



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2021 ISSUE 9

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I've said this a few times this year but it's great to be back playing football again! Last Sunday was a cracking day and perfect to play football.

The 4 games I saw on Sunday were played at a very high standard and the Oakleigh Dragons community were loving it! Fingers crossed we don't have any more interruptions and we can finish the season off.

Last Friday night we witnessed the exciting result of everyone's hard work over many years, with the U10s playing under lights at Scammell, a first for juniors at our home ground! Big thanks again to all the members that helped raise the much needed funds to go along with the contributions from government and the generous Jack Davis. We would have loved to have all got along to support the team, hopefully many more games under lights to come! Thanks to David Cash for organising.

Team Photos are now pencilled in for Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August at Scammell Reserve, subject to confirmation – watch this space! As mentioned last time we need everyone to help on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Please be on time and get organised once you have your timeslot. Getting the team photos done is extremely important as they provide life-long memories for the kids.

Grub at the Club is postponed for now, we'll provide further updates when restrictions lift.

See you soon  
Pat Heverin

### 2021 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Pat Heverin  
Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: Melita Keywood  
Treasurer: Tony Trent  
Registrar: Kane Leopold  
Child Safety Officer: Eloise Nidorfer  
Incident Co-ordinator: Sonya Moreland  
Compliance: Kathy McGeoch

Football Manager: David Cash  
Boys Coaching (Snr): Jeff Fortune  
Boys Coaching (Jnr): Gary Ryan  
Girls Coaching: Simon Greely  
Canteen Manager: Clancy Phillips  
Bar Managers: Chris Ward & Gab Dunn  
Property Officer: Michelle Englund

### 2021 MAJOR SPONSORS



CLAYTON &  
CHADSTONE



woodards 



BRAESIDE

**CONTACT DETAILS** Pat Heverin Ph: 0402 905 198 secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com www.oakleighdragons.org.au

**FACEBOOK** Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc



### COACHES' REPORTS

#### U9 MIXED FERGAL HOURIHANE

Our young Dragons played East Malvern at home this week – while it was a relief to have no wind or frost, the underground conditions were very wet/muddy/sticky especially in the centre of the ground.

We were up by a point at the end of the first quarter, East Malvern were up by six at half time and held that lead going into the final quarter. We tried so hard in the final quarter but only managed a behind and East Malvern snagged a late goal to give them an 11 point victory.

Considering that it's been such a fragmented season we kept it simple today and asked the team to simply give us their best effort – and they certainly did. Yes there were a lot of mistakes/skill errors and poor judgement calls but the teams effort cannot be questioned. It's pleasing to know that we can play at this standard and today we created lots of opportunities but just didn't execute them.

We scored our best "Team Goal" of the season this week - with a clever dash and drop punt from Karlos in defence to Cuan in midfield who kicked to Ethan in the forward line who finished smartly – coast to coast – very impressive.

Please try to make it to training over the next few weeks –we have lots to work on to help us finish the season strongly.

Go Dragons!

#### U10 MIXED DAVID CASH

v East Sandy at WA Scammell Reserve 6.00pm – Friday Night game!

What a fantastic opportunity for both our boys and our opposition this week, the smiles on the faces of the boys from both teams was priceless, not to mention the smile on my face.

The first Friday night game has been a long time coming with many hurdles and hiccups along the way due to lockdown. Even though we were restricted with crowds not being allowed to attend, I think it was a great success.

As far as the football that was played on the night – the opposition team are a very good and well drilled footy team and last time we played them we only scored 1 point from memory. This time their coach was very complimentary about how much we have improved since coming up against them last time, we kicked 2 goals this game and gave ourselves a lot of other opportunities.

For a team of boys that haven't had a training run for over 2 weeks (missing 3 training runs due to lockdown) they played very well. We also had 5 U9s playing with us on Friday night and they all contributed, and no one would have been aware that they were playing up an age. Well done all of you.

I am going to give a very special shout out to a couple of players here, Jaron had been playing very well for a very long time and Friday night continued to shine. Cuan played the best game I have ever seen him play (usually plays with us after already playing a game but being fresh, went to another level). Luca and Rhys played great games and kept hunting the ball and giving us first use of it, which is one of our keys. There were several other players that should be mentioned also, but I think this is getting a bit long and most people have probably stopped reading it so will highlight them in future summaries.





Thank you to all the parents and helpers that help without being asked – there was some great help from people setting up the ground on Friday night, and others that help week in week out without any complaints or questions, thank you all so much.

### U11 MIXED YELLOW MARK D'ROZARIO

The Under 11 Yellow played a thriller in Port Melbourne with Heath kicking the winning goal in the last minute of the game. We held a two goal advantage in the first quarter and Port Melbourne came back gradually and got in front with 5 minutes to spare. The team didn't give up and stopped multiple entries and turned defence into attack with quick ball movement to win the game. The boys were a bit inconsistent but stood up when the game was in the balance. The quick movement of the ball is what we want to see more of and it's when we play our best footy.

Coach Peter gave the boys KPI's, in the form of disposals, so they give themselves a realistic target for the game. It was well achieved by the boys.

Darcy Moreland ran hard all day and was all over the ground. He used his left foot as much as his right. He was a real stand out in the game.

Troy & Andrew shows all the disciplined actions that makes the team good. Always does the shepherds and bumps with great care for his teammates and attacks the ball when in a contest.

Some boys tackled well, but others are still not quite sticking the tackles. Something for us to work on at training. Ethan had his best game so far and Archie ran hard all day. Kavya and Max showed their confidence is improving and Fionn and Darcy Ryan were ever reliable all over the ground.

We had 3 boys help from Dave's U10 team. Thanks to Liam, Josh & Heath. They were terrific and will be welcomed back any time. Most importantly, a big thanks to Lev and the team of parent helpers. Thanks again. Go Dragons!

### U11 MIXED GREEN NICK SOURRIS

Footy was back yet again after another COVID break. It was another cold Sunday morning at Columbia Park, the home of the Waverly Hawks, however the boys were on fire yet again. The coaching staff asked for another high pressure game and the boys delivered.

Q1 1.0.6 Hawks 2.1.13 Dragons  
Q2 1.2.8 Hawks 4.1.25 Dragons  
Q3 2.4.16 Hawks 4.1.25 Dragons  
Q4 3.4.22 Hawks 5.2.32 Dragons

After today's results, our boys are sitting pretty on top of the ladder. A great performance by all players.

Goal kickers: Aiden 2 goals, Liam 1 goal, Curtis 1 goal, Jaron 1 goal

Special mentions to Oscar and James who absolutely starred in defence. Tom and Ajay, who had blinders in the midfield and Aiden, up forward, who kicked 2 goals.



### U12 MIXED ANDREW GREEN

The Under 12s played at home this week against Murrumbeena in a midday clash in beautiful conditions.

After our low scoring match last time against Murrumbeena the boys were focussed on scoring goals instead of just points. With this motivation behind them they launched out of the gates early and scored some quick goals.

The end result was a satisfying 47 to 21 win.

Along with scoring goals the boys also maintained a solid defence across the back line with strong tackling and persistence at chasing the ball.

The boys were also able to run and spread to open up the field and created scoring opportunities which our forwards took advantage of.

The boys are rising to the challenges we set, understanding what works on the field and how to best work together to achieve a common outcome.

Looking forward to this style of footy to be played over the remaining games. Great game everyone!

### U12 GIRLS TONY WARD

v St Peters FC

We played at home against a pretty good opponent in St Peters FC, and post another COVID lock-down, I was certainly interested to see how we would perform.

We named Miette as captain for the day, and we won the toss and commenced the game kicking to the end, slightly favoured by the breeze.

Before the game, like previous games, we impressed upon the girls the fundamentals to our game were effort, tackling, pressure and getting off to a good positive start.

Once again, we were a little slow out of the blocks, and St Peters played a pretty good first half of football. St Peters was trying to play on at most times, and we seemed a little hesitant and were second to the football.

Eerily like the previous game, we played a much better second half of football. To the girls' credit, they came out after halftime and played exceptionally well. St Peters, who had scored five first-half goals, could only manage one point for the half while we scored one goal.

We started to run and take the game on and move the ball more quickly. While evident in the first half, our tackling pressure increased dramatically, and it was evident that St Peters didn't enjoy the extra physical that the girls brought to the fore.

In line with what I wrote for the last report, if the girls can replicate the effort expended in the second half against St Peters across the entire four quarters, we will only become a much better football side who will win more games than we lose.

Some callouts: Semira had a great game and is improving with each match, Zoe was a rock in defence, Thalia and Skye both played what I think is their best games for the season, Elaine continues to attack the ball with gusto and Sienna's ability to find the football was evident again. To all the other girls in the team, you all played well, and I can see real improvement.



But the highlight of the day was Kiana kicking her first goal of her career – I suspect there are many more to come – well done.

Final Scores:

Oakleigh: 2.0.12

St Peters FC: 5.1.31

Best Players (in no particular order): Semira, Zoe, Sienna, Elaine, Thalia and Skye

### U13 MIXED DARREN GRENFELL

Bye

### U14 MIXED TIM MORELAND

Today we headed down towards the bay to take on East Sandringham on a sunny winters Sunday. The lads were on today as we took out a hard fought, and at times, niggly game of footy - 61 to 39.

Our counter intensity in the last quarter was great as the team gelled together and lifted to take the game away from the opposition.

There was a few late changes and alterations so we had a couple of last minute inclusion. Bailey & Yanni we're consistent all day with the ability to win the ball, hit the scoreboard and provide leadership when it counted.

Jake W played his best game for Oakleigh and was a terrier around the ball. We'll done mate and all the things we've been discussing at training clicked today!

Our 3 talls continue to impress and their marking across the entire ground was a feature. Combine Jake, Isaac and Nicho's tall dominance with our speedy on ballers and our running game continues to impress us. The run and carry of Theo, Ethan, Daniel, Giorgios, Jack and Mason contributed to multiple forward entries all day. Really good to watch lads.

Forward pressure was a theme for today and with Stevie, Ryan T & Asher cracking in, the opposition were often under stress trying to clear the ball away. Bailey's run down tackle and goal was a last quarter highlight.

Zed found himself in multiple positions today and with Antonios, Ryan G & Nick F repelling attacks, we were able to reset as a team quickly. Nick and Ryan's poise and delivery was also a highlight.

Really impressed with Jimmy's development as he continues to hold down the CHB position and always competes hard.

Quieter days for Christian, Lachie and Robbie however they never let up and all contributed to a very solid win.

This was an impressive win today. We came up against a good side and when challenged we stepped up and hit the scoreboard with some fast aggressive football. Let's keep our focus and continue to improve as we look forward to what lies ahead for the remainder of the season.

Thanks again for all the support from Tim, Bruce, Steph, Lindsay, Cath and the other volunteers each week. And a big shout out to all the U/14 families for support of the boys particularly in these challenging COVID times.

Go Dragons





### U14 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Back from another forced COVID break and the girls couldn't find their mojo today. We had stints of great link up teamwork where we moved the ball with ease and finesse but then kept on falling down in front of goals. It just wasn't our day today. We went down 51 to 5.

Notable mentions for today were Chanel who harassed all day and played her best game of the year. Sienna who must have laid at least 20 tackles and was in everything. Jessica who has become an elite rebounding defender also played her best game of the year. Harriet and Chelsea who were also involved in heaps of forward thrusts and ran their legs off all day.

Also thanks to Sienna, Camryn and Zoe who played up from the Under 12s. Let's forget about this result girls and regroup for our big "under lights" Friday night game coming up next round

### U15 BOYS JOHN McLAUGHLIN

**Opponent:** Murrumbeena **Away Game**

**Result:** Oakleigh Dragons won by 45 points

It was 2 undefeated Div 3 teams facing off at Murrumbeena Park. The ground was in good condition and the sun was shining, a terrific day for footy. Thanks to Raf from the Under 14s and Olly from the Under 13s for helping with numbers. Both acquitted themselves extremely well. We also had Dylan and Tom W, both recovering with long term injuries, there to cheer their teammates on and be involved in the celebrations after the game.

We were kicking against the wind in the first quarter, 'Beena kicked a couple of goals early, but we steadied even though we were 9 to 21 we had the momentum at the first break. The second quarter was as well as we have played for the year, kicking 7 goals 4 to one point. We worked hard together and shared the ball well to be leading by 33 points at the main break. We played with discipline and didn't just blaze away with the wind. The boys looked for each other and were able to hit their targets. We encouraged the boys to run and carry with the ball in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and they did this well. We kicked 3 goals to 4 to take a good lead in to the final quarter.

It was a game played in great spirits (many of the boys knowing some of the opposition players), both teams should be commended. It was great to see them having so much fun and the team song was sung with much gusto!

Special mentions from the game:

- The 2 co-captains – Tom and Specky led from the front all day again. They set the tone early and the team followed.
- The sharing of the ball, a special mention here to Pan who created goals due to his unselfish, team play.
- Hady kicked another 5 goals thanks to his work rate and endeavour. Billy also kicked 3 and was dominant at CHF with his high marking and long kicking.
- The midfield got first use of the ball with Jimmy Mac having his best game of the year. The backline was right on top after the first quarter and started to really attack.
- There were several great goals, Billy grabbing it from the ruck and snapping truly, and also after a great passage of play where we linked up, it got to JD at centre half forward and he slotted it through from 40 out at top pace.

We will see all the boys at training this week and look forward to the challenges ahead.  
Go Dragons.



### U16 GIRLS SIMON GREELY

So near and yet so far....

After a very disjointed 5 or 6 weeks with school holidays, COVID, lockdowns and a bye, we headed off to East Malvern where we put in a fabulous effort but couldn't get the chocolates.

We probably had more of the ball in our half of the ground but couldn't get that all important goal to get us over the line. East Malvern managed a good goal in the third quarter and we had about 10 minutes out of the final 15 minutes in our forward line but couldn't break through their loaded defence. At times they had 3 players behind the ball and we just couldn't score that elusive goal.

All of our players put in a great effort and everyone did their best so we can't ask for more than that.

Oakleigh 0.3.3

East Malvern 1.2.8

### U17 BOYS FABIAN AMEDEO

It was a terrific Sunday afternoon for the boys first game back from lock down.

The boys came out with hunger with some outstanding pressure on the ball and kicked out to a handy lead at the end of the first quarter.

This continued in the second quarter with a really focused team effort. Some of the link ups were incredible. Something the boys have been training for all year.

The second half was more of the same. The boys were relentless and came away with a 49 point win. A fantastic team effort fellas, well done!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to follow us on social media for all the latest news

Facebook: 'Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club'

Instagram: @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc

## GRUB AT THE CLUB SCHEDULE & SEASON FIXTURE - WATCH THIS SPACE!