Big man Reece Schuth was dominant all day all over the ground and Ben Halton and Braden Livingston won the battle of the midfields.  Final Score Cygnet 15.8.98 Vs New Norfolk 13.6.84 Goal kickers on the day were; Barry Hall (8), Luke Paton (2), Braden Livingston (2), Reece Schuth (2) and Ben Halton. Be sure to get to Lindisfarne this week to watch our two sides battle it out.

**Subject:** U19

The sunny yet windy day on Saturday was to set the scene for a massive qualifying final between The Southern Storm and Hobart. The Storm came out with fire in their bellies after their recent disappointing 33-point loss to Hobart in the home and away season. With a full side on the track, the Storm made their presence known early, both physically as well as on the scoreboard. Will Clifford and Kayne Wouters were in everything as well as being exceptionally composed early on. Jonte Fahey proved himself too early on, playing a vital centre half forward roll which aided fellow u16’s player Will Clifford’s ability to make a heavy impact on the score board. Ruckman Kade Francis was a dominate force which gave his midfielders Josh Coad, Jacob Burnett and Reece Scotland every opportunity to get the ball going the Storm’s way. The hard work of the midfielders was duly rewarded, with Will Clifford and Kayne Wouters kicking two a piece, as well as a single to both hard leading small forwards in Blake Sculthorpe and Murray Bastick.  At quarter time the Storm came off the ground leading Hobart 39-0.

After a strong start, the Storm were quickly to regain focus, with the side knowing the job was far from over and things could change in a heartbeat. The Storm took the field and made sure Hobart felt a stronger presence than in the first quarter, with the midfield brigade charging full steam ahead with Reece Scotland, Josh Coad, Jacob Burnett and Kayne Wouters in everything. The cleanliness off the classy ruckwork of Francis and the exceptional delivery proved vital in the Storm’s success. The quarter became a forward’s paradise, with Will Clifford showing the boys 4 years his senior his skills, booting a nice bag of three from anywhere and everywhere inside the forward fifty to cement 5 goals in the paper for the half. Jacob Burnett busted every pack in his way as well as laying numerous shepherds which allowed Ryan Clark to join his fellow u16 player Clifford on the scorecard. Luke Ashlin made Hobart’s defensive 50 a nightmare to get out of, marking or spoiling anything that came his way. This allowed the hard leads of Sculthorpe, Bastick and Wouters to not go unrewarded, with the trio continuing their form in front of goal, kicking one a piece for the quarter. The Storm went into half time with a strong lead of 81-0.

After a chance to settle at half time, the Storm knew the Hobart Tigers would regather and show the Storm why they finished third and that they did. Despite the Storm playing solid football, the Tigers were determined not to go home with donuts. The Tigers quickly put two hard earned goals on the board, but Ashlin was not going to let anymore come through on his watch. Ashlin shut down the Tigers forward momentum early on in the quarter by mopping up anything and everything that crossed the centre line. The hard leads and second efforts from Jonte Fahey coming off the centre half forward line proved to be the key, with Fahey being able to take a strong grab as well as hitting every target with pin point accuracy. Josh Coad lifted his team after a slight blow, by using his agility and carry to get the ball up to young star in Clifford who put his 6th for the day on the board. Jacob Burnett wasn’t willing to let the Tigers have an easy ride, his known physical presence and defensive ability got the Storm’s forward going momentum back on track. Fahey hard fought efforts did not go unrewarded for the quarter, with Fahey being able to put his name in the paper too by taking a strong in traffic mark. The Storm was able to compose themselves in the second half of the third quarter and come out with a 96-15-point lead over the Tigers.

With a reality check in the third, the Strom knew they really had to step up a gear in the 4th and build on their forward going momentum. Reece Scotland was dominant throughout the midfield which allowed the spread of the Storm, especially through Wouters, to control the football and make the game the Storm’s style of play. The hard and unselfish work of Will Clifford in the forward line throughout the day allowed the team to thrive off one another, with Clifford’s efforts around the ground being exceptional. The tackle pressure from the boys was exceptional throughout the day and the Storm’s defenders were able to mop up most things that came their way. A single goal was to unfortunately slip through the cracks but the Storm responded hard, with Clifford standing up and kicking his 7th for the day. Luke Ashlin’s efforts throughout the day did not go unrewarded, with Ashlin too being able to get his name on the score board. Connor Soward wasn’t going to let Clifford have all the fun, with Soward using his size and strength to out body his opponent to put two majors on the board for his team. Blake Sculthorpe, who had been unselfish all day, was able to be rewarded with his third for the day. At the final siren the Storm were able to run away with a 104-point win over the Tigers and seal themselves a position in a Semi-final against fierce opponents in Lindisfarne.
Final Score
Storm- 20.7-127
Hobart- 3.5-23

The Storm take on minor premiers in Lindisfarne this Saturday at 12:15pm at Anzac Park. Come along and support the Storm in what is set out to be a blockbuster game!

Better players for the day included: Reece Scotland, Will Clifford, Kayne Wouters, Josh Coad, Luke Ashlin and Jacob Burnett

Goal Kickers include – Will Clifford 7, Kayne Wouters 3, Blake Sculthorpe 3, Connor Soward 2, Murray Bastick 2, and singles to Jonte Fahey, Luke Ashlin, and Ryan Clark.