

Rd 2 vs Heatherton-When a win is not a win?

A massive verbal tirade of the magnitude delivered by the coach behind closed doors at the conclusion of the match would normally be indicative of an embarrassing loss. Such was not the case on Saturday, as Dingley actually managed to scrape home by 3 points in the second local derby in as many weeks. But the manner in which this hollow victory was achieved left the coach understandably angry, and players and supporters alike shaking their heads in frustrated disbelief.

Despite some early profligacy in front of goal, the Dingoes had nevertheless built a large enough scoreboard buffer by half time to make the home crowd confident. The gentle zephyr that prevailed early favouring the left pocket at the scout hall end subsided after the long break, making playing in the unseasonably warm 28 degrees even more stifling. Whether this contributed to the Dingoes' hugely disappointing last quarter is a moot point, but disappointing they were. Could it be that it's just a sign that this perdurable rivalry being built up with our closest neighbour is always going to mean an engaging contest where neither team is going to lie down, where the last parry or thrust is not delivered until the goal umpire waves the flags for the last time?

Although Dingley's general ascendancy was not really reflected on the Bendigo Bank scoreboard, the signs were good early as Boyle, Lavars and Turcarelli worked hard in the clinches, and talls such as Brooks, Frost and Ford were finding space and holding marks. Following on from his productive second half the week prior, Luke B seems to have regained his dash and run. Jack Clausen continues to show why he is regarded as the best disposer of the ball in our line-up, and Quinny's long-term project to sanitise the leaping Dazza into a dour defender seems to be bearing some fruit.

What brought about the inexplicable last stanza fade-out is anybody's guess, but suffice to say the traffic was all one way and the result would have differed had the game gone on for another minute.

Best contributors (in no particular order) were Clausen, Andrews, Bartholomew, Ford and Boyle.

This week we visit last year's nemesis, The Combine, on their turf under the powerlines, hoping for a highly charged display producing more positives than negatives.