

This clash between Canis Lupus Familiaris and Canis Lupus Dingo might have more appropriately been staged at the nearby Duncan MacKinnon Reserve, for which the Melways Map 68 reference is K9. But it was to the Doggies' kennel we ventured, perhaps slightly buoyed by the fact that St Pauls had showed us scant respect at the selection table, resting up to six first-choice players.

Nevertheless it was a big ask, made even bigger by the characteristic slow start which has dogged the Dingoes all season, and had us chasing our tails for most of the first half. At one stage the deficit got out to eight goals, and had supporters in fear that the Dingoes would give in without a yelp.

Things improved markedly after the long break. Daniel Tunik had been working hard down back, and his endeavour started to rub off on a few mates. Lee Wonnacott was sensational in and around the packs, "Poppa" Feehan was holding marks and continuing to relish his new found forward line freedom, and, when you need goals kicked, who better to rely on than Tim "dead-eye-dick" Ford!

The coach also got active, making more than his usual quota of positional changes. Some were designed to get certain players involved in the action, others such as the move of Tunbridge up the field to give him a chance to run into some much needed fitness. For the entire second half it was Dingley who had the momentum, and by the siren the margin had been whittled to three goals. Others who deserve a mention are Brooksy, the tireless Tony Lavars and recent new boy Falkiner who got his fair share of the footy. Debutant Nathan Morecroft also showed some glimpses despite limited time and Luke B, coming back from a couple of weeks break due to illness, can only get better.

An unfortunate down side was the serious facial injury to Pitty, necessitating an overnight stay in hospital. All our best wishes are obviously with him. Dazza also put a scare through the camp when he hobbled off with a knee niggle, forcing Quinny to "rest" him at full forward for the last quarter, with a licence to fly. That was eagerly anticipated by some members of the audience, but unfortunately did not eventuate due to inaccurate delivery by players up the field. Still, we live in hope that the opportunity will arise again.

Disregarding the loss, it was still the general consensus that this was our best performance of the year. With plenty of improvement to come, especially in the area of increased fitness, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that we could give Cheltenham a shake this weekend on our home turf, provided we can overcome our propensity for tardy starts. It's hard to get a handle on exactly where Chelt sit at the moment, for whilst they are winless, one must concede they have had possibly the hardest draw of any club to date.