



2009 Premiership

Hockey Dons Break Drought



After eleven years without a grand final appearance, Doncaster's 2009 State League One men's hockey side broke the drought with a 3-2 defeat of old rivals, Camberwell, the team that spoiled Doncaster's last visit to the big one in 1998. Doncaster were again able to call on the services of its two Perth based National representatives, Russell Ford and Chris Ciriello, and the intent was obvious from the first whistle as they pinned Camberwell in their defensive half and had them defending grimly for the opening minutes.

Nine minutes into the game Ciriello collected the ball wide on the right flank and carried the ball through the Camberwell defence and found Andrew Smith in a tight space in the circle and when his shot was blocked, centre forward Brett Dempster cleaned up with cracking shot from close range. Doncaster continued to apply forward pressure but former Olympian, Lachlan Dreher in the Camberwell goal kept them in the game with yet another superb exhibition of goalkeeping.

With less than fifteen minutes to the break, and after several unsuccessful attempts, Doncaster finally got the penalty corner set up it was looking for and one of the best drag flickers in the country, Chris Ciriello delivered the unstoppable strike that was necessary to get the ball past Dreher. Halftime could not come soon enough for Camberwell who would surely have felt relieved to still be within striking distance and with an opportunity to regroup.



Two minutes into the half a bewildering umpiring decision enabled Camberwell to exploit some confusion in the Doncaster defence to find a player free at the top of the circle and he was able to convert with a well-taken shot. There was more trouble to come for Doncaster as Matthew Whitbread was dismissed, rather harshly, for a vigorous tackle on the sideline. However, even down a man Doncaster was able to almost immediately reply when a brilliant long run from deep on the left by Jordie Cowley caught the Camberwell defence flat-footed and his cross was perfectly met by a sliding Justin Ellis for a spectacular deflection goal.

This goal gave Doncaster back the grip it held on the match and when a Tim Snow sliding block at the top of the circle turned back a Camberwell penalty corner conversion attempt it looked like it would be Doncaster's day. That was until Russell Ford was brought down in a careless but seemingly innocuous Camberwell tackle at the fifteen-minute mark. At that stage Ford was close to best on ground but a dislocated shoulder in the fall ended his day and his tackler went for a lengthy period on the sideline.

Ford's absence certainly evened up the contest and with ten minutes to play Camberwell scrambled a goal from a penalty corner scrimmage. For the final period of play Doncaster's defence was called on, at times, to defend desperately and during this period the retiring veteran Matthew Warner was magnificent, and he and his fellow defenders brought home the long-wanted flag.

For Doncaster there was barely a weak player, but Chris Ciriello was deservedly awarded man of the match and there were fine performances from Russell Ford, Andrew Smith, Matthew Warner, Tim Snow, Jordan Cowley and Matthew Whitbread.

Video link ([click here](#))

2009 State League One Grand Final

Doncaster 3 defeated Camberwell 2

Goals: B.Dempster, J.Ellis, C.Ciriello

Best: C.Ciriello, R.Ford, A.Smith, M.Warner, T.Snow, J.Cowley, M.Whitbread

HV Player of the Final - Chris Ciriello



DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB

Grand Final Photo Gallery

